Parental Strategies

Parents play an important role in protecting children from child pornography. They should restrict their children from accessing such materials. They should use filtering software to protect their children from any indecent material.

Law Enforcement Responses (Role of Police)

Police play a crucial role in investigating pornographic sites. The police may use computer forensic tools and techniques to investigate such sites. They may scan the ISP’s servers and request the ISP to remove illegal sites. The police may perform sting operations to investigate suspected offenders. They may make contact with suspects through chat rooms, newsgroups, or other electronic means and disguise themselves as teenagers.

Police may also use honeytrap sites to find offenders. These sites contain pornographic material, but they note the IP address or the credit card number of a criminal who tries to download pornographic material from these sites.

Challenges in Controlling Child Pornography

The following are some of the challenges involved in controlling child pornography:

- **Large amount of Internet traffic**: The Internet is the network of networks; it provides a fast and easy way for disseminating information. If an ISP blocks a site, there may be other ways to reach the site or another site may spring up containing the same pornographic material.

- **Unclear jurisdiction due to anonymity of offenders**: Criminals from any corner of the world can send or use pornographic material. Laws differ from country to country, which adds to the difficulty of tracking the offender. For example, in the United States, a child is defined as a person who is younger than 18 years of age, but in Australia, a child is defined as a person who is younger than 16 years of age. An offender may produce the pornographic material in one country and distribute it in another country. This raises questions about who will investigate the crime and under which country’s laws the offender will be prosecuted.

- **Lack of laws and regulations**: Another challenge in controlling child pornography is the lack of laws and regulations in certain countries. In most countries, there are no laws against child pornography, so offenders can easily produce the pornographic material in those countries and distribute it through the Internet all over the world.

- **Sophistication and use of Internet technology by offenders**: Due to sophisticated Internet technologies, it is difficult to track offenders. Offenders use various techniques such as e-mail, Webcams, chat rooms, and newsgroups to distribute the materials. With the Internet, it is easy to access a number of pornographic materials. The Internet provides complete anonymity and privacy, which causes a problem during investigation.

Precautions Before Investigating Child Pornography Cases

Investigators should take the following precautions before investigating a child pornography case:

- Ensure that they have authorization to investigate the child pornography case.
- Be familiar with local laws related to child pornography.
- Document each step of the investigation in detail.
- Request assistance from at least two authorized persons.

Steps for Investigating Child Pornography

The following are the steps an investigator should follow when investigating child pornography cases:

1. Search and seize all computers and media devices.
2. Check authenticated login sessions.