 Digital Tattoo - BC High School Curriculum

**Audience:** High school students

**Course:** Information Communication and Technology 11/12

**Themes:** *Your Digital Tattoo: Protect your privacy*

**Learning outcomes:**

* explain how Internet technologies such as cookies allow servers to track personal use of the Internet (BC IRP)
* demonstrate strategies that protect personal privacy while using the Internet (BC IRP)

**Activities:**

Part I: What are cookies? (20 min.)

Part II: How to adjust your cookie settings. (20 min.)

Part III: Erase your Digital Path. (20 min.)

**Part I: What are cookies? (20 minutes)**

**Questions to consider:**

* How do the websites I visit keep track of what I do?
* What is a cookie and what does it do?
* Are cookies good or bad?

**Activity #1:** (Know, Wonder, Learn: 5-10 minutes to brainstorm, 5-10 minutes to debrief with the class.)

1. Brainstorm what you think cookies are and what your options might be to control these settings.
2. List one question you have/would like to learn about cookies.
3. Debrief as a class.
4. View the following video about cookies. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EfqFJb8qkk4&feature=player_embedded>
5. List the benefits/cautions with various cookie settings.
6. Show of hands whether your question about cookies was answered.

**Part II: How to adjust your cookie settings.**

**Activity #2:** (5-10 minutes to debrief)

1. Chooser a browser (i.e. Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, etc.)
2. Adjust your browser’s cookie settings (i.e. set them to high or low).
3. Visit a site (i.e. Amazon) and search for some items that interest you.
4. Close your browser, open it again, and return to that site.
5. Assess whether you think this site has gathered data about your browsing history.
6. Adjust your cookie settings again (i.e. opposite level from before) and repeat the steps above.
7. Do you notice any differences?
8. Discuss the benefits/drawbacks/cautions (i.e. convenience vs. privacy, consumer model for info sharing, etc.).

**Part III: Erase your Digital Path Demo**

1. List all the ways that your browser/search history can be recorded.
2. List all the ways you can adjust the settings for your browser history or delete your browser history
3. Demo gmail account (i.e. ads targeted to match content of emails, search history recorded while logged in). Adjust browser settings and note the differences in various browsers. Demo erasing browsing history. Discuss benefits/drawbacks.

**Follow-up (“ticket out the door”):**

1. Briefly explain the difference between adjusting your cookie settings and erasing your digital path. Point form is great.
2. In the future, do you plan to adjust your browser settings or delete your browsing history regularly? Why or why not?

**Resources/DT Tutorial content:**

* Control your Cookies. <http://digitaltattoo.ubc.ca/protect/protect-your-computer/control-your-cookies/>
* Erase your Digital Path. <http://digitaltattoo.ubc.ca/protect/protect-your-computer/erase-your-digital-path/>