

Packetville Press

Newsletter for Parents

Worth Noting...

· Bureau of Labor Statistics 2004-2014 employment projection (<ftp://ftp.bls.gov/pub/naws.release/ecopro.txt>) lists Information Technology (IT) as one of the fastest growing occupations. It's predicted that software engineer jobs will increase 48% and that there will be a 55% growth in jobs for network system and data communication analysts.

· If your children are middle or high school age, you'll want to take a look at Cisco's *Virtual Field Trips* site (http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/career_connection/promoteIT/VFT). Here you'll find a video highlighting the need for IT professionals and information about the Networking Academy. Accompanying the video are resource materials that will help you introduce and use the video to heighten your children's interest in IT careers. The first virtual field trip is ready for your children and more will be added later. Bookmark this site so that you can return soon.

From Packetville to the Networking Academy

Facts you should know....

Consider how use of the Internet has expanded just in the past few years. Couple that with the need for professionals who understand how the Internet works and how to keep it running smoothly. Throughout the world there's a demand for people who know Internet Technology (IT).

You've probably heard that careers in technology have many benefits and that the pay is usually very good. Even so, it's often difficult to turn your children, especially your girls, on to careers in IT. Perhaps this is because they really don't understand what an IT career might be or how many different types of IT careers there are? Perhaps it's because they think only nerds would consider IT, or maybe they have the idea that they are not smart enough to take on technology? The bottom line is that most kids haven't the vaguest idea what IT is.

So it's Packetville and the Networking Academy to the rescue.

Packetville, Cisco's online community for children ages 8-14, is designed to give

your children an understanding of the Internet and of careers related IT. Packetville is a great place to get your children thinking about their plans for the future.

If your children are middle or high school age, check out Cisco's Networking Academy, (<http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>), which features a curriculum of basic and advanced Information Technology (IT) skills.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program can help high school and college students along the path to an IT-related career. The Networking Academy program blends

instructor-led teaching, hands-on lab exercises and online curriculum with embedded assessments. In addition, the Networking Academy Program courses are designed to map to

standard industry IT certifications and academic standards.

The Networking Academy is available in many schools and colleges in communities throughout the world. Check at your local high school or college to see if the Academy program is offered. If it isn't, give school officials the link to the Cisco Networking Academy Program site.

Think IT



Learning about Careers in IT....

1. Have your children play the games *Penny's Search* and *Career Capture*. Although *Career Capture* specifically targets IT careers, *Penny's Search* also introduces your children to careers in music, science, and medicine that rely upon IT. The games are a great way to learn while having fun.
2. If you have girls, you'll want to look at the lesson, *Go Girl: Check out the Cool Careers*, and the activities that go with it.
3. If your children are in middle or high school, they will enjoy doing the **Career Clusters Information Survey** (<http://www.careerclusters.org/CCInterestSurvey.cfm>). It's a tool you can use to help your children identify careers that will be of interest to them.

Packetville Rocks

What's to Do in Packetville?

Activities for your children ...

1. Your children can send Packetville postcards.
2. Why not have your children create some Packetville or Internet jokes such as: If your router sent your dog through the Internet, what would you say? (Doggone)
3. Community service is an important part of Packetville. Browse ideas for using your children's technology expertise to help others in their community.
4. All kids love stickers and adults do, too. Using the images of Packetville characters, children can create their own stickers. Instructions for making stickers are available in both the student and educator sections.
5. The catchy *Peter Packet* music and lyrics can be downloaded. Maybe your children will create their own background music with an Internet theme?
6. Have your children draw a map of the Internet. There are links to help get them started.
7. If you have children who adore drama and overacting, they should love presenting the *Wildly Wireless Melodrama*.
8. Link your children to *Penny Says*, *Cool Techie News*, and *Young Heroes* for neat net info.
9. You'll find activity ideas in both the student and educator areas.
10. —And finally, don't forget the games. They'll be your children's favorite activities.

Packetville

<http://www.cisco.com/go/packetville>

Networking Academy

<http://www.cisco.com/web/learning/netacad/index.html>

Internet & Computer Safety

What safety information is available for you in Packetville?

Like most parents, you are probably concerned about Internet and computer safety—cyberbullies, hackers, viruses, social networking, and all the other problems associated with Internet use. You'll find lots of help with tackling these problems in Packetville.

The interactive, video-type games *Peter Packet* and *Penny's Search* will give your children a better understanding of computer viruses and hackers and the difficulties they can cause for everyone online. The game content provides an excellent background for home discussion on how to avoid viruses and why hackers do what they do.

In the Parent area of Packetville, you'll see *Parent Materials*. This is an area that includes *Ask Peter*, where you can ask questions and send them to the Packetville staff. It's also an area where you can learn from the questions others have asked.

The Parent Material section features articles that will help you keep your children safe online. Suppose you're interested in having your children learn how to deal with cyberbullies they may encounter online? Suppose you suspect that one of your children may be bullying others online? You'll find an article that describes cyberbullying and gives links to other sites on this topic.

Also in this area of Packetville there is information on safe sites. For example: for the younger kids in your family, you might want to provide sites in your browser's Bookmarks/ Favorites. Then they can zip off to the sites in the Bookmarks/ Favorites without typing in an incorrect Web address that might take them to an unacceptable site. For the older kids, one of the best methods of keeping them within the boundaries you set is to give them guidance in how to engage in effective Internet searching. It's always a good idea to give your children "starter sites", or sites that will get them started in the right direction.

You'll want to check out Packetville's *Ten Tips for Parents about Online Safety*. The tips include modeling positive behavior, setting up rules and the consequences for not following the rules, showing your children how to identify and deal with dangerous situations, helping them understand why they cannot give out personal information to those they've only met online, insisting that they tell you immediately if they encounter anything online that makes them feel uncomfortable, and encouraging them to learn as much as they can about the Internet in order to keep themselves safe.

