



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY



(An Autonomous Institution)

Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A++' Grade
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER APPLICATIONS

ETHICS IN COMPUTING

I YEAR - II SEM

UNIT - IV – SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL NETWORKING

TOPIC 9 – CYBER STALKING

Cyberstalking refers to the persistent and unwanted harassment, monitoring, or surveillance of an individual using digital communication tools and the internet. It involves a pattern of behavior where the stalker uses online platforms to invade the victim's privacy, instil fear, and exert control. Cyberstalks may use various online channels, including social media, email, messaging apps, and other digital platforms, to carry out their activities.

Here are a few examples of cyberstalking:

1. **Online Harassment and Threats:** A person named Alex starts receiving a series of threatening messages and emails from an unknown sender. The messages contain personal information about Alex's daily routine and whereabouts. The sender also threatens to harm Alex physically. These messages cause Alex significant distress and fear for their safety.
2. **Tracking and Monitoring:** Sarah notices that her ex-partner, who she recently broke up with, seems to know details about her life that she hasn't shared publicly. She realizes that her ex has been following her online activities closely, such as commenting on her posts, liking her photos, and even mentioning specific places she's visited. This constant monitoring makes Sarah uncomfortable and anxious.
3. **Impersonation and False Information:** John discovers that someone has created a fake social media profile using his name and photos. The impersonator starts posting false information about John's personal life and sharing private details



that only close friends would know. This damages John's reputation and creates confusion among his social circle.

4. **Doxxing and Invasion of Privacy:** Emily finds out that her personal information, including her home address and phone number, has been posted on an online forum without her consent. Strangers start contacting her, leading to unwanted phone calls and even visits to her home. She suspects that an online acquaintance with a grudge might be responsible.
5. **Obsessive Following:** Mark is a public figure who notices that a particular individual repeatedly shows up in the comment sections of his posts, often using different accounts. This person sends messages professing admiration for Mark, but the tone becomes increasingly obsessive and alarming. The individual seems to have an unnatural interest in Mark's life.
6. **Harassment Across Platforms:** Lisa begins to receive offensive comments and messages on various social media platforms, as well as through email and messaging apps. The person sending these messages constantly changes accounts and aliases to avoid being blocked or reported. This widespread harassment makes Lisa feel overwhelmed and unsafe online.

Cyberstalking can have severe psychological, emotional, and even physical consequences for victims. It's important for individuals to take measures to protect their online privacy, such as adjusting privacy settings on social media, being cautious about sharing personal information, and promptly reporting any suspicious or harassing behavior to the relevant authorities or platform administrators. Legal consequences for cyberstalking vary by jurisdiction, and victims should seek help and support from law enforcement and legal professionals if they feel threatened or endangered.