# The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

## Final Copy of Case Study

**Status:**
Laureate

**Year:**
2013

**Organization Name:**
(ISC)2 Foundation

**Organization URL:**
www.isc2cares.org

**Project Name:**
Safe and Secure Online Program

**Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry:**
Philanthropy

**Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)**

Through the (ISC)2 Foundation's Safe and Secure Online program, nearly 900 (ISC)2 member volunteers have helped more than 95,000 children since 2006 in Canada, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, and the United States learn how to protect themselves online and to become responsible digital citizens. Using cutting-edge, interactive presentation materials, (ISC)2-certified cyber security experts work directly with the children in a classroom setting to tackle timely, critical topics, including online identities and reputations, malware, cyber bullying, online predators, gaming and social media pitfalls. Safe and Secure Online simplifies the complex topic of cyber security into age-appropriate conversations between cyber security experts, students and their caregivers, leaving children

with a powerful understanding of exactly what they need to do to protect themselves against both known and unknown hazards. It's a very powerful program that teaches people how to think differently and question what they see online. Thinking differently or questioning what you see and do before clicking on a website, opening an email attachment or following a hyperlink is what can truly make a difference in enabling a person to have the safest online experience possible. This awareness component did not exist in schools until the introduction of this program. According to the 2011 "State of Cyberethics, Cybersafety and Cybersecurity Curriculum in the U.S. Survey" released by the National Cyber Security Alliance, teachers are still not prepared to address these critical topics in the classroom. One third of teachers reported that they receive no professional development training in these areas, and fewer than 20 percent of teachers have taught students about how to deal with alarming posts, videos or other Web content. Our program brings experts directly to the classroom to teach this information and answer kids' savvy questions.

**When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)**

The Safe and Secure Online program was initially launched in the UK in 2006 by (ISC)2 in cooperation with Childnet International. The presentation materials are updated annually by groups of active volunteers in each country where the program is available and then approved by Childnet International. The program was last updated in September 2012 when Safe and Secure Online for Parents and Teachers was launched with the goal of enlisting and empowering those who have the greatest influence on children's time and outlook: their parents and teachers. See press release for further details: https://www.isc2.org/PressReleaseDetails.aspx?id=9451

**Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)**
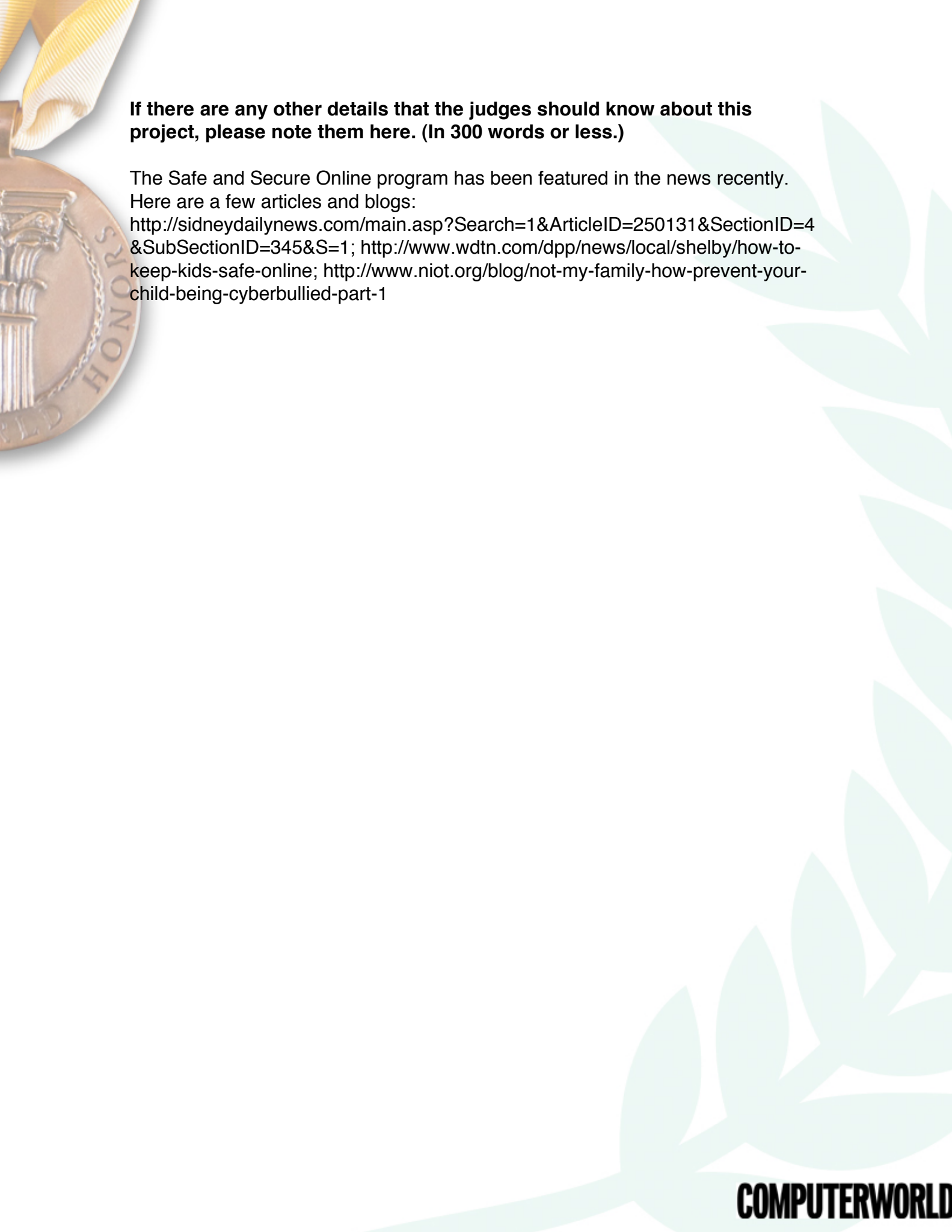
The Safe and Secure Online program currently exists in Canada, Hong Kong, the United States, and United Kingdom. The program will launch in Ireland, India, and Switzerland in February 2013, with plans for further expansion in the future. In 2012, the (ISC)2 Foundation introduced a new version of the program – Safe and Secure Online for Parents and Teachers – to provide them with specialized knowledge to help children safely navigate cyber space. This new version of the program will enhance its ability to help protect children in cyber space. Safe and Secure Online will also introduce Safe and Secure Online for Seniors in the future.

**Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)**

Quotes from students: "It helped me understand the dangers of the Internet. I learned how to keep my profile private," said an 11-year-old student. "You should show an adult who is reliable when bad or mean things are put online," said one 12-year-old student. "I now know not to trust as many websites," said one 14-year-old student. Quotes from teachers: The Computer Department chair of a U.S.-based middle school said, "I cannot tell you how powerful this program is or how it impacted my students. I highly recommend this excellent program to anyone who cares for our adolescent population. It makes a difference." "Our students definitely benefited from the (ISC)2 [Safe and Secure Online] program that we received from Blair Campbell," says Marguerite Thomson, principal, St. Michael Catholic School in Toronto, Canada. "The program was relevant, concrete and interesting. It helped to teach our children about how to be safe and secure while using technology. These skills are essential in the 21st century." "The (ISC) Safe and Secure programme is vitally important to us," says Stuart Kerner, assistant vice principal, Bexleyheath Academy, in Kent, U.K. "Just like sex and relationships education, drugs education and anti-smoking education, this programme informs young people of common dangers they may face. It is important that we do everything we can to educate children and parents alike on the necessary safeguards required in the online world." "The Safe and Secure Online initiative is an outstanding program that engages kids and helps them to recognize the potential dangers on the Internet," said one teacher. "It's the best program I've ever seen in all my years of teaching."

**Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)**

The Safe and Secure Online program is unique in that it brings (ISC)2's information security expert members into schools free of charge to share their knowledge and expertise with vulnerable publics such as students, teachers, and parents. The interactive presentation features videos, group exercises, and information intended to develop responsible digital citizens.

**If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)**

The Safe and Secure Online program has been featured in the news recently. Here are a few articles and blogs: http://sidneydailynews.com/main.asp?Search=1&ArticleID=250131&SectionID=4 &SubSectionID=345&S=1; http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/local/shelby/how-to-keep-kids-safe-online; http://www.niot.org/blog/not-my-family-how-prevent-your-child-being-cyberbullied-part-1