“Don’t Break My Heart!”: User Security Strategies for Online Dating

Borke Obada-Obieh, Sonia Chiasson, Anil Somayaji
Rich man uses Plenty of Fish dating website to meet and rape women

Deputies: Man lured by teen girl he met on Plenty of Fish website; ambushed, shot

By: Wayne Morin
A rich man was arrested on a charge of rape after using the Plenty of Fish dating website to

Join the conversation
COMMON WITH OTHER ONLINE PLATFORMS

Fear of Misrepresentation

Trust

Reputation
QUESTIONS WE SOUGHT TO ANSWER

• Understand the security and privacy precautions taken by users in online dating sites

• Understand how users balance the need for sharing information with the need to protect themselves

• Explore situations where users discover others were untruthful in their representations and how this might endanger them

• Explore how users gauge the accuracy of information revealed by others on dating sites
# METHODOLOGY

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SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Providing limited or incorrect information

Date of Birth

Occupation

Income

Wrong Phone Number

Home address
SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS
Sharing further information

Never exchange phone numbers!

Collect others’ phone number but never give yours

Delay phone number exchange for a week
SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Setting up dates

2 Months

3 Week
SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Recognising weird request as red flags
SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Stalking on social media
SECURITY AND PRIVACY PRECAUTIONS

Being cautious while on dates
BALANCING PRIVACY AND SOCIABILITY
DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

Trusting gut feeling
DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

Conversation patterns
DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS
Inconsistencies in profiles
DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

Requesting proof
DETECTING SCAMMERS AND GAUGING TRUTHFULNESS

You can never tell
GENERAL DATING EXPERIENCE AND FEEDBACK

Had Dates

In Relationships

Do Not Recommend

USEC 2017
AN IDEAL DATING SITE

• Better practical approaches to help dating site user gauge the accuracy of information shared

• Help in sharing information such that they protect their privacy and safety while also not stopping them from finding potential matches

• These mechanisms can be applied on a global scale
Thank you for listening,
Any Questions...?

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