

Omegle is a website that allows you to randomly chat to a stranger. When a user opens Omegle they have two options - 'Text chat' or 'Video Chat'. The user does not have to verify or identify themselves when they use Omegle. You simply pick the text or video option then get paired with a 'Stranger'.

There is an option to connect Omegle to your Facebook account, which allows the user to find 'chat partners' with similar interests.

If the user chooses to use this feature it opens up potential for the users friends to see the Omegle activity on their profile. There is an option to change the setting to 'Me Only' so the Omegle activity is not shared.

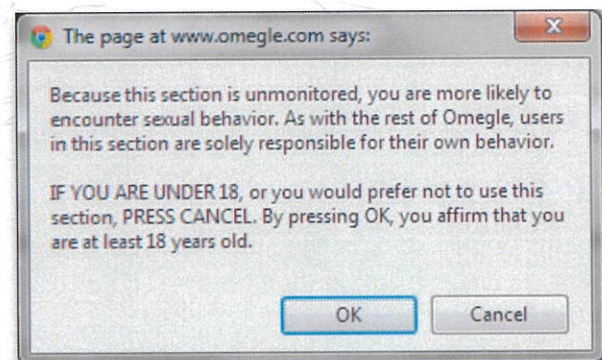
Challenges

The Omegle privacy policy clearly states that the following information is saved on their servers for 120 days: *'the time your chat began, your IP address, a randomly-generated ID tag assigned to your computer, your chat partner's IP address, and your chat partner's randomly-generated ID tag'*. While this data is used for law enforcement and to try to track and prevent spammers, note that you are willingly providing this information when using Omegle.

At the end of a chat the user has the option to save the chat log and is able to share the link. Therefore the users conversation is not actually private, and the contents of the chat including any personal information you might share can be sent to anyone without their knowledge.

There are two video chats within Omegle. *Monitored* and *Unmonitored*. Using the video chat mode requires that the users IP address is made available to the 'Stranger's' computer. Omegle video chat requires a direct connection to be made between users computer and the 'Stranger's' computer.

The below picture is a warning received when the user is initiating an unmonitored video chat with a 'Stranger'.



The Carly Ryan Foundation does not recommend any child under the age of 18 use Omegle.

App Fact Sheets available from
the Carly Ryan Foundation. Please email:
info@carlyryanfoundation.com