

The use of the Internet: Survey Analysis

The survey on the use of the Internet by students of Casimir Jagiellon Secondary School in Toruń was answered by 132 teenagers aged 14-19. It was conducted in order to examine the students' knowledge on the Internet safety as well as to check what the virtual world means to them.

Questionnaire distributed to the students¹:

Question 1. How much time do you spend on the Internet each day?

- Less than 2 hours
- Around 2-4 hours
- More than 4 hours

Question 2. What do you use the Internet most often for?

- Chatting with friends
- Checking my mailbox
- Playing games
- Shopping
- Watching films / TV series
- Checking my social media
- Studying

Question 3. What websites /apps do you use most often? (You can choose a few options)

- Google
- YouTube
- Facebook
- Instagram
- TikTok
- Netflix
- Other (what?)

¹ In an online form

Question 4. Do you have clearly defined rules of using the Internet at home?

- Yes, I have a limited access to certain websites
- Yes, I have a time-limit on using the Internet
- No, my parents / caretakers trust me and don't control what I do on the Internet
- No, we don't talk about it at all

Question 5. Do you feel safe online?

- Yes, I have never encountered any nuisances
- Yes, but I have experienced a few unpleasant situations
- Generally yes
- Sometimes
- I hardly feel safe
- No, I find the Internet a threat and a dangerous place

If you answered that you feel safe, write what you do to stay safe on the Internet:

If you answered that you don't feel safe, write why:

Question 6. How many times have you...?

	Never	A few times	Sometimes	Often	All the time
Added a stranger to your social media friends list					
Talked via communicators to people you know only online					
Met in person with someone you have met only online					
Talked on the Internet about your private / intimate issues with strangers					
Shared information about					

you (address, school, age, email address)					
Shared your photos with everybody (even strangers could see them)					

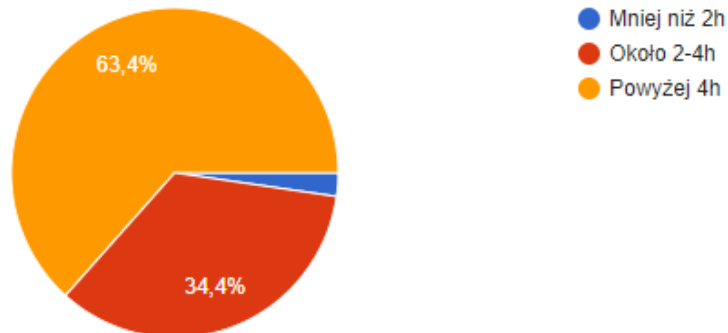
Question 7. Do you agree with the following statements?

	Agree	Rather agree	Hard to say	Rather not agree	Don't agree
Parents / Caretakers talked to me about Internet safety					
Parents know what I do on the Internet					
We talk about Internet safety at lessons					
I know how to stay safe on the Internet					
I know how to block unwanted messages / invitations from strangers					
I saw / read things on the Internet that upset me					
I share details about myself to get an access to websites or apps					
Sometimes I wake up at night only to check what has happened on the					

Internet (I check my social media, mailbox, I read forums etc.)					
I would be able to spend the whole day without using the Internet					
Sometimes I tend to neglect my duties only to stay online longer					
I prefer to spend my free time online rather than to meet my friends in reality					

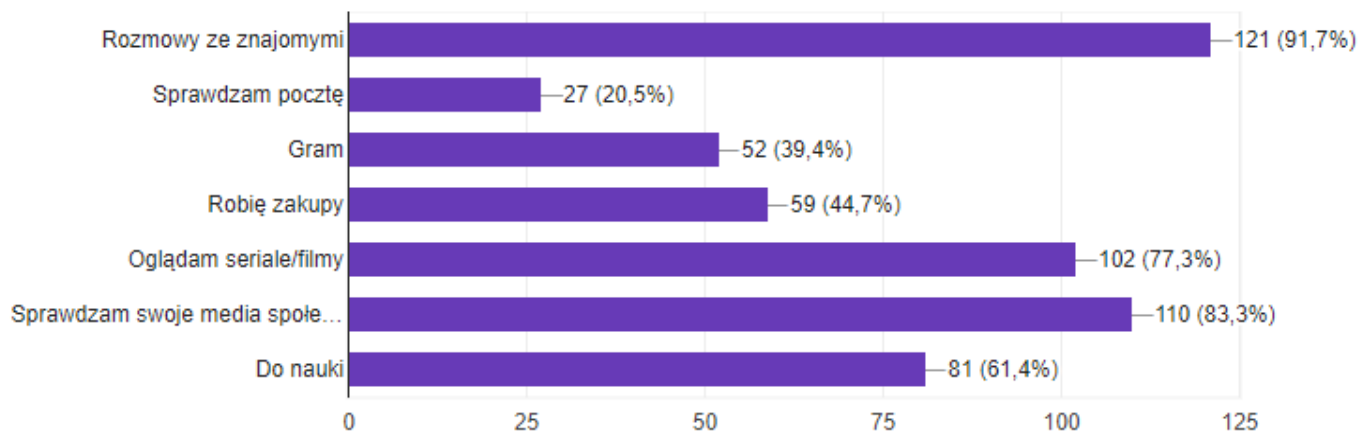
Results:

Question 1. How much time do you spend on the Internet each day?



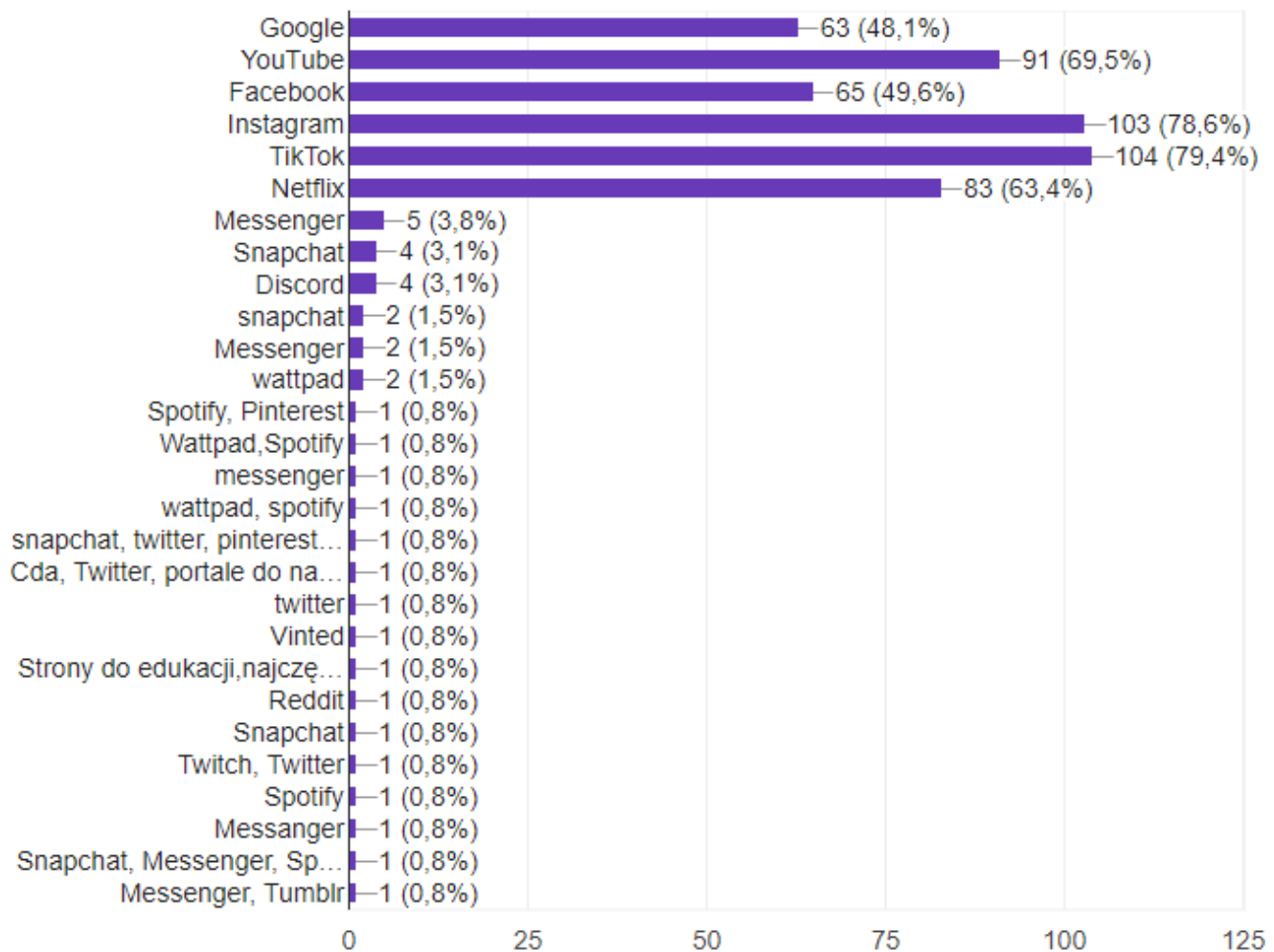
The majority of students admitted that they spend online more than 4 hours each day (63,4% of our responders; orange colour on the pie chart above); 34,4% said they use the Internet for 2-4 hours (red colour). The least popular answer was 'Less than 2 hours' as only 3 students chose this option (blue colour).

Question 2. What do you use the Internet for?



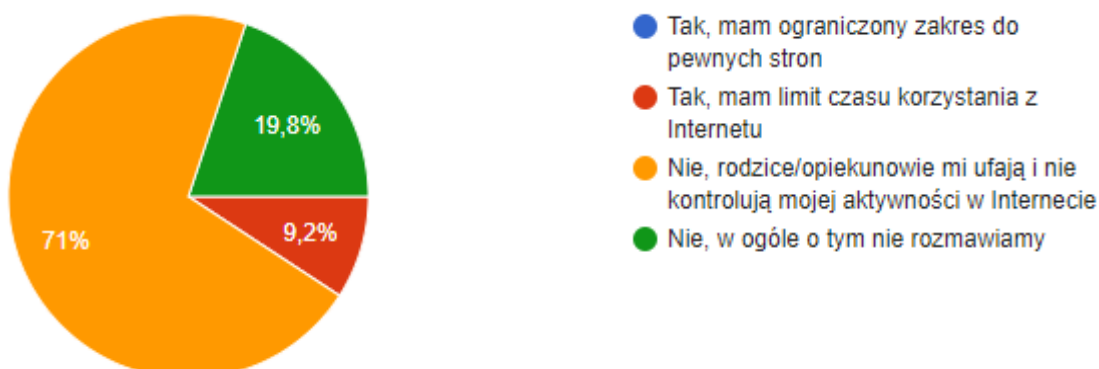
The two most popular answers, which clearly stand out from the other options, were: 'Chatting with friends' and 'Checking my social media' (91,7% and 83,3% respectively). The third popular choice was: 'Watching films' (77,3%). 'Studying' was chosen by 61,4%; 'Doing the shopping' by 44,7%; 'Playing games' by 39,4%. 'Checking my mailbox' came last with 20,5%.

Question 3. What websites /apps do you use most often? (You can choose a few options)



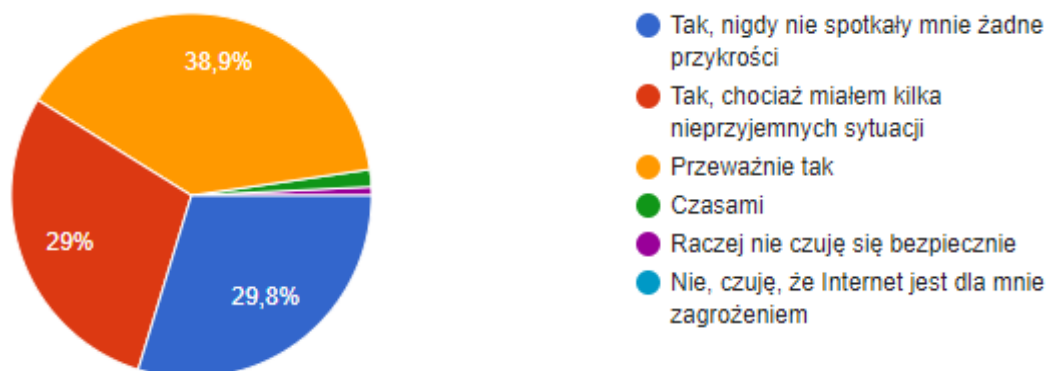
The most popular and frequently used sites / apps are: TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube. They also use Netflix, Facebook, and Google a lot. The students enumerated other sites they use regularly (e.g. Messenger, Spotify, Snapchat, Wattpad). Websites that help them with studying and education constitute only 0,8% of their preferences.

Question 4. Do you have clearly defined rules of using the Internet at home?



Most of the responders claimed that they neither have strict rules nor are controlled because their parents trust them (71% of votes; orange colour). The second answer was 'No, we don't talk about it at all' – 19,8% (green colour). Only 9,2% said they have a set time-limit (red colour). The option 'Yes, I have a limited access to certain websites' wasn't chosen by anybody.

Question 5. Do you feel safe online?



Students declared that they generally feel safe (38,9%; orange colour); 29,8% stated they feel safe and have never experienced any unpleasantness. However, 29% admitted that they feel safe but have encountered some nuisances. 'Sometimes' was pointed out by 2 students (green colour) and 'I hardly feel safe' by 1 person (purple). Nobody chose the last option 'No, I find the Internet a threat and a dangerous place'.

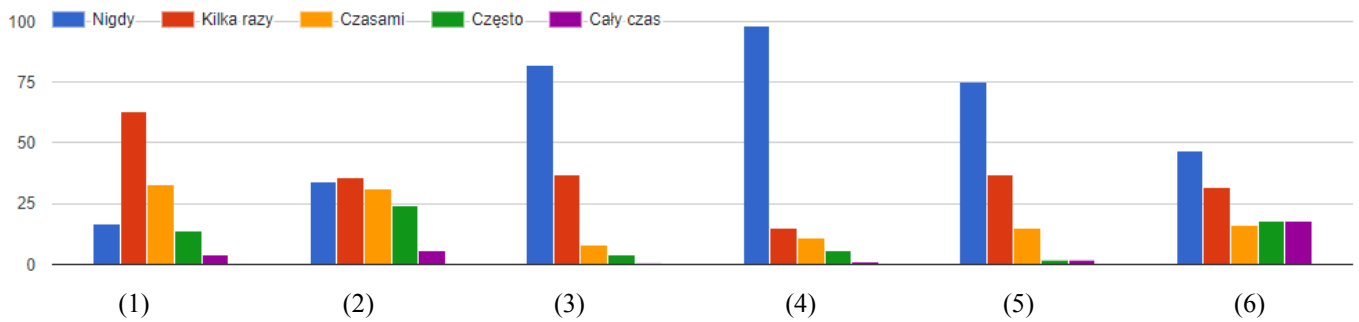
Students who feel safe said it's so because they:

- don't share private information, personal data or photos (the most common answer)
- are careful and alert
- check everything twice
- use safe and trusted sites
- don't click on unknown links
- use anti-virus software, and VPN
- are careful with their passwords (they use strong ones, change them from time to time and don't save them)

People who don't feel entirely safe claimed so because:

- they are afraid of scammers or other people's comments
- somebody broke into their accounts
- they are scared that someone might break into their accounts
- they cannot be always sure who they're talking to
- people on the Internet can be nasty and mean

Question 6. How many times have you...?²



(1) Added a stranger to your social media friends list:

- 63 students admitted that they added such a person to their social networking lists a few times
- 33 votes for 'Sometimes'
- 17 answers for 'Never'
- 14 answers for 'Often'
- 4 students said they do it all the time

(2) Talked via communicators to people you know only online:

- 'A few times' – 36 votes
- 'Never' – 34 votes
- 'Sometimes' – 31 answers
- 'Often' – 24
- 'All the time' - 6

(3) Met in person with someone you have met only online:

- 'Never' – 82 students chose this answer
- 'A few times' – 37 answers
- 'Sometimes' – 8
- 'Often' – 4

(4) Talked on the Internet about your private / intimate issues with strangers:

- 'Never' – 98 responses

² Never – blue colour
A few times – red
Sometimes – orange
Often – green
All the time – purple

- 'A few times' – 15
- 'Sometimes' – 11
- 'Often' – 6
- All the time – 1

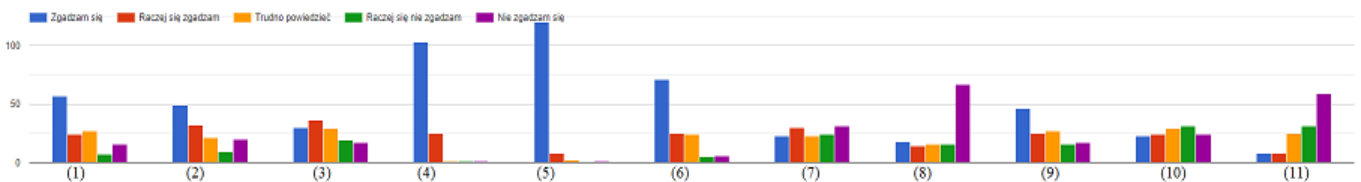
(5) Shared information about you (address, school, age, email address)

- 'Never' – 75
- 'A few times' – 37
- 'Sometimes' – 15
- 'Often' – 2
- All the time – 2

(6) Shared your photos with everybody (even strangers could see them)

- 'Never' – 47
- 'A few times' – 32
- 'Often' – 18
- All the time – 18
- 'Sometimes' – 16

Question 7. Do you agree with the following statements?³



(1) Parents / Caretakers talked to me about Internet safety

- Agree – 57
- Hard to say – 27
- Rather agree – 24
- Don't agree – 16
- Rather not agree – 7

³ Agree – blue colour
 Rather agree – red
 Hard to say – orange
 Rather not agree – green
 Don't agree – purple

(2) Parents know what I do on the Internet

- Agree – 49
- Rather agree – 32
- Hard to say – 21
- Don't agree – 20
- Rather not agree – 9

(3) We talk about Internet safety at lessons

- Rather agree – 36
- Agree – 30
- Hard to say – 29
- Rather not agree – 19
- Don't agree – 17

(4) I know how to stay safe on the Internet

- Agree – 103
- Rather agree – 25
- Hard to say – 1
- Rather not agree – 1
- Don't agree – 1

(5) I know how to block unwanted messages / invitations from strangers

- Agree – 120
- Rather agree – 8
- Hard to say – 2
- Don't agree – 1
- Rather not agree – 0

(6) I saw / read things on the Internet that upset me

- Agree – 71
- Rather agree – 25
- Hard to say – 24
- Don't agree – 6

- Rather not agree – 5

(7) I share details about myself to get an access to websites or apps

- Don't agree – 31
- Rather agree – 30
- Rather not agree – 24
- Agree – 23
- Hard to say – 23

(8) Sometimes I wake up at night only to check what has happened on the Internet (I check my social media, mailbox, I read forums etc.)

- Don't agree – 67
- Agree – 18
- Hard to say – 16
- Rather not agree – 16
- Rather agree – 14

(9) I would be able to spend the whole day without using the Internet

- Agree – 46
- Hard to say – 27
- Rather agree – 25
- Don't agree – 17
- Rather not agree – 16

(10) Sometimes I tend to neglect my duties only to stay online longer

- Rather not agree – 31
- Hard to say – 29
- Don't agree – 24
- Rather agree – 24
- Agree – 23

(11) I prefer to spend my free time online rather than to meet my friends in reality

- Don't agree – 59

- Rather not agree – 31
- Hard to say – 25
- Agree – 8
- Rather agree – 8

Conclusions:

From the students' declarations included in the survey, it can be concluded that, on the whole, they feel safe online (however, a few teenagers confessed they experienced, saw, or read things that upset them) and know the basic rules of maintaining that security, such as: not talking to unknown people, not sharing private data, protecting passwords, not clicking on suspicious links. Although their parents didn't set the strict rules on the Internet use nor monitor their activity online, they generally know what their children do online and trust them.

According to the survey's results, the Internet plays a great and important role in our students' lives - especially in a social context as they mainly use it to communicate with friends and to check social media. However, they also claimed that they prefer face-to-face meetings in reality rather than the virtual ones, which can mean that relationships and contact with real people are still crucial and substantial to them. The responders said that they use the Internet for educational purposes too – yet, not even 1% of such websites was mentioned in the ones frequently used by them.

Our teenagers spend online more than 4 hours every day.

Most of the students seem to know how to behave responsibly as they didn't admit to overlooking or disregarding their duties because of the Internet. Additionally, they don't agree with the statement that they wake up at nights only to check what's happening online.