

## Practical Applications

1. **Stop Internet Predators:** The Internet is often used for criminal purposes that jeopardize the safety of the youth, and by evaluating the prevalence of such uses, more preventative measures could be taken to stop child predators.
2. **Maximize the Effectiveness of Online Political Movements (petitioning):** Online petitions don't always reach the people they are intended to reach. Therefore, studying the ways people use the Internet and the purposes for which they use it can lead to the discovery of ways to reach the appropriate audience. This would increase political awareness and social involvement, and maximize the effectiveness of online petitioning
3. **Cultural Divisions:** The Internet is becoming increasingly accessible to various cultural groups, but there are still gaps in that accessibility, and this poses a disadvantage to the underprivileged in areas of "connectedness" (Cho et al., 2003, p. 3) and education. If we can study the reasons behind the gaps in accessibility, we may be able to close them, based on Cho et al.
4. **Using the Internet for Support Groups:** Finding help for various reasons can be easy and anonymous with online support groups. [DailyStrength.org](http://DailyStrength.org) is an example of website dedicated to helping people find help for mental health, physical health, and personal problems.
5. **Protection Against Online Identity Theft:** This is the fastest-growing crime in the U.S. There are many ways to help prevent this and still have fast, convenient ways to pay bills and purchase items online.

(The Bay Area Scholars, Spring 2008)