

HECTOR

and Cyber Adventures

Tips to Stay Cyber-Safe

POLICE



RENATA KAMINSKA

Hector and Cyber Adventures

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Tips for children to Stay Cyber-Safe

Renata Kaminska

Hector and Cyber Adventures is a publication
by Renata Kaminska

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You can visit our website to read about the project, workshops for schools, charity activities and other books at: www.hectorandfriends.com

Our other books:

Hector, A Dog's Story

A heartwarming tale of love, friendship, and Hector, the puppy who embarks on a quest for happiness amidst the backdrop of the Second World War. It fosters empathy and addresses sensitive topics rarely explored in children's literature.

Hector and the Time Machine

An exciting journey to 2020, exploring themes such as the pandemic, climate change, Brexit, and multiculturalism, all through the eyes of animals. It provides a unique opportunity for parents to discuss global events with their children.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Writing and bringing Hector's adventures to life has been a labour of love, and I want to extend my deepest gratitude to those who have made this journey possible.

Three years ago, when my adventures with the Hector and Friends project began, I could never have imagined how important and valuable it would become in my life. It has been a remarkable journey filled with amazing people, touching stories from children and their parents, and the rewarding feeling of making a positive impact and contributing to making the world a better place. I am immensely thankful for the unwavering support of my family and friends who have patiently encouraged me throughout this creative endeavour. Your love and belief in my vision have been my guiding light.

A heartfelt thanks to the young readers and their families, and teachers who have embraced Hector's adventures into their lives. Your enthusiasm and feedback have been invaluable in shaping this world.

To the organisations and institutions that have supported my mission to enhance education and empathy, thank you for your trust and partnership.

Last but certainly not least, I want to express my deepest appreciation to the wonderful readers who have embarked on this journey with Hector. Your curiosity, open hearts, and desire to learn are the true inspiration behind these stories.

As we continue to explore the world through Hector's eyes, may we all find a little more empathy, wisdom, and wonder along the way.

With gratitude
Renata Kaminska

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.”

Doktor Seuss

“With great power comes great responsibility.”

Wolter

REVIEWS

Hector and Cyber Adventures is a very informative book for children, helping them to understand how to navigate the online world safely. The characters are all very likeable with Hector taking us on an enjoyable journey into cyberspace, at the same time, teaching children to be safe online. There are lots of great examples of how people can easily be caught out by online fraudsters, with information on how children can deal with this.

The online world is such a big part of our lives now, and this book is a great tool for any child who is about to, or already uses the internet. It would be great to see this book in all school libraries.

*Barbs Benton,
Parent of two children, editor, and proofreader*

This book, the third installment in the Hector series, is an empathetic and thoughtful, narrative-based, instructional guide to staying safe online. Children are taken on an adventure with canine friends Hector and Milli and learn the importance of how to stay safe online by exploring the online and human world through Hector's eyes, making it a great resource for parents and educators when supporting young people with safe internet use, love it!

*Stella Wilson, Queen's Park Primary School,
Manager of Westminster Children's University*

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The “Hector and Cyber Adventures” book makes talking to your kids about online safety easier. This chapter book is more than a thrilling adventure; it's the perfect conversation starter for families navigating the often-treacherous online world. Hector is leading young readers through an exciting journey filled with valuable lessons about online safety. As parents and educators strive to find engaging ways to teach children about the digital realm's potential risks, Hector and his friends offer a fun yet educational perspective to children under the age of 12 becoming increasingly active online, and exposed to risks such as cyberbullying, scams, inappropriate content, and digital addiction. As you follow Hector's adventures through chapters, you'll discover that he's not just a playful dog, but a wise mentor. He's the friend who guides children to essential life lessons without them even realising it (and isn't that the best way, sometimes?). If you're looking for a way to ease into the conversation about staying safe online, I think joining Hector on his cyber adventure through time is a great place to start.

Rebecca Edwards, Tech Reporter, Security Expert, SafeWise.com

This is another in a series of children's books sponsored by my parenting magazine. Why do we support this project so much? The knowledge and message contained in each part of the story about Hector the dog is conveyed interestingly and reliably. The story about the dangers of the internet is very important in the era of digitalization because children do not realise how much they can do with one wrong click. Even if they use the internet in a controlled manner, attempts to extort data or hack into bank accounts are becoming more and more common. The more professional knowledge we provide to children, the more we have a chance to defend them against cyberattacks. Cybersecurity, online safety - we hear about these phrases more and more often, but let's honestly ask ourselves, do we talk about this topic

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with children under 12 years of age? That's why I support and recommend editions such as books by Renata Kaminska!

Zuzanna Jaszczak-Przewozniak, CEO and publisher of the magazine "CHILDREN- a magazine for parents of preschool children"

The third part of the adventures of Hector the Dog touches on an extremely important topic: online security.

What is the internet? Is it dangerous? What is cybersecurity and digital hygiene? We will learn the answers to these questions thanks to the unique perspective of the dog, Hector, who this time goes to London for cybersecurity workshops conducted by policeman, Samuel, accompanied by his dog, Milli. It is from Milli that Hector learns that the internet is full of possibilities, knowledge and opportunities to establish new relationships. But Milli also tells Hector about the darker side of the internet: about hacker attacks, about extorting confidential personal data and about cases of cyberbullying and harassment.

All stories are told in a very simple and accessible way, so they will be easy for younger children to understand. The book covers very important topics and can be an encouragement to talk to children about making conscious choices when using the internet.

Izabela Olendzki, Bookshop, mother of two bilingual sons, Newark UK

In the third book about the adventures of Hector the dog, we learn about the dangers associated with using new technology tools, we receive tips on how to deal with them and how to protect ourselves against them. The author, in a very accessible way, with the participation of the charming hero of the story - Hector the dog - and his newly met friends, briefly, but suggestively and vividly, introduces the history of the creation of the internet and smartphones, explains the

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concepts related to the cyber world, cites examples of cyber-attacks and ambushes that can affect every user of new technologies. Renata Kaminska, using simple language and numerous examples, outlines the important and difficult topic of safe use of the internet and various mobile devices.

The publication also discusses current topics of ubiquitous hate and the use of artificial intelligence and chatbots. Each chapter of the book can be treated as a separate lesson because it deals with a different issue.

The author emphasises the importance of maintaining critical thinking towards new technologies and the entire cyber world, which are now an integral part of our lives, fascinate especially young people, facilitate everyday functioning and provide entertainment, but at the same time carry certain risks. She emphasises that you should treat other users of these technologies with respect, but also interact with them carefully, applying the principle of limited trust.

Renata Kaminska also sends important messages to readers. First: "While AI can be a helpful tool, nothing can replace the joy of real-world interactions." She also points out that we can, and even should, share any doubts or difficulties with another person of our choice, because the most important thing is not to be left alone with worries.

Renata Kaminska's book is an extremely interesting and informative guide to safe and responsible navigation in the digital world. The new story about Hector is an excellent way to introduce young readers to the principles of safe use of the internet, and at the same time help them develop reading skills and the ability to think independently. I highly recommend this book to all parents, teachers, and little explorers of the virtual world!

*Karolina Binkowska, special educator,
neurologist, pedagogical therapist*

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A children's book about cybersecurity and cyber threats told through the eyes of Hector the dog can be an extremely valuable read for both children and adults. The story of Hector the dog, who explores the world of the internet, is not only attractive due to its plot dimension, but also well -thought -out from an educational perspective. The most important thing that such a book offers is to provide children with important knowledge about the threats they may encounter online. Cybercrime, online fraud and inappropriate content are real dangers that children may encounter. By making them aware of these threats in the form of a story written by Renata Kaminska, we will take care of their healthy digital hygiene and build awareness and the ability to make wise decisions in the digital world. Thanks to this book, children can understand that, just like in everyday life, there are safety rules that should be followed on the internet.

A book about Hector the dog is a perfect opportunity to read together, talk and build digital awareness in a shared family space. I recommend it wholeheartedly.

Ilona Adamska - originator of the nationwide social campaign "I don't hate - I motivate", organizer of the conference "Cyber threats and online hate"

“Hector and Cyber Adventures” is an educative and interesting book to read. The use of Hector the dog is very enticing for young people. I love the societal subjects addressed, for example, ‘Let's help kids be safe and kind online!’ The story teaches kids that not everyone is a friend. The emotional intelligence of our kids is very important, and this book, coupled with parental support and guidance is a great source.

Angela Karanja. Psychologist, Parenting Teenagers Expert & Founder of Raising Remarkable Teenagers

INTRODUCTION

If you've read about Hector's previous adventures, you already know he's a very curious dog. He has a knack for finding himself in exciting situations. I hope you've enjoyed those journeys as much as I have.

In the third book of the series “Hector & Friends”, Hector's back, and he's about to take you on another incredible journey with the spectacular time machine. It won't just be any adventure, but a dive into the world of cybersecurity.

The idea for this book came as a suggestion from a policeman who made me aware of the challenges children face in the cyber environment, and how difficult it can be to educate them about online safety. Children under the age of 12 are active online users, facing modern risks such as cyberbullying, scams, inappropriate content, and digital addiction.

Hector's adventures became a perfect guide to address these issues and create awareness among children and their parents. Hector isn't just a playful dog. He's also a wise role model, especially when it comes to helping children navigate the online world. In this digital age, where screens and devices are a big part of our lives, it's important to know how to stay safe while having fun online.

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Hector's curiosity knows no bounds. Neither does his trusty mistress, Suzy, and her boyfriend, Peter. The time machine can transport them to different places and times, making every adventure truly one-of-a-kind.

In this book, you'll follow Hector, Suzy, and Peter as they embark on a journey through time, to a place where the internet rules. They're not just exploring for fun; they're on a mission to learn how to stay safe online.

As you read their adventures, you'll discover that Hector, with his cute curiosity and wagging tail, is the perfect companion for this journey. He's the best kind of friend—a friend who helps you learn important things without you even realizing it.

So, whether you're a parent looking for a book to share with your children or a teacher searching for a way to make online safety engaging and memorable, this book is for you! It's not just another one of Hector's adventures; it's a fun and educational guide that will equip children with the knowledge they need to stay safe in the digital world.

Let's dive into this exciting adventure with Hector and his friends. The lessons we learn along the way might just be the most valuable treasure of all.

Enjoy the ride!

CHAPTER I

JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN

Hello, I'm Hector! If you're reading this, you probably already know me from my previous adventures. If not, don't worry; I'll tell you a bit about myself.

I was born in a small country house on the outskirts of Vienna. My life wasn't always easy. I am a mongrel who ended up in a cosy little house in the beautiful countryside of Austria with my wonderful family, the Florals. Our white house has large wooden windows so I can be awakened by the sun every morning. The house is surrounded by a small brown fence, which separates us from other neighbouring houses. There is a lot of greenery around, and in front of the entrance, there is a small path and a garden where I play with my three children, raising them with my beautiful partner, Mini. She was once a homeless dog, and since we first met at an old factory,

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we became friends and inseparable companions. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have her in my life. Mini is not only lovely but also very wise. I cherish our never-ending evening conversations as we lie on a blanket next to the warm fireplace.

You see, I wasn't always this lucky. I used to be a homeless dog too, wandering the streets with Mini in search of a place to call home. But one day the Florals found us, and since then, we've had a loving family and a warm doghouse to call our own.

The Florals are a lovely couple with two beautiful daughters, Merry and Suzy. Suzy is a teenager, and we spend a lot of time together on walks. She likes to talk to me about her life and different thoughts. I enjoy listening to her stories. Since last year Suzy has had a special friend, Peter. She said he is her boyfriend. I like him too. He's not just a very handsome and interesting green-eyed boy, but also very caring. I've noticed that each time he appears at home, Suzy is smiling. Since he's been in our lives, the three of us often go for walks.

Merry, her younger sister is a bundle of energy with big brown eyes that sparkle with curiosity. Her curly hair dances with each joyful hop and bound she takes as she explores our garden. She adores her big sister and finds endless delight in playing games with me and my puppies. With her infectious laughter and boundless enthusiasm, Merry brings an extra dose of joy into our lives.

But enough about that. Let's delve into my extraordinary adventures. Here's a little secret, something only Suzy and I are aware of. You see, I'm familiar with a unique machine—a time

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machine! It's not your usual piece of equipment; it's a creation of Peter's inventive uncle, Alfred.

Last year, me and Suzy had an incredible adventure with the time machine. We travelled to all sorts of incredible places around the world. It was quite the whirlwind! I met so many different types of animals, and I found the human world fascinating. I discovered that the world of people is incredibly diverse and filled with wonders waiting to be explored. During that exciting trip, I learnt about different cultures, languages, and the rich tapestry of human history.

People have different skin colours, different eyes, different hair. They speak different languages and practice different traditions. All this makes the world seem very colourful and diverse to me. This trip back in time has given me a completely different perspective on so many things.

I must admit that I was happy after being back home for a while because I missed our family, but on the other hand, I was a bit disappointed that the time machine broke.

It's been a whole year since our last adventure, and I can't help but wonder what's happening with that time machine of ours. Maybe Peter's uncle is repairing it. I remember that he mentioned something about the additional budget he received for continuing his experiment. It would be so fun to travel again. I am sure there is still so much to learn about the world.

Is it ready for another adventure? I don't have all the answers, but today, something interesting is happening. I don't know why but I have this strange feeling.

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Today, Suzy is meeting up with Peter, and there's a chance they might be discussing the time machine. It's got me feeling quite curious, so I've decided to tag along. After all, I'm always up for an adventure, and who knows, maybe we'll even pay a visit to Peter's inventive Uncle Alfred.

Oh, I see that Suzy is putting her shoes on. Let me get to the door before her!

“Hello Hector! Do you want to come with me?” Suzy looked at me with a wide smile.

“He has already been on a walk with Merry” Mrs Floral shouted from the kitchen. “Did you hear that, Hector?” exclaimed Suzy.

It's summer, yes? Why don't we go for another walk? I've tried to insist on this by looking into my mistress's eyes and holding my lead in my teeth. Maybe I can convince her? I know that she's going on a date with Peter but the two of us get along well, so why not?

“Bye Mum! I'm taking Hector with me.” Suzy called out.

Yes! I convinced her.

“Okay, dear. Just don't come back too late.” replied Mrs Floral.

“No worries, Mummy”.

So here we go. As usual, we passed my favourite rose garden on the way. That's the place I first met Peter. He lives not far from there, so we're going to meet him just outside the main gate to the park, and then I think we're going to the café for some ice cream.

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“Hello Suzy! How are you? You look very pretty today.”
said Peter.

“Oh, thank you. Look who I’ve brought with me.”

“Haha! Hello Hector, big boy. You know we’re going for ice cream, right?” Peter tickled me under the ear and smiled kindly.

As planned, we went to the café to get some ice cream and then continued walking around the park. I was really surprised that for more than an hour, Peter didn’t mention anything about his Uncle Alfred and the time machine. I started to worry.

Suddenly he stopped. He looked deep into Suzy’s eyes and said, “Let’s visit my uncle! He told me that the time machine is almost fixed. What do you think?”

Suzy looked at me with questioning eyes. I tried to let her know that I wanted to go by wagging my tail. “Hmm, I’m not sure. I promised my mum that I wouldn’t be back too late today.”

“Oh, don’t worry we won’t stay too long. I just want to say hi to him.”

“Okay, let’s do it. I’m a bit curious as to what happened with the time machine. That adventure last time was a bit scary, but at the same time it was so exciting.”

“Would you go in the time machine again? Maybe this time with me?”

“Haha well, I’m not sure. It might be fun, but it would be good to know that the machine is operating properly now. Last time I was worried that we wouldn’t make it back home.”

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“Yes, I know. Don’t worry. Everything will be fine.”

As agreed, we turned in the direction of Uncle Alfred’s hidden laboratory. I have to say, I felt excited. After a fifteen-minute walk, we arrived in Uncle Alfred’s mysterious and gloomy white room full of cardboard boxes and cables. Different lights were flashing on the walls, and the shelves were full of glass vessels just like last time we were here. It looked like nothing had changed since our last visit.

In the middle of the room stood Uncle Alfred, a grey-haired man with big glasses, dressed in a white apron.

“Hello Uncle Alfred! How are you?” beamed Peter

“Hello Peter and Suzy. I’m good. You know as always; I am so busy with work.”

“Yes, we can see that haha. How is the time machine?”

“Oh, I’m glad you asked. You remember that it broke last year, right?”

“Yes, after the trip Suzy and Hector had been on.”

“Correct. It wasn’t easy but thanks to the additional money I received, I managed to not just repair the time machine, but I also modernised it a bit.”

“Oh, that’s fantastic news.” exclaimed Peter.

Did I hear correctly? The time machine is working again. Let me check it out. I took the opportunity when the humans were chatting to get inside the time machine and see if it had changed.

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At first glance, it looked the same as I remembered. A huge metal box with cables sticking out of it, and various levers and lights all around. But I noticed that the screen and buttons inside looked a bit different. I started to wonder what might have changed about them. I wanted to mark my scent on them, so I cocked my leg when suddenly I heard Suzy's voice.

"No Hector! What are you doing?"

"Get out of there, doggy!" added Peter. In no time at all, both Peter and Suzy were standing next to me in the time machine. The door slammed shut. I got a bit panicked and stepped back when I felt a button push against my butt. Suddenly there was a loud noise. I knew this sound! I lowered my ears and turned my eyes to Suzy.

The machine started spinning and shaking. We all lost our balance. The machine was shaking more and more. Suddenly it was hot and stuffy. I remembered this feeling. A big bang! Steam gushed out, and the door of the machine flew open again.

Peter and Suzy fell to their knees and looked at each other with concern. Then they looked at me.

"Oh no! Hector, what did you do?" Suzy looked at me with tears in her eyes.

I was shocked and didn't know how to react. I couldn't believe it had happened again. How did I push that button? I should be more careful. I felt bad for the entire situation.

Peter stood up and put his arm around Suzy.

"Don't worry girl. We will be good. It's not your first time, right?"



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“Oh Peter, I really don’t understand how you can be so relaxed. We don’t know where we are or for how long. We don’t know if the machine is working properly, and on top of this, I promised Mum I would be home earlier today.”

“Well, I understand your worries, but remember last time, you were only out for 30 minutes because the time machine calculates time differently than it does in our world?”

“Yes, that’s true but it doesn’t change the fact that we’ve travelled into the unknown with the time machine again.”

“Exactly, let’s enjoy this surprise adventure and then we can figure out how to get back home. You managed last time, and I’m sure now it should be even easier to do this because Uncle Alfred modernised the time machine.”

“Okay, but before we go out let’s see what modernisations have been made.”

“Uncle Alfred mentioned that he installed a button which brings you straight back to your original destination. Let’s look for it.”

We started to look around and saw there was a yellow button on the top of the machine’s wall with the word “Back”. I guess this might be the button that Peter was talking about. Uff... we are safe, I guess.

“Okay let’s go for an adventure and let’s see what is outside. I’m curious to know where the time machine has brought us. From the board on the wall, it looks like we are in the year 2022.” Peter winks at Suzy.

We stepped out of the time machine.

CHAPTER II

THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

The building we were in looked like any other. We opened the door that led outside, and in front of our eyes we saw a row of white and cream-coloured buildings. In the distance, we could see a big tower with a clock. I remember this place! It's London. We are in the United Kingdom again.

"It's London, Peter." said a surprised Suzy.

"How do you know, Suzy?"

"We came here last time with Hector."

"Really? It's amazing, but it's also a bit overwhelming. Let's have a walk." said a slightly nervous Peter.

I couldn't help but feel the same way as Peter. London was a city full of life, history, and surprises. I remembered our last visit when I had the pleasure of meeting the prime minister

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and talking with his dog, Dilyn, about the history of Europe, and Brexit. I wondered if they still lived here? I have no clue how long you can be a prime minister. I could remember the address of the house but not sure I could remember the way there again.

We decided to take a leisurely stroll along the bustling streets, taking in the sights and sounds of the vibrant city. It was a beautiful summer day, and the sun was shining down on us. Peter led the way, with Suzy and me by his side.

As we walked, I couldn't help but think about the time machine and the button I had accidentally pushed. I had caused quite a commotion back there in Uncle Alfred's laboratory, and it seemed we were now on an unexpected journey through time once again.

Oh, if only I had my phone with me so I could call Mini right now. I would tell her what happened so she wouldn't worry. It's a pity that our phone is large and connected to the wall with a long cable. Maybe Uncle Albert could come up with a portable version of this? Then it could be put in a backpack and easily carried around. Communication would be much easier. Oh, I started daydreaming and almost got left behind! I better not get lost in London.

We continued our exploration of the city. London was known for its iconic landmarks, and we couldn't resist visiting some of them. We strolled past the grandeur of Buckingham Palace and admired the intricate architecture of Westminster Abbey. The city was a treasure trove of history and culture.

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As we walked, something caught Peter's eye—a poster in a shop window that read, “Cyber Safety and Internet Workshops for Kids.”

“Hey, Suzy, look at this!” Peter exclaimed, pointing at the poster. “It says they're hosting workshops about the internet and cyber safety for kids. What do you think?”

“That sounds interesting,” Suzy replied. “But do we even know what the internet is?”

I couldn't help but wonder that too. The internet was a mysterious concept to me, something I knew nothing about. It seemed like the perfect opportunity to learn more.

A voice behind us interrupted our conversation. “Hey, are you guys planning to attend the workshop?” It was a friendly curly-haired and dark-skinned boy with big brown eyes who had overheard us.

Peter turned to the boy and replied, “We're not quite sure what the internet is. Can you tell us more about it?”

The boy laughed. “You guys are funny! I like you. My mum signed me up for the workshop, and I don't know anyone there. Come with me; we can go together.”

Peter and Suzy looked at one another in silence, then agreed to join the boy, whose name was Thomas. Thomas looked friendly to me. He was tall with big brown eyes and a wide smile. We followed him to the police station, which was the designated meeting point for the workshop. I have no idea what internet or cyber safety is. These words sounded

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very mysterious, so it seemed like a great opportunity to learn more about it all.

Thomas led us past a charming cafe with outdoor seating. Peter suggested we stop for a snack as we had plenty of time before the workshop started. It was a perfect idea, as the enticing aroma of freshly fried fish and chips filled the air. I remembered this delicious treat from our previous visit to London, and I wagged my tail in excitement.

Thomas said that it was his favourite dish, and he brought us to the place where they served the best fish and chips in London. It was a little corner shop where they freshly fried fish and chips and put them in a small white box with a fork and some sauce. Despite the place being very tiny with just two tables inside, the queue to it was very long. I guess the place is popular. We ordered our food and found a cosy spot by the river to sit. The fish and chips were just as tasty as I remembered, and we enjoyed our meal while watching boats pass by on the shimmering water.

After some delicious food and our bellies full, we headed towards the police station. In front of the door, we were met by a policeman in a very smart navy-blue outfit. The building looked very modern and was surrounded by some greenery. Before we entered, we needed to pass under a weird metal gate with some lights on top of it. I noticed that Suzy had taken off her jacket, and taken things out of her pockets, then she went through the gate. I'm not sure what this was about, but we continued. After a few minutes, we were in a room

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where there were more kids, a friendly-looking policeman, and a dog sitting next to him.

Inside the room, we were greeted by the friendly policeman who introduced us to the workshop. His name was Mr Samuel, and his clever dog, Milli. They were going to be our guides on this journey into the cyberworld.

“Welcome, kids!” Mr Samuel began. “Today, we're going to explore the internet and learn how to stay safe while using it. Are you ready?”

“Yes.” chorused the kids in the room.

“I will be your host and my lovely dog, Milli, is trained to search for electronic devices. All clear?”

“Yes Sir.” the kids chirped up.

“Okay let's start.”

The group of ten kids started following the policeman. Suzy and Peter, together with Thomas joined the crowd in silence.

“Come on Hector. Don't get lost”. I heard Suzy say, as I rushed to join them.

No worries. I'm coming!

I couldn't resist striking up a conversation with Milli. She was a beautiful medium-sized white and black-haired spaniel dog.

“Oh, it looks like we have another dog here?” Mr Samuel said as he looked around at me.

“Yes, it's mine. Can he stay with us?” asked Suzy, with a little concern.



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“Yes, it’s fine. He can walk along with my dog. Let’s go.” smiled Mr Samuel.

The tour began. First, we went past lots of rooms, and finally went into a big room with a screen and we all sat down.

“Hello. I’m Hector.” I smiled at Milli.

“Hi, have you come from far away?” asked Milli, sounding curious.

“Well, would you believe me if I told you that I travelled here by a time machine?”

“Oh, and does it have electronics inside? Is it connected to the internet? Is it safe?” quizzed Milli.

“Well, I guess so, but being honest I don’t understand your questions. Where I come from, there is no internet.”

“Oh, that’s good. You see the internet is a great invention but it’s also very dangerous. How did you travel here?” Milli asked.

“I told you, by the time machine. Well, we didn’t plan this trip, but I accidentally clicked the button and then the machine ...”

Milli cut in “You see. That’s what I’m telling you. You must be very careful with what you’re clicking, especially online because it might have some viruses or install some malicious program on your computer.”

“I don’t think I understand half of what you’re saying, and what is the internet. Can you tell me more?”

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Milli smiled and replied, “Of course, Hector. I'd be happy to explain. The internet is a vast network that connects millions of devices worldwide, allowing them to share information. It's like a giant web that spans the globe.”

As Milli began to unravel the mysteries of the internet, I listened intently, trying to grasp this new concept. It was a lot to take in, but I was eager to learn. I just didn't understand half of the words she was using. After a while, I finally understood that she and her sister are both working in a special department of the police dealing with cybercrimes. She explained that people nowadays are using different digital devices, such as computers, laptops, phones etc. which are all connected to the internet, which was invented in 1983. The internet is a network, or system, that connects millions of devices worldwide. The internet has a fascinating history.

“It must be huge” I gasped.

“Not really. You can't see it.” added Milli.

“Eh?” I exclaimed, wide-eyed.

“Let me briefly explain the history of the internet, and why it's important to be careful when clicking on it.”

Milli said that in the 1960s, some people from the American government, companies, schools etc. worked together on creating a system that would let computers share information with each other, so they could travel online. It sounded like these guys were a bit like Peter's Uncle Alfred, who worked on some mysterious invention.

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In 1967, hypertext was invented. Hypertext is a link between different parts of an electronic document or between different documents. Hypertext became the basis of the World Wide Web, or “the Web,” which was created in 1989. In 1969, they created an early form of the internet called ARPANET. In 1971, they invented email, which enables people to send messages from one computer to another, something like a letter, but an electronic one. Later, groups of computers started to be connected in networks and created a device named “router” to make these connections possible to the network. This is how the internet was born.

“Wow! That’s amazing. So, searching on the internet is like reading various books at the same time” I say, fascinated. “Haha kind of. Information on the Web is arranged in sites or pages. People can view Websites using computer programs called internet browsers. Websites are created in a special language by using code called hypertext markup language, or HTML.”

Furthermore, I learnt that each website has its own internet address, called a uniform resource locator, or URL. Many URLs begin with “www,” which stands for “World Wide Web.” People often use the Web as a part of their schoolwork or job. They use search engines—such as Google, Yahoo!, and Bing—to look for information on the Web. People also use the Web for entertainment. Kids love to spend time on the internet, but it can sometimes be dangerous, because just like in life out in the real world, there are good and bad people on the internet too.

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These bad people on the internet are called hackers. They do a lot of bad and illegal things. These activities are called cybercrimes and include different types of activities with various names such as hacking, phishing, and the use of malware.

I have to say that the more I listened to Milli, the more interest I had in this topic. I'm sure it is something very interesting, but at the same time a bit scary for Peter and Suzy. I noticed they were listening to the policeman with a lot of attention, and very often looked at each other with fear in their eyes.

“Milli, thanks for this brief explanation. I have to say you have a very interesting job. But I don't understand one thing – how clicking is related to what you just said? If it's dangerous and especially for kids, it should be prohibited, no?”

“Clicking links and opening different pages by itself isn't dangerous. The internet is actually very interesting and gives a lot of opportunities to interact with a lot of information from worldwide just through our computer or phone...”

“Okay, so why do you say I need to be careful when clicking?”

“This is because some pages are created by hackers to steal information about us, to steal money, or to infect our computer.”

Well, I got a bit tired of thinking about all this. It sounded so complicated. It looks like it's okay for kids to browse (this is what humans call the activity of searching for information on

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the internet), but you must think twice before clicking on buttons to download something, or to share and send something because it might be hacked. Hmm... I really need to think a bit more about it.

CHAPTER III

DON'T GET TRICKED!

As Mr Samuel and Milli, my new friend and cyber-detection dog guide, delved into the history of the internet, I found myself caught in the whirlwind of information. It was a fascinating tale of how people from different backgrounds had come together to create a vast network connecting millions of devices worldwide. The internet, as Milli explained, was like a giant web that spanned the globe.

But as I tried to wrap my furry head around this concept, a question popped into my mind.

“Milli,” I asked, “you've been talking about the internet, but what's the danger in it? Why do we need to be careful?”

Milli's eyes sparked with intelligence as she began to unravel the mysteries of online safety. “Well, Hector,” she replied, “the internet is a wonderful place, full of information

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and opportunities. But like in the real world, it has its share of tricksters and dangers.”

As I listened intently, Milli continued, “One of the biggest challenges in the cyberworld is online scams. These are tricks that people play to try to steal information or money from others. They can use messages, emails, or websites to lure unsuspecting victims.”

Being a dog, I love tricks, but these ones didn’t sound good. I tilted my head, trying to understand. “So, Milli, what kind of tricks are we talking about?”

Milli nodded, her ears perking up. “Good question, Hector. One common trick is called phishing. It’s when someone sends you a message or an email that looks real but is fake. They might pretend to be your bank, a school, or even a friend, and they’ll ask for your personal information, such as passwords or credit card numbers.”

“Jack was the same age as most of the kids here,” Milli began. “One day, he received an email that looked like it was from his favourite online game. The email said he’d won a special prize and that he needed to click a link to claim it.”

“I could see the excitement in Jack’s eyes as he read the message.” Milli continued

“Wow, that sounds amazing,” I said.

Milli nodded. “Exactly, Hector. That’s how these tricksters lure their victims—by making things sound exciting and tempting. So, Jack clicked the link.”

I could feel a sense of impending trouble in the story.

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“What happened next, Milli?”

“Once Jack clicked the link,” Milli continued, “he was taken to a fake website that looked just like the game's official site. They asked for his username and password to claim the prize.”

My tail drooped with concern. “Oh no, Milli, did Jack give them his information?”

Milli nodded sadly. “Yes, Hector, he did. He thought he was getting a special prize, so he entered his information without thinking.”

I couldn't help but feel sorry for Jack. “What happened to him, Milli?”

Milli explained, “After Jack entered his information, the hackers had access to his game account. They changed his password and took control of it. Poor Jack lost all his hard-earned game items, and the hackers used his account to scam other players.”

I couldn't believe how sneaky these bad guys could be. “So, Milli, how did Jack fix the problem?”

Milli smiled, “Jack was lucky, Hector. He realised something was wrong when he couldn't log into his game account the next day. He told his parents, who helped him contact the game's customer support. They helped him recover his account and taught him about online safety.”

I let out a sigh of relief. “I'm glad Jack got his account back. But what can we learn from his story?”

Milli wagged her tail, ready to share more insights. “Hector, Jack's story teaches us that kids should always be cautious

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online. They should never click on links or share their personal information without being sure it's from a trusted source. Just like in the real world, it's essential to question things and think before we act.”

I nodded in agreement. “Thank you for sharing that story, Milli. It helps me understand why children need to be careful online.”

Milli's gaze was steady and reassuring. “Hector, the best defence is knowledge. Understanding the risks and being cautious about what you click on or share online is the first step.”

I couldn't agree more with Milli. Knowledge was indeed a powerful weapon, and I was determined to learn more about staying safe in the cyberworld.

However, I was still curious about online scams and how they could affect kids like Jack. Milli had a wealth of information to share, and I was all ears.

“Milli,” I asked, “you mentioned phishing earlier. Can you tell me about another online scam and how a kid dealt with it?”

Milli's tail wagged as she began another enlightening story. “Of course, Hector. Let me tell you about Emily. She was a bright and curious girl who loved playing online games too. One day, while she was playing her favourite game, she received a message from someone who claimed to be a game friend.”

“Wow,” I exclaimed, “that must have been nice for Emily!”

Milli nodded. “Indeed, Hector. This friend said that Emily could get lots of game coins and special items if she clicked on the link she'd sent.”

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I could imagine the thrill Emily must have felt. “So, what did she do, Milli?”

“Emily was cautious, Hector,” Milli replied with a proud gleam in her eyes. “Instead of clicking the link in the message, she decided to check with her brother. He was older and knew a lot about the game.”

I tilted my head in admiration. “That was a smart move, Milli.”

Milli continued, “Emily showed the message to her brother, and he immediately recognized it as a trick. He explained that clicking on the link could be dangerous and might lead to problems.”

I wagged my tail in anticipation. “So, Emily didn't fall for the trick, did she?”

Milli grinned, “You're right, Hector. Emily listened to her brother's advice and decided not to click on the link or share any personal information.”

I couldn't help but feel proud of Emily's vigilance. “That's fantastic, Milli! But what happened next?”

“After Emily told her brother about the message, he helped her report it to the game's support team. They thanked her for her diligence and assured her that they would investigate the matter.”

I barked in delight. “Emily did a great job protecting herself, and potentially others!”

Milli nodded, her eyes full of approval. “Indeed, Hector. Emily's story teaches us that children should always be careful and not click on unfamiliar links. It's crucial to talk to

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someone they trust when they're unsure about a message they receive online.”

I couldn't agree more with Milli's words of wisdom. Emily's story was a reminder to always be careful and seek advice when you're unsure about something online.



FIRST BOOK IN THE SERIES READ IN OVER 16 COUNTRIES

HECTOR

and Cyber Adventures



Renata Kaminska is the author of the educational book series about the adventures of the dog, Hector. In this third book of the series, Hector dives into the cyber world and learns all about staying safe online. With his friend Milli, a digital detective dog, Hector explores the police department and discovers how to deal with online threats. Together, they tackle

real-world problems such as cyberbullying and scams, while learning about the internet, AI, and mobile technology. They share essential tips for young readers on how to navigate the digital world with care. This book is a must-read for children who are eager to become cyber-smart!

"This is an empathetic and thoughtful, narrative-based, instructional guide to staying safe online. It's a great resource for parents and educators when supporting young people with safe internet use, love it!"

Stella Wilson, Westminster Children's University

"The use of Hector the dog is very enticing for young people. I love the societal subjects addressed, for example, 'Let's help kids be safe and kind online!' The emotional intelligence of kids is very important, and this book, coupled with parental support is a great source."

Angela Karanja, Psychologist, Parenting Teenagers Expert

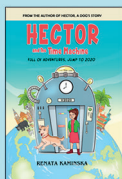
"This book is more than a thrilling adventure; it's the perfect conversation starter for families navigating the often-treacherous online world. Hector is leading young readers through an exciting journey filled with valuable lessons about online safety."

Rebecca Edwards, Tech Reporter, Security Expert, SafeWise

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