



The Techno cat

ADVENTURES IN THE INTERNET



Hello, I'm Faux Paw the Techno Cat.



I used to live in the animal shelter, but not anymore. The governor rescued me. Now the state capitol building is my home.



I live in the governor's office where I'm an important part of the team. There's a big ball of yarn that gets really bored if I don't chase it. And when the governor's had a tough day, I sit at his feet. I can tell he feels better.



You say my name "foe-paw." In France the word *faux pas* means mistake or false step, but I'm named Faux Paw because I have an extra toe on each of my front paws. (Get it?)

Everybody makes *faux pas* sometimes, but let me tell you about a really big mistake I made.



It happened on the computer. Most people don't put cats and computers together, but I'm the Techno Cat for a good reason. I'm a computer whiz! At night, when everyone goes home, the governor lets me use his laptop. I am soooo good at games.

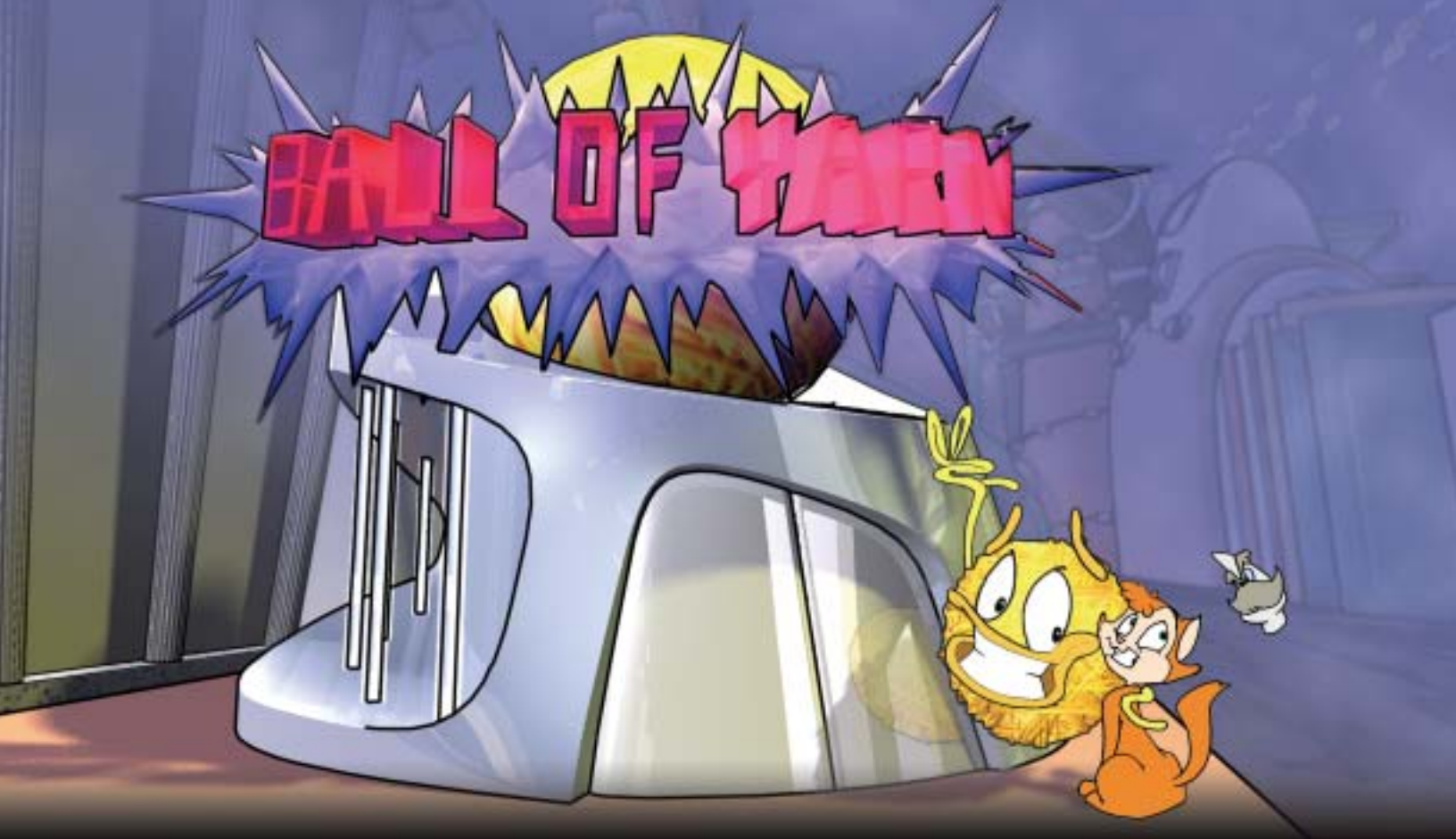


One night I was cruising around Internet City using my favorite part of the computer—the mouse! LOL (On the Internet, that means "laugh out loud." Sometimes I even make myself LOL.)



While I was mousing around, I bumped into the governor’s old friend, Cursor. He and the governor work together all the time.

“Howdy, Faux Paw,” he said. “Don’t forget—the Internet is like a big city. Some places are safe, other places aren’t, and it’s important to know the difference.”



But how could I listen to Cursor? Right before my eyes was the Ball-of-Yarn Chat Room—a dream come true! Flashing signs, piles of yarn, free catnip giveaways! And . . .



. . . a new friend: Happy Fluffy Kittyface! Words just showed up on my screen.

“Hello, Faux Paw,” she typed, “I’m Happy Fluffy Kittyface. Wanna chat?”

So I typed back: **“Oh, Kittyface, I haven’t had anyone to talk to all day. Everyone’s so busy here.”**



“That’s okay,” she typed, “I’d love to be your Internet friend. I like to purr in the sunshine and play with yarn, how about you?”

“THAT’S MY FAVORITE THING IN ALL THE WORLD!”

I shouted back.



“Faux Paw,” she asked, “maybe we go to the same school? Do you go to Meow-Meow Elementary?”

I was about to tell her that I go to Cool Cats Elementary, but Cursor jumped in: “No, Faux Paw! Never tell anyone on the Internet the name of your school!”

“Silly Cursor,” I thought, “he loves to say things like that—he’s such a worrier.”



Luckily, Kittyface was still there. She typed, **“Faux Paw, I have a new ball of yarn—bright red—wanna see it?”**

“Oh yes! I’d love to see your yarn,” I typed.



“Let’s play,” she typed. “I’ll bring my yarn, and you bring yours. Maybe we can watch a movie. Where do you live?”



Cursor was going crazy by now. “No, Faux Paw!” he said. “Never give your name, address, phone number, the name of your school, or even a picture of yourself to anyone on the Internet.”

I thought, “Cursor just doesn’t understand—Happy Fluffy Kittyface is my friend.” So I kept typing: “**Let’s meet by the lamp post in front of the capitol building.**”



“Stop, Faux Paw! Never, *never* meet anyone you’ve found in a chat room!”

But I thought I knew better than silly Cursor. “Sorry, Cursor, got to go. I have a new best friend to meet,” I said.

“Faux Paw! I’m worried! I’d better alert the governor!” he said as I ran out the door.



When I got to the lamp post, it was a lot darker than I thought it would be.

“Where’s Happy Fluffy Kittyface?” I thought.



“I can’t wait to show her my official pillow by the governor’s desk and the candy machines in the basement. I wonder if her ball of yarn is bigger than mine.”

“... She sure is taking her time.”



Then, a voice came from behind me. It wasn't a happy, fluffy voice.



It was a low, terrible growl. “Hullo, Faux Paw, I’m Happy Fluffy . . .



“ . . . Kittyface!”



I ran as fast as my four legs and twenty-two toes would carry me, but it wasn't fast enough!

“Where can I hide? Somebody, help! Cursor!” I screamed.




Just when I thought I was doomed, the governor's car screeched around the corner. He threw open the door and yelled, "Hurry, Faux Paw!"

I jumped straight into the arms of the governor, someone I knew I could trust.



“Wow, am I glad to see you!” I said. “Kittyface almost ate me alive.”
“You were lucky tonight, Faux Paw,” said the governor. “You’ve got a good friend in Cursor.”



Well, that's it, my big mistake, but I'm much wiser now. I stick with my friends at the capitol and stay out of chat rooms.

I have to get back to the office, now. My ball of yarn is waiting for me, and the governor might need my help. G2G. (For all of us tech-people that's "got to go.")

Bye, bye,
—Faux Paw the Techno Cat

The End

Howdy kids! I'm your friend, Cursor. Remember, the Internet is like a big city with great places to go, but you have to be careful. That's why we have three rules for Internet safety:

Keep. Don't Meet. Tell.

1. **Keep** your personal information protected. Never give your name, address, phone number, the name of your school, or a picture of yourself to anyone online.
2. **Don't meet** in person anyone you've found online.
3. **Tell** a parent, teacher, or trusted adult if you feel uncomfortable about anything you see on the Internet.



. . . So long friends.



Faux Paw the Techno Cat

Guided Classroom Discussion

Teacher: Tell me about the book; what did you think of it?
(Take responses, give praise.)

Teacher: Do your parents use the Internet at your house?
(Take responses, give praise.)

Teacher: Do your parents let you use the Internet?
(Take response; acknowledge parents' wisdom in limiting Internet/computer use.)

Teacher: Was Faux Paw **allowed** to use the governor's computer? In other words, did she have permission? (Allow the children to really think about this.)
Yes. Faux Paw says, "The governor lets me use his laptop."

Teacher: What mistakes did Faux Paw make while on the computer?

1. *She gave out her name.*
2. *She almost gave out the name of her school, but Cursor stopped her.*
3. *She agreed to meet a stranger that she had found on the Internet.*

Teacher: When you first saw Happy Fluffy Kitty-face, did you like her?
(Take responses.)

Teacher: When Faux Paw and Happy Fluffy Kitty-face were talking in the chat room, did you have any idea that Kitty-face might be a big, scary dog?
(Take responses. Reassure the children that their initial response to Kitty-face was appropriate.)
"She looked so cute and nice; she seemed nice to me, too."

Teacher: Did you suspect that Happy Fluffy Kitty-face was telling lies?
No. (Take responses, give praise.)

Teacher: What were some of the lies Happy Fluffy Kitty-face told Faux Paw?
(Take responses, give praise.)

1. *He pretended to be a cat.*
2. *He said he loves to purr in the sunshine. Does that sound like something a big dog would do?*
3. *He said he had new ball of yarn that he wanted to share. Does that sound like something a dog would do?*

Teacher: What are the three things we should remember about being safe on the Internet?
(Take responses, give praise.)

1. **Never give out personal informationsuch as:**
 - a. Name
 - b. Address
 - c. Phone number
 - d. Name of your school
 - e. A picture of yourself
2. **Never agree to meet in person someone you've met on the computer.**
3. **If anything you see on the computer makes you feel uncomfortable, run and tell a parent or teacher.**

Teacher: Have you ever seen anything on the Internet that made you worried or uncomfortable?

What do you know?



Computer and Internet Vocabulary



- Keyboard:** The part of the computer with letter and number buttons that you use for typing.
- Mouse:** What you use to move the arrow around the computer screen. You can use the buttons to choose things on the screen. Can you tell why it is called a mouse?
- Cursor:** The arrow or little flashing line on your computer screen that points to things. The mouse is used to move the cursor.
- Monitor:** The computer screen where you see words, pictures and videos.
- Laptop:** A small computer that is easy to move and carry. It has the computer, monitor, mouse, and keyboard all together.
- Internet:** A world wide system of millions of computers that are connected together in a network. This is what your computer uses to visit Web sites like or to chat with other kids around the world.
- Cyberspace:** The world that connects computers with the Internet. When you send an e-mail to friends it goes through cyberspace to reach them.
- Internet address:** Just like your home address, this group of letters and numbers takes your computer to a specific place on the Internet. It usually looks like www.kissconsulting.ca
- URL (Uniform Resource Locator):** This is just another way to say Internet address www.kissconsulting.ca
- Web site:** A place you visit on the Internet that has stuff to see and read. Some Web sites have fun and useful information, but some are not safe. Your parents can help you find good Web sites.
- Instant messaging:** Messages you can exchange back and forth with a friend through a special program. It's like a private chat room.
- Chat room (or chatroom):** A place to "talk by typing" to other people in the chat room. But, be careful! People are not always who they say they are in chat rooms. Never give any personal information like your name, address, phone number, or the name of your school to anyone in chat rooms.
- E-mail (electronic mail):** A letter you send through cyberspace. People love e-mail because it's almost instant and doesn't take any stamps!
- Bulletin boards or Message boards:** A place on the Internet where you can post information for other people to see, usually about a specific topic—like the one in your classroom or home. Remember, never post your personal information.
- Username:** A name you choose to use for yourself when you're on the Internet. It identifies you without telling strangers your real name. Parents are really good at choosing usernames.
- Screen name:** Your username in a chat room. A screen name should never say who you really are or give any personal information.
- SPAM:** Junk mail sent to your e-mail box that is usually advertising something. Don't open or respond to SPAM because it can cause problems for your computer.
- Virus (computer virus):** A hidden computer program that sneaks into your computer through e-mail or the Internet. Viruses can really hurt your computer, and you can accidentally send them on to other people without even knowing it! To help keep viruses off your computer, don't open e-mail from people you don't know.
- Password:** A secret word that only you and your parents should know. You use it to check your e-mail and log into Web sites. Parents are really good at helping you remember passwords.



Name: _____

Let me show you what I know!

Computer and Internet Vocabulary

1. Mouse: _____
 2. E-mail: _____
 3. Cursor: _____
 4. Laptop: _____
 5. Internet address: _____
 6. URL: _____
 7. Chat room: _____
 8. Virus: _____
 9. Password: _____
 10. SPAM: _____
 11. Bulletin board: _____
 12. Instant Messaging: _____
 13. Internet: _____
 14. Web site: _____
 15. Monitor: _____
 16. Cyberspace: _____
 17. Username: _____
- A. A place where you “talk by typing” to other people
 - B. A secret word that only you and your parents know
 - C. A letter you send through cyberspace
 - D. A hidden program that can hurt your computer
 - E. Junk mail that comes to your e-mail box
 - F. A name you use on the Internet that isn’t your real name
 - G. An Internet address (Uniform Resource Locator)
 - H. The part of the computer you use to type
 - I. A place on the Internet you can visit
 - J. What you use to move the cursor
 - K. Another way to say URL www.kissconsulting.ca is an example of this
 - L. Another name for the computer screen
 - M. The world that connects computers to the Internet
 - N. A little computer that’s easy to move and carry
 - O. A world wide network of computers; your computer uses this to visit web-sites
 - P. The arrow or small flashing line on your computer screen
 - Q. Like a private chat room
 - R. A place on the Internet where you can post information

What was that again?

Internet Safety Review

1. What five things should you never share with anyone on the computer?



- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

2. If you see anything on the computer that makes you feel uncomfortable, you should: (circle one)

- a. Ignore it.
- b. Turn off your computer and tell a friend.
- c. Run and tell an adult.
- d. Click the HELP button.

3. It's okay to meet in person someone that you found on the Internet, IF:

- a. You meet in a safe, public place.
- b. They promised to bring you a present.
- c. It's someone from your mom or dad's office.
- d. It's never okay.





ANSWER KEY

Let me show you what I know! Computer and Internet Vocabulary

1. Mouse: J
 2. E-mail: C
 3. Cursor: P
 4. Laptop: N
 5. Internet address: K
 6. URL: G
 7. Chat Room: A
 8. Virus: D
 9. Password: B
 10. SPAM: E
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