



Pokémon Go Security Concerns & Tips

by Gary S. Miliefsky, CEO, SnoopWall, Inc.

My Key issues are broken down in the areas of **PRIVACY** and **SAFETY**:

#1 PRIVACY

- a) **Your identity and your kids identities will be sold**
it even says they can sell your data and host it overseas where privacy laws may not exist or be weaker offering you little or no protection. serious privacy concerns - to comply with COPPA (children's online privacy protection act) they want proof that a parent approves use so they collect your info, your child's info including date of birth, your full names and your address.
- b) **Geolocating your children while they play** – where you live, where they roam, all logged by the company's servers.
- c) **Data theft** - Does Niantic use strong encryption and the best security in the world to protect you? Doubtful... and I expect them to be in the news being breached sometime in the near future, especially when they reach 50-100m users, making them a prime target.

#2 SAFETY

- a) **Distracted driving** - AR gaming instead of texting - both are very distracting and cause accidents
- b) **Distracted walking** - cuts and bruises watching the screen instead of streets and traffic
- c) **Criminals using it to ensnare unsuspecting victims** - because there are Pokemon spots on maps that are special - like churches, rivers, malls and in these special places, when players go there to find game characters, they might be surprised by a criminal who robs them or worse a pedophile who steals them.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

#1: Don't Install it. Don't Play it. I recommend you use the old fashioned pokemon cards...as I said here: <http://www.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=908923>

#2: But if you are going to let your kids play it, make sure its connected to a THROW-AWAY google account (both for you to prove you are the parent and for your child), also when they are done, disable wifi, GPS and make sure the game is not running in the background. Force the game to stop running in your settings if you have an android, on an iphone when you exit the game it can't keep running. Make sure your children only play it with an adult present especially when they are roaming around in the neighborhood or parks- it's like going out trick or treating on halloween, don't let your kids do it alone. There's malware versions out there so if you 'sideload' and not download the original #CREEPWARE version, you'll get a worse REMOTE ACCESS TROJAN (RAT) version...the RAT allows hackers to see and hear everything on your smartphone remotely and access all your personal information on the device.

#3: Limit when and where they can play the game. Explain to them the PRIVACY and SAFETY risks. Do not let them wander far or go to churches, malls, rivers or locations far away where they can be kidnapped or harmed.

Your children's' and teen's smartphone and yours are back-doors into your lives – into your personal space and privacy – **protect them at all costs.**

About the Author:



Gary S. Miliefsky is the co-founder and CEO of SnoopWall, Inc. and is a breach prevention expert who has appeared on Good Morning America, the Today Show, CNN, FOX New, CTV and network programming across North America. SnoopWall, Inc. the leader in network breach prevention, is also ranked as the top mobile device security company by Cyber security 500 and one of the top 50 Most Valuable Tech Companies in Insight Success.