

Real-Life Consequences of Digital Footprints

1. Lost NASA Internship Due to a Tweet

A student named Naomi H was offered a prestigious internship at NASA. Excited, she tweeted about it, using inappropriate language and tagged NASA. The tweet caught the attention of a NASA official, and the internship offer was revoked.

Lesson for Teens: What you post—even in excitement—can be seen by future employers or institutions.

2. College Admissions Impacted by Social Media

Many universities now review applicants' social media profiles. Inappropriate posts, offensive comments or evidence of risky behaviour have led to students being rejected or losing scholarships.

Lesson for Ages 12–18: Your online presence is part of your application. Keep it respectful and authentic.

3. Job Offers Withdrawn Due to Old Posts

Employers routinely search candidates online. A single controversial tweet or photo—even from years ago—can result in a job offer being rescinded. This has happened to young professionals across Europe and the U.S.

Lesson for Older Teens: Your digital footprint is permanent. Think long-term before posting.

4. Online Behaviour Leading to Legal Trouble

In some cases, sharing private content or engaging in online harassment has led to criminal investigations. In Cyprus, sharing someone's private photos without consent can result in prosecution under data protection laws

Lesson for All Ages: Online actions have offline consequences—including legal ones.

5. Stalking and Extortion from Oversharing

Some individuals have been targeted for stalking or extortion after sharing too much personal information online. This includes location tags, school names and personal routines

Lesson for Parents and Teens: Teach children to protect their privacy and avoid oversharing.