



## Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius

A Department of the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation

# CERT-MU Security Alert

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## Parents, Beware! - OmeTV Is not safe for Children and Teenagers

### Description

The Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU) is alerting the public in general about the growing use of OmeTV, a popular online video chat platform, which is currently trending on social media and among teenagers in Mauritius. OmeTV is a free video chat application, available on both mobile and web platforms, that connects users randomly for one-on-one video calls. It is commonly used to discover new friends/contacts or socialize online.

This platform allows users, specially youngsters to have real-time video conversations with strangers from different countries, with minimal moderation and almost no safeguards, making it highly dangerous for minors and children.

Some of the security concerns of OmeTV are:



### 1. Exposure to Inappropriate Content

- Children may encounter sexually explicit behaviour, nudity, hate speech, or disturbing imagery.
- No filters or effective moderation systems are in place to prevent such content.

### 2. Online Grooming and Exploitation

- Adults pretending to be teenagers may manipulate, exploit, or groom children for malicious purposes.
- Children may be lured into sharing personal information or explicit content.

### 3. Cyberbullying, Harassment and Sextortion

- Users can be verbally abused, bullied, or threatened during live sessions.
- Users can be threatened for more videos or pictures.
- Offensive or aggressive behaviour can cause emotional distress and trauma.

### 4. Privacy Violations and Data Misuse

- Conversations may be recorded without consent and distributed on other platforms.
- Personal information, images, or videos may be harvested for malicious use, including identity theft and cyberstalking.

### 5. Lack of Age Verification

- There is no reliable mechanism to prevent underage users from accessing the platform.
- OmeTV claims to prohibit minors under 18, but enforcement is practically non-existent.

## Urgent Measures to be taken by Parents

Since OmeTV is not safe for children and teenagers, parents should keep an eye on their children's online activity. CERT-MU strictly advises parents to follow the below measures to protect their children online:

#### 1. Open Communication

- Have an open communication with your kids, help them to understand the advantages and disadvantages of the online world.
- Most kids out of naiveness may believe that people they encounter online, are nice and kind, it applies to strangers as well. However, it is essential to teach them to be conscious of strangers and not reveal their private information.

#### 2. Educate About Online Safety

- It is very important to educate your children about the dos and don'ts while they surf on the Internet
- While parents stress the importance of 'stranger danger' in the real world, the online world is equally perilous, so a child needs to understand that strangers they

meet online (on social media, OmeTV, or through gaming) do not always have the best intentions in mind.

### 3. Monitor Digital Activity

- Regularly review the apps and websites your child uses.
- Set boundaries – clearly define screen time limits and approved apps
- Check for any suspicious or hidden applications that may be used to access such platforms.

### 4. Use Parental Controls

- Make use of parental controls on your children's devices.
- It is essential to control what type of content your children consume and monitor their online interactions to ensure they are safe.
- Block inappropriate platforms and monitor usage.

### 5. Report Incidents

- Encourage your child to speak up if they feel uncomfortable, encounter disturbing content or have been approached by strangers online.
- Report any suspicious or harmful activity to CERT-MU on MAUCORS+ (<https://maucors.govmu.org>) or on its Hotline 800 2378.
- You may also contact the Cybercrime Unit of the Mauritius Police Force on 212 4017 / 210 4653.

#### **Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU)**

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