



### **Some software downloads result in long distance charges**

Internet users command tremendous choice over the information they access, whether it's breaking news, online purchases, or the latest on topics of personal interest.

But with freedom of choice comes responsibility. It's up to all of us to determine where we travel via the Web, the sorts of information we access, and whether or not we're willing to pay the price, if and when payment is required.

This also means being responsible for long distance charges generated on your telephone line.

Some adult web sites, for example, offer Internet users access to photos and messages, inviting them to download special viewing software to see additional images.

These messages usually contain a notice advising that long distance charges will apply. If the users choose to download the viewing software, the software then dials through to a remote service provider or Internet connection using international long distance facilities.

Credit card information is not necessarily required, but long distance charges generally apply as customers are responsible for all charges related to calls placed from their telephone lines.

Our advice? Internet users should exercise caution in downloading software. This means carefully reviewing any associated terms and conditions, including the potential for generating long distance calls.

If you are concerned about access by family members to adult web sites, there is a variety of filtering software available on the market, (insert filtering software), that restricts access to such sites by minors. Although this software is not intended to prevent users from incurring long distance charges through Internet use per se, it can help prevent access to those sites offering viewing software that operates using a long distance dial-up connection.