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**I'm InTouch Child Monitoring system, O1 Communiqué**

It's sad when a parent can't trust a child to do the right things online, but sometimes it's necessary to intervene. This is where Child Monitoring Software for I'm InTouch comes in.

I'm InTouch is remote-access software from Toronto-based O1 Communiqué [www.O1com.com](http://www.O1com.com); install the IIT client on the target computer and you can operate it from any other machine connected to the Internet via a browser interface. Connections are secured by O1 Communiqué's heavily encrypted servers.

IIT works so that the monitor on the target computer shows what the remote user is doing — typing, mouse activity and so on. If someone else were to sit down at the target computer, the two could have a jolly fight over who controls the mouse.

But O1 Communiqué has now devised a "stealth mode," meaning that people using target computers would be unaware that their activity is being echoed on a remote computer; the remote user can watch, but have no control over the target machine, so there would be no fight for control of the mouse or keyboard. There would be no telltale icon blinking in the system tray to blow the spy's cover. A child expecting total privacy when computing would be foiled by a parent watching from another room or another city.

The Child Monitoring System also allows using a webcam, positioned to view the computer to see whether someone is using the computer or about to use it.

There are distasteful aspects to the misuse of any such system; it can be used to spy on co-workers or spouses, for instance, or even to exert excessive control over a child.

But two mitigating factors are at work here. One is that it's a subscription-based system, and it's not cheap — it costs \$99.95 (U.S.) per year, which should give serious pause to the casual spy. Another is that this is a real-time monitor, like a TV security camera; when I'm InTouch is running in stealth mode, parents must periodically log in to view what their children are doing on the home computer. It will take a lot of patience watching before a child logs on and starts doing something of interest to the spy, and there is no way to tip the spy off when to start watching.

The morality of using this system is up to the discretion of subscriber (and the subscriber's access to the target computer to install the software); but assuming it's being used for the forces of good, I'm InTouch in stealth mode works just as well as you'd want it to.

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