

SURFERS UNDER WATCH

Cyber cafe users will no longer have the luxury of anonymity, as police will have their data for two years; A new software will help cops trace those who send terror emails from internet centres

DEBI PRASAD SARANGI

Anonymous surfing in cyber cafes won't be easy anymore. Bangalore police are planning to install a software called CLINCK Cyber Cafe Manager in all computers in the nearly 1,000 cyber cafes in the city.

One of the main benefits is that it will help the police track down cyber offenders, especially those who shoot anonymous emails threatening terror strikes.

At present, it is mandatory for cyber cafes to let a person access internet only after he/she produces ID proof. Cyber cafe owners are also supposed to maintain a register of those who browse the internet. However, this is not a foolproof security measure as most people surf the internet at cyber cafes without showing any ID proof.

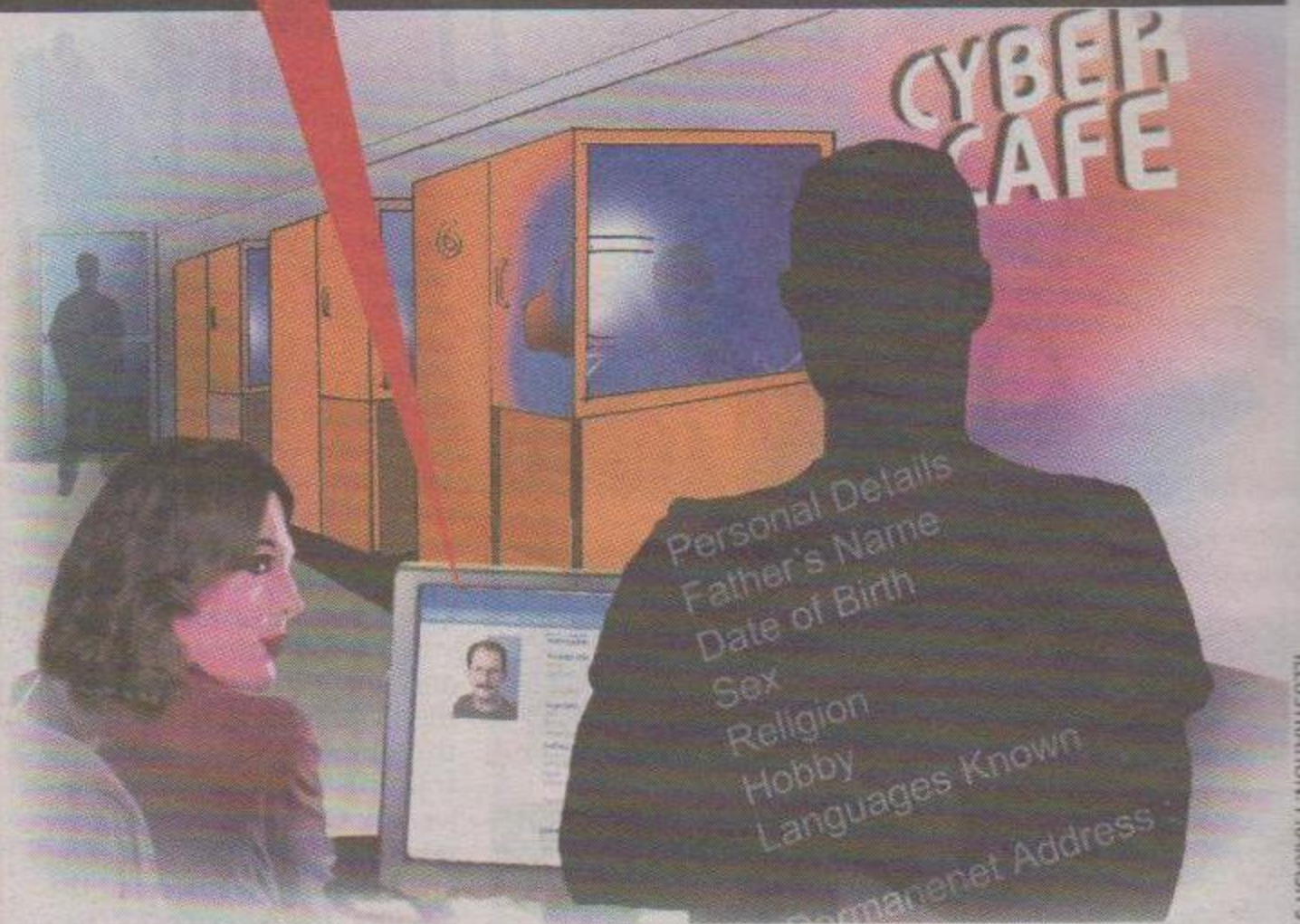
Such criminal negligence by cyber cafes makes it difficult for security agencies to corner culprits who send emails from cyber cafes threatening terror attacks.

Though it is easy to trace the cyber cafe, by tracking the IP address of the computer which was used to send the email, it is very difficult to ascertain who used the computer.

HOW CLINCK WORKS

CLINCK Cyber Cafe Manager solves this problem by assigning a unique login ID for a particular customer at any cyber cafe across India. Customers have to register only once in any cafe to start surfing the internet. The software stores data of internet usage by registered customers for a minimum period of two years. Mumbai-based Ideacts Innovation Private Limited (IIPL) has developed this application and is offering it free to all internet cafes in the city.

Neeti Malhotra, marketing head of Ideacts, says once the software is installed in all computers of a cyber cafe, the cyber cafe owner must collect customers' passport-size photographs, contact numbers and valid ID cards. He will then have to scan this vital



information and store it through CLINCK software. A customer will be provided a login ID and password to access the internet. He/she can use only this ID and password to browse in cyber cafes across the country where this

software has been installed.

KEEPING TABS

According to Alok Kumar, joint commissioner of police (crime), the software is a good initiative and will help access information about people

who frequent internet cafes. "Since customers and cafe owners don't have to pay for this software, they should not hesitate to install it. Talks will be held with cyber cafe owners for quick installation of CLINCK," he adds.