

Half of Swedish three-year-olds online: study

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Children play on a computer in Montpellier in 2009. Swedes are among the world's most connected people and are swarming to the Internet at an ever earlier age, a study published Wednesday showed, indicating that half of Swedish three-year-olds have been online.

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"The Internet continues to spread to younger and younger children," according to the study on Swedish online habits, conducted by [Internet infrastructure](#) foundation .SE.

In 2000, half of Swedish children had begun using the Internet by the age of 13. By 2004, the beginner age had dropped to nine, by 2008, it

stood at five, and this year it was down to three, according to the study.

There is also an increase in usage among younger children, the study showed, pointing out that today 19 percent of four-year-olds use the Internet on a daily basis up from two percent in 2009, while 25 percent of six-year-olds go online every day compared to five percent two years ago.

Titled "[Swedes](#) and the Internet 2011," the 72-page study was based on telephone interviews with 2,537 people over the age of 16, including 429 parents who were asked about the Internet habits of 616 children.

It also revealed that a full 88 percent of Sweden's nine million inhabitants have access to the Internet and 85 percent have access to broadband at home.

In fact, there are more computers than people in Swedish households, which on average count 2.5 family members and an average of 2.8 computers.

Meanwhile, 81 percent of Swedish [Internet users](#) go online every day, and 62 percent of them use social networks, the study showed.

Among other revelations in the study was that illegal file-sharers are more willing to pay for music online than people who refrain from file-sharing.

Among file-sharers aged 12 to 35, 22 percent paid to download songs and 30 percent paid for online music service subscriptions.

That compares with 14 percent of non-file-sharers in the same age group who paid to download songs and 20 percent who paid for [music service](#) subscriptions.

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