



The Tech Coalition's Industry Classification System

The members of the Tech Coalition have adopted a voluntary and open source image classification system that is used by many electronic service providers (ESPs) to categorize images and videos that depict apparent child sexual abuse and exploitation (CSEA). The classification system is often deployed when ESPs report CSEA to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). By using a standardized classification framework, ESPs enable NCMEC and other third-party reviewers to quickly sort the voluminous amount of reported content and help identify the most egregious material.

The classification system is a matrix, with one axis representing the apparent age of the victim. Content depicting pre-pubescent victims is designated "A". Content that includes victims who appear to be under 18, but are post-pubescent, is designated "B".

The second axis categorizes the conduct depicted in the image or video. Content that includes a sex act is designated "1". Content that meets the federal definition of "child pornography" but does not depict a sex act (known as "lascivious exhibition") is designated "2".

The final classification includes a label from each axis. For example, an image that depicts a sex act involving a pre-pubescent minor would be designated as "A1", while a video that depicts the lascivious exhibition of the genitals of a post-pubescent minor would be classified as "B2".

For more detailed definitions of the classifiers used in the Tech Coalition's Industry Classification System, please see the chart below:

CLASSIFIER	DESCRIPTOR	DEFINITION
A	Pre-Pubescent	A minor who, based on the totality of the circumstances, does not appear to have reached the onset of puberty.
B	Post-Pubescent	A minor who, based on the totality of the circumstances, appears to have reached the onset of puberty.
1	Sex Act	Any imagery depicting sexual intercourse (including genital-genital, oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal whether between persons of the same or opposite sex), bestiality, masturbation, sadistic or masochistic abuse, degradation, or any such depiction of the above that lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.
2	Lascivious Exhibition	Any imagery depicting the lascivious exhibition of the anus, genitals, or pubic area of any person, where a minor is engaging in the lascivious exhibition or being used in connection with sexually explicit conduct, which may include but is not limited to imagery where the focal point is on the child's anus, genitals, or pubic area and where the depiction is intended or designed to elicit a sexual response in the viewer.