THE ONLINE ZOO

Daniela Drobona  Achmed Abdel-Salam
The Online Zoo

Daniela Drobná  Achmed Abdcl-Salam
Visitors big and small come to see the animals and to stroll through the zoo on this beautiful day. Zoo Director Elsa is also just arriving.
Director Elsa says hello to all the visitors who came to her zoo. Today, there are many visitors. Director Elsa is especially happy about the youngest ones.

Director Elsa is very proud, because the Online Zoo is not a normal zoo. The Online Zoo is an extraordinary zoo.
All the animals that live at the Online Zoo go online. They have internet, computers and mobile phones.

But why does a zoo need internet? Why do the animals need internet?

There are many different reasons.
The internet is important...
...for the animals to stay in touch.

The lion can always call his family when he misses them. His lion mum can tell him from a distance that he should take good care brushing his teeth.
The internet is important ... ... for the animals to learn.

The brown bear can check what the weather is like on his computer. He sees that winter is not yet over and that he can carry on sleeping.
The internet is important ...
... for the animals to call for help.

The penguin has a terrible cold and sends the zoo doctor an e-mail about it.
The internet is important ...  
... for the animals to have fun.

Even at the zoo it can get boring sometimes. The elephant is happy, because he can have fun playing his favourite game on his tablet.
Director Elsa is getting ready for her tour around the zoo. Just like every day, she is going to visit her animals. She puts down her briefcase and puts on her zoo clothes. Done. Now she is ready.
There is a lot going on in the monkey cage. All the monkeys are playing with each other and are romping around on the monkey bars. They are swinging from one tree to another and are throwing a ball back and forth.
But not all the monkeys are playing. Monkey Maurice is sitting alone in a corner.

He is staring at his mobile phone. He cannot stop staring at the display; he has forgotten everything around him.
Director Elsa is worried. She says hello to the monkey: “Good morning Maurice. Why are you not playing with the others?”

Maurice shows her his mobile phone and answers: “I am playing. Can’t you see?”

Director Elsa asks: “Do you not want to play with the other monkeys? They have already started without you.”
Maurice looks up and sees that all his friends are playing together and are having lots of fun. With all the playing on his mobile phone he had not even noticed.
Maurice realises that his mobile phone isn’t everything. He can still have the most fun when playing with his friends.

“Throw me the ball,” monkey Maurice shouts and puts the mobile phone away.
Director Elsa is happy that she was able to help monkey Maurice.
Cheerfully, Director Elsa continues her tour. Today, there are a lot of people visiting.
Director Elsa says hello to the visitors at the aquarium.
A little boy waves at the colourful fish.
Director Elsa smiles, because at the Online Zoo there is always something going on.
Director Elsa arrives at the panda pen. It is very quiet there. Panda Paul looks unhappy and sad. Not even his favourite meal, bamboo, can cheer him up. What could be the problem? Director Elsa asks him. “Hello panda Paul. Why are you so sad today?”
Panda Paul says hello to the Director, but he sounds very sad. "Good morning Director Elsa. Today, I don’t feel well at all. I am too fat, so I am unhappy."
Director Elsa is upset.
She answers: “But my dear Paul, this is not true, not even a little bit. Where did you get this crazy idea?”
Panda Paul shows his laptop to Director Elsa. Someone on the internet says that he is too fat. Director Elsa can hear loud and mean laughter from the next pen.
The hyenas who live next door are writing bad things about panda Paul. All the other animals can read them on the internet. This is why panda Paul is sad.
Elsa comforts panda Paul. She says, “My dear Paul, you don’t need to be sad. This is only a mean prank. You mustn’t believe mean things from the internet, because they are not true. I will go and talk to the hyenas.”
Panda Paul is relieved and starts eating his bamboo, because he is already very hungry. Director Elsa makes her way to the hyenas’ cage. She looks very serious. Those hyenas, they are always up to something.
As Director Elsa arrives at the hyenas’ place, they are standing around the laptop laughing. Are they planning the next online prank?

The hyenas immediately know why the Director has come. Elsa says hello. “A very nice day to you. I came, because I wanted to ask you why you are writing mean stuff on the internet about the panda?” The hyenas have been caught.
Director Elsa explains that it is not right to write untrue and mean things about others on the internet. She says, “Panda Paul was very sad and really believed that he is too fat. Also, the other animals can read everything too.”

One hyena answers her. “We didn’t know Paul would believe everything. For us, it was just a joke. We also didn’t think that all the other animals could read it as well.”
They understand that their joke was not at all funny for the panda, so they delete everything from the internet. They also promise that they will never do something like this again.

The hyenas look ashamed. They now realise their mistake. The whole thing is very embarrassing for them.
Director Elsa is happy that she was able to help the panda and the hyenas. She is pleased and carries on walking through the zoo. At the kangaroos’, it is very quiet today.
Elsa stops at the antelopes’ pen. “Hello everybody,” she says, “you look very busy. What are you doing?” Mum Annie is building a new shelf.
The little antelopes Laura and Lucas are chatting on the computer. But who are they talking to?
“We are chatting with another antelope from the zoo,” Laura says.
The computer screen really shows an antelope.
Director Elsa wonders. There are no other antelopes at the zoo.
Who are Laura and Lucas talking to then?
Then Director Elsa sees through the trick. Laura and Lucas are not chatting to an antelope, it is someone else. It is lion Luis who is pretending to be an antelope.
Now, Laura and Lucas can also see it.
Lion Luis has used a hand puppet to trick the two children.
Because his mean trick has been found out, lion Luis makes himself seen.

Now he looks very embarrassed and is ashamed in front of Director Elsa and the antelopes.
Antelope Annie snorts. She is so angry that steam is almost coming from her ears.

“Why did you pretend to be an antelope? Did you want to lure Laura and Lucas and eat them?”
Because his mean trick has been found out, lion Luis makes himself seen. Now he looks very embarrassed and is ashamed in front of Director Elsa and the antelopes.
Director Elsa talks to Laura and Lucas. “Sometimes, animals on the internet pretend to be other animals. This is why you have to be careful.” Director Elsa gives the little antelopes advice so they won’t fall for the lion’s tricks again.

“If someone says a lot of nice things to you or even promises to give you presents you need to stay extra cautious. This can be a sign that someone wants to trick you.” Laura and Lucas nod.
“And another thing,” Director Elsa says, “when somebody asks whether you are alone at home you need to be especially alert. The same goes for nosy questions about your address or telephone number. If you get such questions you should end the chat and tell your mum Annie about it.
The little antelopes listen closely. They promise to be more careful on the internet in the future. The lion also promises to behave. Director Elsa is glad that she was able to help both the antelopes and the lion.
Director Elsa looks over to the giraffe’s pen. Giraffe Greta is at the fence looking very happy. What is going on over there?
The delivery man comes and brings many parcels.
Director Elsa sees the big delivery and looks up to giraffe Greta. “Hello Greta, what is going on here?” Greta answers, “Presents. These are all presents for me.” Director Elsa looks surprised. Giraffe Greta’s birthday is only next month, how is it possible then that she got presents already?
“Look,” giraffe Greta says, “I got the presents from an app.”
“In this gaming app, there is a button that says ‘get your cuddly toys’. I pressed the button and now I am getting all these presents,” Greta explains.
“Oh no,” Director Elsa says, “those are no presents. You bought the cuddly toys.”

Greta can’t believe it. She looks surprised.

“No, no, no. I didn’t buy anything,” she says, but suddenly she doesn’t seem so sure anymore.

“Unfortunately, you did,” Director Elsa explains, “just like in the real world you don’t get presents for free on the internet. The button you pressed was a buy-button.”
Director Elsa sends the delivery man away with all the parcels. She explains to him that giraffe Greta made a mistake. She didn’t know that she was buying the cuddly toys.
Besides, Greta forgot to ask her parents. Without the permission from her giraffe mum and dad she is not allowed to buy cuddly toys. Director Elsa explains to giraffe Greta, what she needs to look out for. “Often in games, there are buttons that promise you toys or something similar. You need to be cautious with these.” Elsa pets Greta’s cheek.

“Just like in the real zoo there is nothing for free on the internet. This doesn’t mean that you can’t play anymore, just be more careful next time.”
Director Elsa carries on. Her tour of the zoo is almost done. Her last stop is the penguin compound. They have a big pool with floating ice.

All the penguins are happily playing and are swimming together in the pool or jumping from the floating ice into the water. Only one penguin is standing to the side. “What is he doing?” Elsa asks herself.
Penguin Frederic is standing behind a rock and isn’t playing with the other penguins. He has taken his tails off and is standing there in just his swim trunks. His smartphone is flashing.
Elsa approaches him and says hello. “Hello Frederic. What are you doing back here all alone?”

Frederic waves hi. “Hi Director Elsa,” he says, “I am taking pictures of myself.” Director Elsa is confused. She looks at the washing line and asks, “But why did you take off your tails?”
Frederic looks very serious. "I took off my tails, because I wanted to take a photo of my new swim trunks.

"I want to send the picture to the other penguins." Director Elsa is alarmed. "But Frederic, you can't send a picture of you in your swim trunks to the other animals."
Frederic blushes. He didn’t think that Director Elsa wouldn’t like his idea. He is also confused. “Why don’t you like my idea?” he asks. Suddenly, he is very shy.

Director Elsa explains. “You shouldn’t send pictures of yourself in your swim trunks over the internet. You never know where your picture will end up.”
Frederic answers, “I only wanted to send the photo to the other penguins.”

Director Elsa smiles sympathetically. “A photo can quickly end up in a different place, this happens faster than you think. Just imagine an animal sending it to the hyenas, they could do some mischief with that. Or maybe animals that you don’t even know and didn’t want to have your photo might get it.” Now, penguin Frederic understands. “The internet is big and I cannot know what the other animals do with my picture, right?” Director Elsa nods. “Right.” She winks at Frederic.
After the visit at the penguins’ place, Director Elsa sits down on a bench. She is tired from her tour. She has visited so many animals today.
The Online-Zoo is an extraordinary zoo, but sometimes there are challenges with the internet, mobile phones and computers. “The most important thing is that the animals ask for help if they need it,” Elsa thinks.
Director Elsa watches the last visitors going home. What will the next day bring? She smiles. In any case, it will be many surprises and adventures.
THE END
Achmed Abdel-Salam

Independent screenwriter, director and actor. Born in 1983 in Vienna, Achmed Abdel-Salam discovered his passion for storytelling in his childhood. His first self-shot screenplays lead him to the Filmakademie in Vienna, where he is currently following a Master's degree in screenwriting and dramatic theory. In 2013 he was awarded with the Carl Mayer award for his motion picture-treatment, in 2014 he received a scholarship by Literar Mechana. In 2017 he was chosen for the Young Leaders Fellowship by the Tokyo Foundation. Achmed is currently working on several film projects.

Daniela Drobona

Daniela Drobona was born in Bratislava in 1988 and has been living in Vienna since 1991. She holds a degree in German language and literature studies and communication studies focusing on media literacy and digital media. Her literary work was honored with several awards, for her first novel she was awarded with the Literature Grant by the Austrian Ministry of Culture. Her latest awards are the Mira Lobe scholarship for children’s and youth literature by the Austrian Federal Chancellery and the screenplay award by the Austrian panel for screenplay. Since 2018 she is teaching at the institute for art of language at the University for applied art. Her new novel “Als die Kirche den Fluss überquerte” is published in 2018 by Piper. Didi has been working full-time in the IT-industry for years. www.dididrobona.com
Imprint

The Online-Zoo
Author: Daniela Drobna
Illustrator: Achmed Abdel-Salam
Translation into English: Gregor Neubacher, Christina Angelopoulos
Media owner and publisher: ISPA - Internet Service Providers Austria;
Verband der österreichischen Internet-Anbieter, association of Austrian internet providers
Währinger Straße 3/18, 1090 Vienna
3rd edition, Vienna 2016
ISBN-Number: 978-3-9504243-5-5
Co-financed by the European Union - Safer Internet programme
www.ispa.at/kinderbuch
www.ispa.at/onlinezoo

Co-financed by the European Union
Connecting Europe Facility
ISPA - Internet Service Providers Austria

ISPA, the umbrella organisation for Austria’s digital economy firms, represents over 200 members from all sectors revolving around the internet and supports the internet’s advancement through its activities. ISPA regards using the internet as an essential cultural technique and assumes the arising social responsibilities with initiatives such as Stopline - a hotline against child pornography and National Socialism founded by ISPA.

As part of the European Commission’s Safer Internet Project, we develop numerous different information materials to specifically foster children’s and teenagers’ media literacy and to promote the safe and responsible use of the internet. Until the end of 2015, we have printed and given away for free over 100,000 copies of our comprehensive guidebook “Safe use of the internet” to schools, universities, parents, teachers as well as all interested internet users.

You can find all free ISPA brochures here: www.ispa.at/broschueren

More information about the safe use of the internet: www.saferinternet.at
The Online Zoo is not an ordinary zoo. 
At this zoo, not only Director Elsa goes online; the animals are using the internet as well. Smartphones, tablet PCs and laptops are part of daily life at the zoo. 
During her daily tour around the zoo, Director Elsa discovers that the internet and all the electronic devices can cause challenges. 
Will she be able to help all the animals?

www.ispa.at/onlinezoo