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## Microsoft's search engine Bing shows child pornography, report finds



Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella oversees the Bing search engine CREDIT:ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

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By **Olivia Feld**, SAN FRANCISCO and **Mike Wright**

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Microsoft's Bing is allowing child pornography images to appear in its search results and is aiding paedophiles by suggesting other terms they could search for.

An investigation by AntiToxin, an online safety company, found multiple cases of the illegal images showing up in the search engine's results.

The search engine had the illegal images in results when terms such as "porn kids" or "nude family kids" were typed into Bing, according to the TechCrunch website.

The site's search suggestions also directed the researchers to child pornography. For example, the term "Omegle Kids", referring to a video chat app that is popular with children, suggested the search "Omegle Kids Girls 13" which produced illegal imagery.

Another search for "Omegle for 12 year old" prompted Bing to suggest searching for "Kids On Omegle Showing" which led to illegal images.

Bing would also show users additional explicit pictures of children through its "similar images" feature.

Searching for child pornography online is illegal and the investigation took place under the close supervision of lawyers and authorities, Techcrunch said.

Bing says it has removed the images and promised to make changes to how users can report what it calls problematic images and video content.

Microsoft called the search results "unacceptable" and said it had immediately removed them once they had been reported.

The company has claimed to be at the forefront of the fight against online child abuse by using a technology called PhotoDNA, which automatically blocks illegal images from being uploaded.

Andy Burrows, the NSPCC's associate head of child safety online, said: "It is shocking that as law enforcement agencies are working hard to stop child abuse images being shared online, these images are readily appearing in Bing search results, with the search engine's algorithms even recommending more.

"The NSPCC's Wild West Web campaign has been calling on government to create an independent regulator to force tech companies to protect children and stop such material being shared, and to make them accountable when they fail to do so."

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