

# Internet Social Networks

Friend-matching web sites like Friendster.com are gaining in popularity. What's the appeal?

- ▶ Online friends easier to cut loose than people who live in your building
  - ▶ Great way to chip away at the remaining normal methods of human interaction
  - ▶ Allow for meeting new people under predetermined arrangement that you like each other
  - ▶ Wifester left, and have never been that close to familyster
  - ▶ Face-to-face friends object to being put into spreadsheet form
  - ▶ Lonely... Please, someone... So lonely
  - ▶ Users can dodge and blow off people online and in real world
  - ▶ People who use it testify it's not weird, even though it is
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- A photograph of two women sitting at a table in what appears to be a cafe or office setting. The woman on the left is wearing a striped shirt and has her hand near her chin, looking towards the woman on the right. The woman on the right is wearing a white lace top and is looking back at the first woman. On the table, there is a computer monitor, a keyboard, a white coffee cup on a saucer, a glass of water, and some papers. The background shows a cityscape at night.

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