Keeping Your Kids Safe Online

20140614

Keeping Your Kids Safe Online - Do's and Don'ts

- Only establish and maintain connections with people you know and trust. Review your connections often.
- Assume that ANYONE can see any information about your activities, personal life, or professional life that you post and share.
- Ensure that your family takes similar precautions with their accounts; their privacy and sharing settings can expose your personal data.
- Avoid posting or tagging images of you or your family that clearly show your face. Select pictures taken at a distance, at an angle, or otherwise concealed. Never post Smartphone photos and don't use your face as a profile photo, instead, use cartoons or avatars.
- Use secure browser settings when possible and monitor your browsing history to ensure that you recognize all access points.

Child Safety Online

A 2013 study reported that 96% of children above the age of 8 claimed to actively use the internet, where kids are at risk of being exposed to cyber-bullying, coercion, pornography, drugs/alcohol, and violence. Dangers were not limited to the content that a child was subjected to, but also included the information that the child made available to the public through social networking services (SNS). The following web browser add-ons and software downloads are available to prevent and/or monitor a child's activities online.

Internet Explorer Browser Settings

To view child safety options, navigate to Tools > Internet Options > Content. Click Parental Controls (Internet Explorer 9) or Family Safety (Internet Explorer 10) to customize settings for the different accounts registered on the computer.

Parental Controls

Adjust how your children can use the computer. Allow and block specific programs and set personalized restrictions based on game ratings.

Passwords

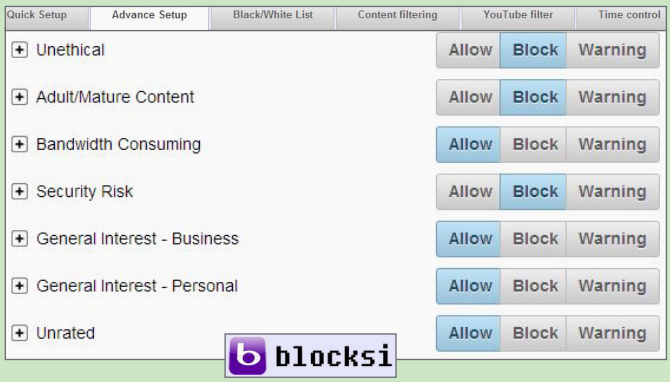
Create a password for your child's account that only you and other adult supervisors know in order to ensure an adult presence.

Time Restrictions

Set a time frame of acceptable computer use for your child that permits an adult supervisor to be present.

Google Chrome Browser Settings

Download the Blocksi extension from the Google Chrome Web Store to employ child safety settings for the Google Chrome browser.



Advance Setup

Allow, block, or warn users of certain content types. Select the "+" next to each category to set more granular restrictions.

Filters

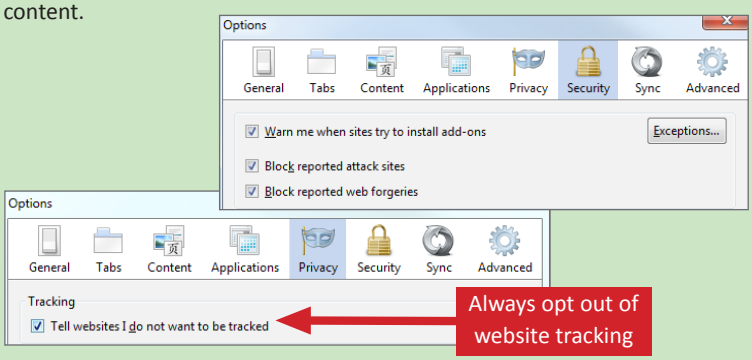
YouTube Filter - Filters individual YouTube channels and movies for content.
Content *Filtering* - Identifies suspect words in webpages to prevent access.
Black/White List - Allows users to add specific URL's to block or allow.

Time Control

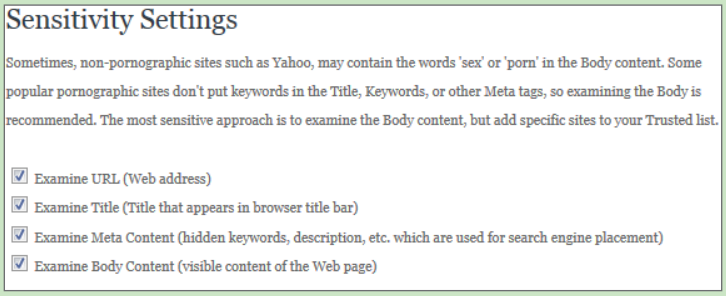
Set a time frame of acceptable computer use for your child that permits an adult supervisor to be present.

Firefox Browser Settings

Standard Firefox: Navigate **Firefox > Options > Privacy** to prevent web tracking and **Firefox > Options > Security** to block access to sites with malicious content.



Foxfilter for Firefox: To set parental controls, download the FoxFilter add-on. Once installed, users are allowed to set key words to block, permit acceptable sites, and set sensitivity settings.



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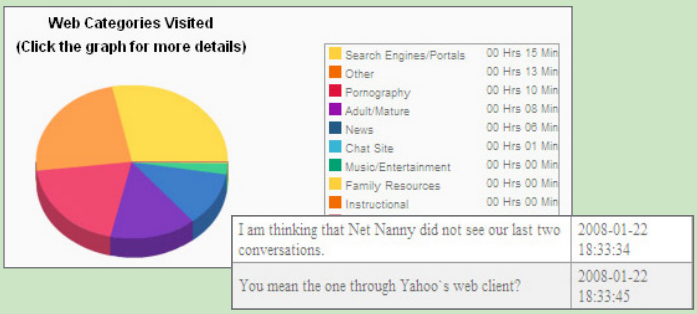
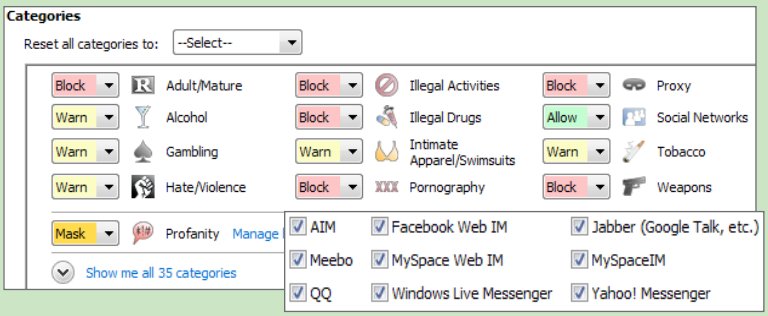
Service Capabilities	Software		
	Microsoft Family Safety	Net Nanny	Norton Family
Image Monitoring	Windows 8+	X	
SMS Message Monitoring		X	X
Contacts Monitoring	Windows 8+	X	X
Block Site Option	X	X	X
Allow Sites Option	X	X	X
Record User Activity	X	X	X
User Access Requests to Admin	X	X	X
Time Restrictions	X	X	X
Game Restrictions	X	X	
Paid Service		X	
Remote Access Notifications	X	X	X
Lock Safe Search	Windows 8+	X	

Net Nanny

This service is available for download for $39.99 and can both prevent and monitor content from computer programs, instant messengers, SNS, and web browsing applications. It is installed onto the desktop and provides the most granular settings for filtering and reporting potentially harmful content.



Parents can respond to their child's permission requests remotely from a mobile app or computer in real time. Additional settings include blocking 64 Bit applications, HTTPS connections, proxy servers, blogs, and chat rooms. Net Nanny displays an extensive list of SNS and instant messengers as well as 35 categories of potentially harmful content to screen.

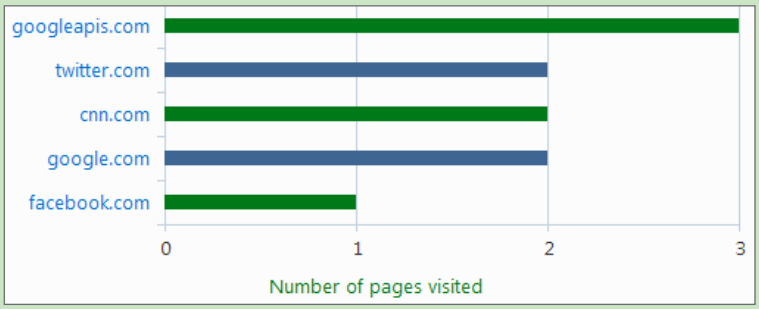


Overview

A variety of free and paid software packages are available for monitoring your child's online activities. The listed packages are effective in either preventing or monitoring content that your child tries to access.

Microsoft Family Safety

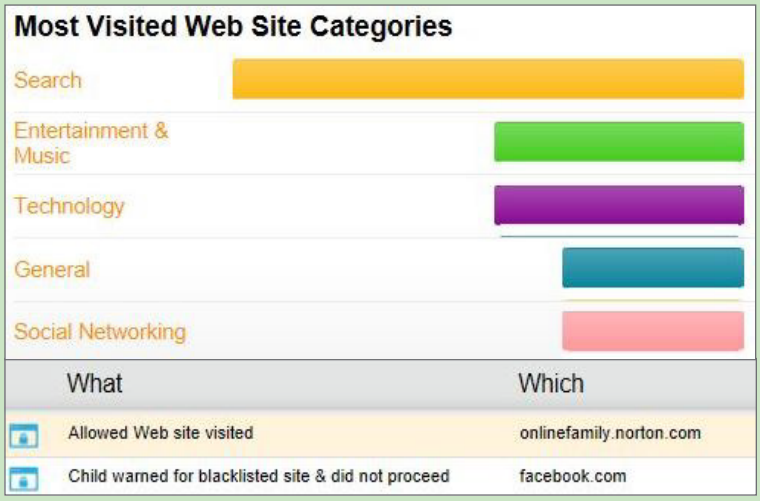
Download this free service from the Microsoft Windows website. The service provides basic content filters and reports of programs/websites accessed by each account.



Parents can set individualized settings for each account listed on the computer and can view their child's requests to access blocked content, each time they log in.

Norton Family

Register online with this service to monitor your child's online activity. This service allows supervisors to track the websites that children visit as well as prevent certain harmful content from being displayed on their monitors. Information reported to the supervisor includes websites visited, timestamps, searches conducted, and the actions taken by the Norton Family security suite.



Norton Family also identifies the social networking profiles that their children maintain and allows the supervisors to see what information is being made public (name, age, profile picture, etc.). The service also prevents children from sharing personal information including phone numbers, Social Security numbers, and email addresses.

Useful Links

A Parent's Guide to Internet Safety	www.fbi.gov/stats-services/publications/parent-guide
Privacy Rights Clearinghouse	www.privacyrights.org/fs/fs18-cyb.htm
Microsoft Safety and Security	www.microsoft.com/security/online-privacy/social-network
Online Guardian	www.onguardonline.gov/topics/social-networking-sites.aspx