

Parental Controls Product Guide

2010 Edition



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What are Parental Controls?

The Internet has grown quickly in recent years, adding undreamed of services that enrich our children's lives. Unfortunately, these new technologies have also brought undreamed of concerns for parents – sexting, cyberbullying, Internet pornography, and online predators.

Fortunately, technology has also provided parents with some help – parental controls. Parental controls are tools embedded in computers and other electronic devices that allow parents to set limits for their children on how these products are used. Parental controls can help shield children from unwanted contact, restrict their access to inappropriate material, inform you of troublesome online behavior, and help to prevent the sharing of private information.

Of course, it would be wonderful if parents could simply purchase a set of “controls” that would instruct children in online safety and screen out dangers. While no piece of software can do all of this, parental controls combined with online safety education and some common sense rules for Internet use are a parent's best strategy for keeping children safe online. Parents must always keep in mind that parental controls are tools, and are *not* a substitute for parental involvement and safety education.

Parental controls provide one or more of five main functions: content filtering; use restrictions; contact management; privacy protections; and monitoring. Here is a brief overview of each area:

Content Filtering

Content restrictions are most often included in Internet parental controls, especially the ability to limit specific types of web sites deemed inappropriate for children. Content filtering is also included in gaming consoles to restrict access to mature video games, as well as media players to restrict access to music with explicit lyrics.

Use Restrictions

Use restrictions are limits on which features or programs of a device a child can use. Internet use restrictions can include blocking applications like e-mail or instant messaging. Gaming consoles and mobile phones can limit functions like Internet access or the ability to purchase items online, or block the ability to use functions like a camera. Use restrictions also include time management functions that allow parents to limit the times a child is allowed to use a device.

Contact Management

Contact management functions allow parents to control who can contact a child through communication methods such mobile phones, e-mail, instant messaging, or social networks. Contact management usually involves the parent managing a “white list” of approved e-mail addresses or phone numbers that are allowed to contact the child. Many contact management functions also include “black lists” where the parent or child can “black list” a phone number or e-mail address so it can no longer contact the child.



Privacy Protections

Content filtering and contact management focus on blocking *incoming* information, privacy protections focus on blocking *outgoing* information. Privacy protections include the ability to block the release of information the parent has deemed private, such as home address or phone number, or GPS data from a mobile phone that reveals location.

Monitoring

Monitoring enables the parent to record information about the child's activities online. Monitoring functions can include recording website visits, mobile phone call logs, e-mail exchanges or instant messaging transcripts, and even complete "screen capture" recordings that detail every activity online.

An Overview of Parental Controls: Internet, Mobile Phones, Gaming Consoles, and Media Players

Internet

Internet parental controls are widely available through a number of mediums, including both the Windows and Mac operating systems; through Internet Service Providers; as software packages; as free online services; and as a feature of anti-virus security suites. Most products are at their core either filtering products that offer specialized categories of websites for blocking or monitoring, or monitoring products that focus on creating a detailed record of Internet activity and offer very basic filtering. In addition to filtering and monitoring, common features include the ability to block certain applications such as e-mail, limiting contacts, and time management.

Mobile Phones

As mobile phones had added features and online access, most of the same cautions that should be taken with Internet access should also apply to phones. Mobile phones also carry the potential problem of "sexting" – the sending of sexual images via mobile phone cameras. Fortunately, all major mobile phone providers in the United States offer parental controls, though features vary and there is usually a small monthly fee in addition to the charges for the phone itself. Some phones such as Firefly and Kajeet are specifically designed for children, and offer much tighter controls and are especially good for younger children. Monitoring of mobile calls and messages is a controversial area of online safety, as this involves privacy concerns but may be necessary in some circumstances. Mobile phone providers have chosen to not offer monitoring capabilities, which they have left to software companies. Unless you want to monitor text messages and e-mail sent via mobile phone, there really is little reason to buy additional software, since mobile providers typically offer the most popular features.

Gaming Consoles

Many parents don't realize that a gaming console can also be an Internet gateway – including to the web and chat rooms. Some gaming consoles can be used to watch DVDs or TV as well. Fortunately, all major gaming consoles now come with parental controls – no need to buy or even download anything. Different gaming consoles offer different options, but all offer the ability to enforce the ESRB game ratings, as well as shut off Internet access, making them safe for even young children.

Media Players

Media players such as the iPod were originally designed to play MP3 music files, so the only parental concern was restricting music with explicit lyrics. However, the newest generation of media players are now packed with features that allow the playing of movies and in some cases Internet access. Of the four most popular media player manufacturers, only Microsoft's Zune and Apple's iPod offer any parental controls at all.

What parental controls do I need?

There are three big issues to consider when selecting parental controls: you may need to use multiple parental controls, especially if you have teens; there is a wide range of quality and functionality in parental controls; different ages of children have greatly different parental control needs.

Multiple Products, Multiple Controls

Every product such as computers, cell phones, gaming consoles, and media players requires its own set of parental controls. Most of these controls are different, even for the same types of products, so parents must understand and configure multiple controls for multiple products. Unfortunately, there is no “super parental control” yet that parents can buy to configure all their devices and settings in one place. Until the technology industry is able to fix this problem, parents – particularly those of teens – will need to manage multiple controls.



Quality and Features

There are no government or industry standards for what parental controls should include, and there is no minimum quality bar for performance. Anyone can create a product and call it “parental controls.” While some of these products are very good, others are mediocre and a few are awful – so it’s “buyer beware.” Addressing the issue of quality is a primary reason for GetParentalControls.org -- to help provide parents with unbiased information about what products they really need, and which products really work. Pages [12-24](#) of this guide contain detailed product comparisons that contrast products on the basis of price, features, and ranking by independent reviews in publications such as PC Magazine and Computer Shopper. Pages [28-37](#), provide summaries of all of these reviews.

Different Ages, Different Needs

There is no “one size fits all” parental control that is appropriate for all families, as different children will have different needs. The best way to determine which controls are most appropriate is by age.

Up to 7 years old

Internet Parental Controls: Use the parental controls in your Windows or Macintosh computer or the parental controls provided by your ISP on the most restrictive setting. You can buy a more sophisticated parental control package if you like, but it’s not necessary. Use a kid-friendly Internet browser, such as KidZui or Kid’oz, (See the section on “Kid Safe Browsers – Product Comparison” on [page 21](#)) or simply direct children to age-appropriate sites and virtual worlds. Children this age generally don’t need e-mail, instant messaging, or social networks. Direct kids to kid-friendly search engines such as Kids.Yahoo.com.

Mobile Phone Parental Controls: Mobile phones are generally not appropriate for children in this age group.

Gaming Console Parental Controls: Use parental controls included in gaming consoles to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, and disable Internet access.

Media Player Parental Controls: Media players are generally not appropriate for children in this age group.

In addition to parental controls, some appropriate guidelines for children this age include:

- Talk your kids about appropriate use of the Internet.
- Use the Internet with your children.
- Keep computers in the living room or family room where you can monitor use.
- Have children remain anonymous while on the Internet, using a nickname for online resources such as virtual worlds.

Age 8 to 10 years Old

Internet Parental Controls: Purchase a fully-featured parental control product such as Cyber Patrol, Net Nanny, Safe Eyes, Norton Family or McAfee Family. Enable web filtering and web monitoring of inappropriate sites and safe search controls in your filter and on the most popular search engines, and consider blocking instant messaging, e-mail, social networking sites and Peer-to-Peer software. If you want your children to use e-mail, make sure they have an account with contact management so you control who can contact your child. (See the section on “Internet Parental Controls – Product Comparison” on page [12](#).)

Mobile Phone Parental Controls: If your child needs a mobile phone, purchase a phone specifically designed for children such as Kajeet or Firefly that has a contact management and restrictions on Internet access. (See the section on “Mobile Phone Parental Controls – Product Comparison” on page [22](#).)

Gaming Console Parental Controls: Use the parental controls included in gaming consoles to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, and disable Internet access.

Media Player Parental Controls: Make sure the media player does not have Internet access, and set to block music with explicit lyrics.

In addition to parental controls, some appropriate guidelines for children this age include:

- Talk your kids about appropriate use of the Internet.
- Create a set of rules for using the Internet for your children.
- Get to know what your children are doing online.
- Keep computers in the living room or family room where you can monitor use.
- Have children remain anonymous while on the Internet, using a nickname for online resources such as virtual worlds.

Age 11 to 13 years old

Internet Parental Controls: Purchase a fully-featured parental control product such as Cyber Patrol, Net Nanny, Safe Eyes, Norton Family or McAfee Family. Enable web filtering and web monitoring of inappropriate sites and Safe Search controls, and consider blocking instant messaging, e-mail, social networking sites and Peer-to-Peer software. If you want your child to use e-mail, make sure he has an account with

contact management so you can control who can contact your child. Do not allow your child to register for adult and teen oriented social networks. (See the section on “Internet Parental Controls – Product Comparison” on page [12](#).)

Mobile Phone Parental Controls: Purchase a mobile phone with a contact white list and a GPS locator. Block sending photos, Internet access and texting. (See the section on “Mobile Phone Parental Controls – Product Comparison” on page [22](#).)

Gaming Console Parental Controls: Use parental controls included in gaming consoles to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, use online interactive features with caution, implement a contact management “white list” to limit online contacts through games.

Media Player Parental Controls: Make sure the media player does not have Internet access and block explicit lyrics.

In addition to parental controls, some appropriate guidelines for children this age include:

- Talk your kids about appropriate use of the Internet.
- Create a set of rules for using the Internet for your children.
- Get to know what your children are doing on line, and talk to them about their online activities.
- Keep computers in the living room or family room where you can monitor use.
- Teach your children to be cautious about giving out personal information, and interacting with anyone they don’t know.

Age 14 to 17 years old

Internet Parental Controls: Enable minimal filtering of inappropriate sites with either operating system parental controls, ISP controls, or a fully featured product. Consider a sophisticated monitoring product such as Spector Pro, IamBigBrother, or PC Pandora. Lock down filtering of search engines. Choose virtual worlds and social networks with caution – some are not appropriate for minors. (See the section on “Internet Parental Controls – Product Comparison” on page [12](#).)

Mobile Phone Parental Controls: Purchase a mobile phone with usage restrictions and a GPS locator. Consider either blocking Internet access, and consider a separate mobile phone monitoring product. (See the section on “Mobile Phone Parental Controls – Product Comparison” on page [22](#).)

Gaming Console Parental Controls: Use parental controls included in gaming consoles to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, use online interactive features with caution.

Media Player Parental Controls: Make sure the media player does not have Internet access and block explicit lyrics.

In addition to parental controls, some appropriate guidelines for teens include:

- Teach your teen about privacy and giving out personal information on online profiles and websites.
- Teach your teen about proper online behavior, and to avoid spreading gossip, bullying, and sharing inappropriate information.
- Insist on meeting in person any “online friend” your teen wants to meet.
- Create a set of rules for using the Internet.
- Get to know what your teens are doing on line, and talk to them about their online activities.
- Keep computers in the living room or family room where you can monitor use.
- Talk to your kids about healthy sexuality and online pornography.

Using our Product Comparisons

In order to help you decide which specific products are right for you, we've created the GetParentalControls.org Product Comparisons. The Product Comparisons provide you with detailed information comparing individual parental control products and parental control features within products and groups of products. The Internet Parental Controls Product Comparison covers all controls for PCs in general, and individual Internet guides give more detailed views of Internet products such as e-mail and instant messaging. The Product Comparisons also addresses parental controls in non-PC devices, including mobile phones, media players, and gaming consoles.

Features of the Product Comparisons:

- **Overview.** Each blue box "Overview" section gives an overview of the state of parental controls for the product category.
- **We Recommend.** Age-based recommendations for products and features.
- **Important Features.** Description of the important features and functionality.
- **Product Table.** The product table compares the known products in the product category based on all the important features.
- **Average Reviews.** The Average Reviews column in the product table provides an average for published product reviews, based on a rating of one to five stars. The full list of product reviews can be found in our Product Reviews section on pages [28-35](#).

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The Independent Guide to Online Safety Technology

Mobile Phones Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

Mobile phones now include many features of online access, so most of the same cautions you should take with Internet access should also apply. Mobile phones also carry the potential problem of "sexting" – the sending of sexual images via mobile phone cameras. Fortunately, all major mobile phone providers in the United States offer parental controls, though features vary and there is usually a small monthly fee in addition to the charges to the phone itself. Some phones such as Firefly and Kajet are specifically designed for children, and offer much tighter controls and are especially good for younger children. Monitoring of mobile calls and messages is a controversial area of online safety, as this involves privacy concerns but may be necessary in some circumstances. Mobile phone providers have chosen to not offer monitoring capabilities, which they have left to software companies. Unless you want to monitor text messages and e-mail sent via mobile phone, there really is little reason to buy additional software, since mobile providers typically offer the most popular features. Price is based on the cost of subscription, which in many cases will vary with providers depending on which plan you buy.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Mobile phones are generally not appropriate for children in this age group.
Ages 8 to 10: Mobile phones designed for children, such as Kajet or Firefly.
Ages 11 to 13: Phone with a contact white list, GPS locator. Block sending photos, Internet access and texting.
Ages 14 to 17: Phone with a GPS locator and purchase restrictions. Consider monitoring if appropriate.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Internet.** Ability to block all Internet access.
- ✓ **Block Sending Photos.** Ability to block the taking of photos or the sending of photos.
- ✓ **Contact White List.** Ability to restrict contacts to a list of approved phone numbers.
- ✓ **Filtered Internet.** Internet filtering of mobile web browsers.
- ✓ **GPS Locator.** Ability to see via a web browser where a mobile phone is located.
- ✓ **GPS Zoning.** Ability to be alerted when a child's phone leaves a predetermined geographic area.
- ✓ **Monitor Text Messages.** Ability to read text messages that have been sent or received.
- ✓ **Purchase Restrictions.** Ability to limit types of purchases through the phone, such as ringtones.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit the times the phone may be used.

Product	Average Reviews (w/ links)	Cost (USD)	Block Web	Block Sending Photos	Block Text	Contact White List	Contact Black List	Filtered Internet	GPS Locator	GPS Zone	Monitor Call Logs	Monitor Phone Calls	Monitor Texts	Purchase Restrict	Time Mgmt	Usage Allowance	Mobile OS
Mobile Phone Providers with Parental Controls																	
AT&T		\$4.95/mo	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Texts Only	
Firefly	Reviews	Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
iPhone		Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Kajet	Reviews	Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sprint		\$5.00/mo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	
T-Mobile		Varies	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Verizon		\$5-15/mo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Parental Control Software for Mobile Phones																	
Mobile	★★★★★	\$29.95/yr	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win, sym, Bk
Mobile Sentry	★★★★★	\$5.99 UK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Symbian
MobileUP	★★★★★	\$14.98/yr	iPhone	iPhone	iPhone	No	No	Yes	iPhone	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone
MyKidsSafe	Review	\$5.99/mo	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Win, sym, Bk
MobileWatchDog		\$9.95/mo	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win, sym, Bk
Net Nanny Mobile		\$29.95/yr	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win, sym, Bk
Safe Eyes Mobile	Review	\$19.95	iPhone	iPhone	iPhone	No	No	Yes	iPhone	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone

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Internet parental controls

The Options: Parental Control Software, Security Suites, ISP controls, Operating System Controls, Online Controls, Router Controls

Before you select Internet parental controls, you'll need to think about which of the five separate "purchase options" best suits your needs.

Parental Control Software

Parental control software packages such as Cyber Patrol, Net Nanny, and Safe Eyes generally offer the most features, best security, and best quality web filtering. They are best suited for elementary and middle school age children. See the product comparison chart on page [12](#).

Advantages: Most features; Best quality filtering; Options for controlling web, IM and e-mail; Usually includes contact management

Disadvantages: Requires extra software purchase and installation; May slow down PC; Cost usually about \$40 per year

Security Suites that Include Parental Controls

Security suites are comprehensive home security products produced by security companies such as Trend Micro, Symantec, and Panda. These products typically offer only very basic filtering, so they may be suitable for use when you have young children or older teens, and just want basic content filtering. See the product comparison chart on page [12](#).

Advantages: No need to buy multiple security products; Simple management

Disadvantages: Lack features for e-mail, IM, contact management; Often lower quality filtering

ISP Provided Parental Controls

Parental controls provided by ISP are usually free, but they also tend to lack many features. See the ISP product comparison chart on page [14](#).

Advantages: Free; Easy to manage; Some have good quality filtering

Disadvantages: Sometimes easily overridden; Lack features for e-mail, IM, contact management

Operating System Provided Parental Controls

The parental controls provided by Windows Vista and Windows 7, as well as the Mac OS X, offer basic filtering, monitoring, and time management. This is often enough for homes with young children, but usually won't be sufficient for older grade school and middle school age children. See the product comparison chart on page [12](#).

Advantages: Free; Simple management

Disadvantages: Lack features for e-mail, IM, contact management; Often lower quality filtering

Online Parental Controls

Companies such as OpenDNS and Livia offer filtering over the Internet. This tends to be much easier to manage and low maintenance with high quality filtering. See the product comparison chart on page [12](#).

Advantages: Faster; Less management; No software to install; Same quality filtering as parental control software

Disadvantages: Lack features for e-mail, IM, contact management; Lack most monitoring features; May be easier to override

Router-based Parental Controls

iBoss and D-Link are two companies that build home network routers with built in parental controls. These are good if you have multiple computers in your home – no need to configure each one. Being a new type of product however, they lack many features. See the product comparison chart on page [12](#).

Advantages: Protects entire home network; Harder to circumvent

Disadvantages: Lack features for e-mail, IM, contact management; More difficult to configure and administer

Filtering and Monitoring

Regardless of which “purchase option” you choose for Internet parental controls, you will probably want to make a philosophical decision about whether you want to manage your child’s Internet access mostly with filtering or mostly with monitoring. Most products are at their core either filtering products that offer specialized categories of websites for blocking or monitoring, or monitoring products that focus on creating a detailed record of Internet activity and offer very basic filtering. If you want both detailed filtering and monitoring, you will need to purchase two products.

Filtering Products

Products that specialize in filtering such as Cyber Patrol, Safe Eyes, and Net Nanny offer rich options for blocking specific types of content. These products typically offer between 10 and 30 separate filtering categories, such as pornography, violence, hate speech, social networking sites, etc. This level of control allows you to fine-tune Internet filtering for different age levels and different needs. Nearly all filtering products provide basic monitoring and will provide you with a list of websites a child has visited, along with the category of websites visited. What filtering products do not do is provide you with very detailed reports of online activity. For example, if your child spends several hours at a social networking site posting photos, engaging in chat, and sending e-mails, most filtering products will only report to you that the child visited a social networking site – nothing more.

Monitoring Products

Products that specialize in monitoring such as Spector Pro, IAmBigBrother, PC Pandora, and Web Watcher offer richly detailed monitoring and reporting capabilities far beyond what the filtering products offer. These products will literally record every keystroke and action, and some allow you have a “Tivo” type playback recording of all activity, including instant messages, e-mails, and even e-mail attachments. Not surprisingly, some privacy advocates have expressed concern about the potential for abuse of these products, particularly since most of them will run in “stealth mode” – invisible to the end user. Most safety advocates recommend using monitoring carefully, and unless you suspect your child is at risk for abuse, “stealth mode” should be off limits. Some monitoring products will send you and e-mail alert if the monitoring detects suspicious activity like the use of profanity or visiting inappropriate websites, and this type of “alert-only monitoring” can be a good compromise solution for use with older teens.

Many monitoring products do say they offer “the ability to block websites,” but these products do not offer lists of websites to block – what they mean is that you can enter the names of website you want block. Obviously, if your goal is to screen specific types of content from your child, this type of “filtering” is not very useful.

Filtering and Monitoring Products -- Coming Soon?

Ideally, parental control products would offer both detailed filtering and monitoring. Recognizing this problem, a new generation of combined filtering and monitoring products are starting to emerge. Symantec now offers OnlineFamily.Norton, and McAfee recently released McAfee Family Protection. These products offer traditional filtering categories, along with more detailed monitoring and reporting of online activities, particularly social networking. But both OnlineFamily.Norton and McAfee Family Protection do not yet offer the type of detailed “recordings” and screen capture abilities of Spector Pro or PC Pandora.

Search Engines, E-mail, Instant Messaging, Social Networks, Video Sharing, and Virtual Worlds

In addition to blocking and monitoring web sites, the diverse nature of the Internet presents a number of special challenges for parents. For example, some parental control products do a very good job of blocking websites, but don't have tools for managing e-mail or social networks.

Search Engines

All popular search engines offer parental controls, which typically block search results by using keywords and site black lists. The filtering of adult content by the major search engines tends to be effective, but the downside is these controls can be easy to disable. If it's important to you to really "lock in" safe search settings, a number of parental control software products offer Search "lock in" ability. Check the "Internet Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [12](#) and the "Search Engine Product Comparison" chart on page [18](#).

E-mail

Not all Internet parental control products offer comprehensive tools for managing e-mail. So if managing e-mail is important to you, pay close attention when selecting an Internet parental controls package, and check the "Internet Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [12](#) and the "E-mail Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [15](#).

Instant Messaging

Like e-mail, only some Internet parental control products offer comprehensive tools for managing IM. Like e-mail, you'll need to check the "Internet Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [12](#) and the "IM Product Comparison" chart on page [17](#) to make sure the product you want blocks the most common forms of IM, such as AOL and Yahoo. If you want detailed transcripts of IM chats, a filtering product won't do – you'll need monitoring software.

Social Networks

Social Networking sites present a challenge for parental controls, since filters typically only block entire social networks – not individual pages within a network. So parents have to decide if they want to block all social networking, or allow all social networking and rely on monitoring software to flag problem behavior or contacts. Nearly all Internet parental control products offer the ability to block specific websites, but if you want detailed reporting on social networking activity, you'll probably want more of a monitoring product, or a parental control product specifically designed for social networks such. Check the "Social Networking Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [16](#).

Video and Photo Sharing Web Sites

There are hundreds of photo and video sharing sites available on the Internet, and the most popular sites such as YouTube and Flickr draw large numbers of children. While these sites all offer a great deal of useful content, some of them also openly host pornography. Unfortunately, parental control options for video and photo sharing sites are poor. Few of these sites offer any meaningful controls over content, and stand-alone Internet parental control products such as Cyber Patrol or Net Nanny typically only offer the same "block everything or allow everything" choices as they do for social networks. Check the "Video and Photo Sharing Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [20](#).

Virtual Worlds

There are no products that provide parental controls for virtual worlds, so it is up to parents to check the safety policies of each site, and decide which virtual worlds are appropriate for your child. There are hundreds of virtual worlds aimed at children, and most have a "safety" or "parents" link which informs parents of each site's policies. Check the "Virtual Worlds Parental Controls Product Comparison" chart on page [19](#).

Internet Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

This chart lists filtering and monitoring products sold as parental controls, including operating systems features and security suites. ISP parental controls are listed separately. While each product has its own strengths and weaknesses, most products are at their core either filtering products that offer specialized categories of websites for blocking or monitoring, or monitoring products that focus on creating a detailed record of Internet activity and offer very basic filtering. If you want both very detailed filtering and monitoring, you'll need to purchase two products. The products are ranked by an average review score, drawn from reviews in publications such as PC Magazine, Mac World, and Computer Shopper. Price is based on the annual cost for subscription and software. Some products do not require an annual subscription.

We Recommend:**Ages up to 7:**

- Use the parental controls in your Windows or Macintosh computer or the parental controls provided by your ISP on the most restrictive setting. You can buy a more sophisticated parental control package if you like, but it's not necessary.
- Use a kid-friendly Internet browser, such as KidZui or Kid'oz, or simply direct children to age-appropriate sites.

Ages 8 to 10:

- Get a fully-featured parental control product such as Cyber Patrol, Net Nanny, Safe Eyes, Norton Family or McAfee Family.
- Enable web filtering and web monitoring of inappropriate sites and Safe Search controls, and consider blocking IM, e-mail, Social Networking sites and Peer-to-Peer software.

Ages 11 to 13:

- Get a fully-featured parental control product such as Cyber Patrol, Net Nanny, Safe Eyes, Norton Family or McAfee Family.
- Enable web filtering and web monitoring of inappropriate sites and Safe Search controls, and consider blocking Social Networking sites and Peer-to-Peer software.
- Either block or monitor IM and e-mail, and enable Contact Management.

Ages 14 to 17:

- Enable minimal filtering of inappropriate sites with either operating system parental controls, ISP controls, or a fully featured product.
- Consider a sophisticated monitoring product such as Spector Pro or Pandora.

Important Features

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as viewing an inappropriate web page or IM message.
- ✓ **Block Private Information.** Can be configured to blocks the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc. via IM and e-mail.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Control over who can contact children via IM, E-mail, and social networks.
- ✓ **E-mail Block and Monitor.** Ability to block or monitor e-mail for a user through an e-mail program such as Outlook, as well as web-based e-mail such as Hotmail.
- ✓ **Game Rating Management.** Allows the enforcement of gaming ratings systems, such as ESRB on games played on a computer.
- ✓ **IM Block and Monitor.** Allows the blocking or monitoring of Instant Messaging programs, such as Windows Live IM, Yahoo IM, AOL, etc.
- ✓ **Multi Profile.** Allows for the creation of multiple user profiles with different levels of filtering, blocking, and monitoring.
- ✓ **P2P Block.** Blocks the downloading, installation and use of peer-to-peer file sharing software.
- ✓ **Safe Search control.** Allows for the safe search setting of popular search engines such as Bing and Google to be locked in place. "Keyword" refers to the ability to block certain keywords from being entered in all search engines, rather than enforcing search engine settings.
- ✓ **Screen Capture.** Ability to record screen captures of all Internet activity.
- ✓ **Social Network Monitor.** Ability to record all activity conducted on social network sites, such as uploading photos, sending e-mail, etc.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit Internet and/or computer use to preset times.
- ✓ **Web Filter List.** Contains a pre-selected list of categorized websites for blocking, rather than simply the ability to block websites individually, or block through the use of keywords.
- ✓ **Web Monitor.** Ability to record the URLs, and in some products the categories, of websites visited.

Product	Average Reviews)	Cost (USD)	Web Filter list	Web Monitor	Multi profile	Time Mgmt	Auto Alert	Safe Search control	Contact Mgmt	Block Private Info	Social Network Monitor	E-mail Block	E-mail Monitor	IM Block	Screen capture	IM Monitor	P2P Block	Game Rating Mgmt	Vista	XP	Mac
CyberPatrol	★★★★	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Keyword	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
ContentBarrier	★★★★	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
McAfee Family	★★★★	\$39.99	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Net Nanny	★★★★	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	IM only	IM only	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norton Family	★★★★	FREE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Web	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
PureSight	★★★★	\$59.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Safe Eyes	★★★★	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	ID only	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spector Pro	★★★★	\$99.95	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Webroot	★★★½	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
CyberSitter	★★★½	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	No	No	No	Web	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
B-Secure	★★★½	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
IamBigBrother	★★★½	\$29.95	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Sentry	★★★	\$47.88	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Blue Coat K9	★★★	FREE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
iBoss	★★★	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Web of Trust	★★★	FREE	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
KidsWatch	★★★	\$45.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No
PC Pandora	★★★½	\$69.95	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
iShield Plus	★★★	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Keyword	No	No	No	Web	Web	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
D-Link Secure	★★½	\$30.00	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
FilterPak	★★½	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Keyword	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Apple Mac +	No review	FREE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Bright Filter	No review	\$39.95	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Keyword	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Bit Defender *	Review	\$39.95	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Keyword	IM only	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
CA Internet *	Review	\$59.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Covenant Eyes	No review	\$54.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Keyword	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
F-Secure *	Review	\$79.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
IM View	No review	\$59.95	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Kaspersky *	Review	\$79.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Livia	Review	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Keyword	No	No	No	Web	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
McAfee Total *	Review	\$79.99	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Norton Sec *	Review	\$59.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
OpenDNS	No review	FREE	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Optenet PC	No review	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Keyword	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Panda Total *	Review	\$89.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Keyword	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
PC Tattle Tale	No review	\$49.95	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe4Kiz	No review	\$24.99	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Keyword	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Trend Micro *	Review	\$69.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
WebWatcher	No review	\$97.00	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Windows +	No review	FREE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

ISP Parental Controls Comparison 2010

Overview

There are hundreds of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the United States. Many offer free parental controls and security products with subscriptions. The most popular ISPs typically offer “security suites” from security software vendors which include anti-virus, anti-spam, and other security features along with parental controls. The drawback to security suite parental controls is that they typically offer only the most basic parental control functions. Other ISPs, such as AT&T, Verizon, and AOL have developed their own parental controls. As the chart shows, all of the ISP-provided parental controls offer significantly fewer features than a stand-alone parental control product. Popularity ratings from [ISP Planet](#).

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: ISP parental controls are a good solution in conjunction with a kid safe browser such as KidZui.

Ages 8 to 11: ISP parental controls often provide adequate filtering and time management, which is often enough for children of this age.

Ages 10 to 13: ISP parental controls may provide a basis for parental controls, but lack many key features for managing this age group. A stand-alone parental control suite such as Safe Eyes, Cyber Patrol, or Net Nanny is a better option for this age group.

Ages 14 to 17: ISP parental controls may be appropriate for basic filtering. Many parents will likely want a more comprehensive filtering or monitoring product, such as Norton Family or Spector Soft.

Important Features

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as viewing an inappropriate web page or IM message.
- ✓ **Block Private Info.** Can be configured to blocks the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc. via IM and e-mail.
- ✓ **Contact Mgmt.** Control over who can contact children via IM, E-mail, and social networks.
- ✓ **E-mail Block and Monitor.** Ability to block or monitor e-mail for a user through an e-mail program as well as web-based e-mail such as Hotmail.
- ✓ **IM Block and Monitor.** Allows the blocking or monitoring of Instant Messaging programs, such as Windows Live IM, Yahoo IM, AOL, etc.
- ✓ **Multi Profile.** Allows for the creation of multiple user profiles with different levels of filtering, blocking, and monitoring.
- ✓ **Safe Search control.** Allows for the safe search setting of popular search engines such as Bing and Google to be locked in place. “Keyword” refers to the ability to block certain keywords from being entered in search engines, rather than enforcing search engine settings.
- ✓ **Time Mgmt.** Ability to limit Internet and/or computer use to preset times.
- ✓ **Web Filter List.** Contains a pre-selected list of categorized websites for blocking, rather than simply the ability to block through the use of keywords.
- ✓ **Web Monitor.** Ability to record the URLs, and in some products the categories, of websites visited.

Product	Provider	Web Filter list	Web Monitor	Multi profile	Time Mgmt	Auto Alert	Safe Search control	Contact Mgmt	Block Private Info	Social Network Monitor	E-mail Block	E-mail Monitor	IM Block	Screen capture	IM Monitor	P2P Block	Game Rating Mgmt	Vista	XP	Mac
10 Most Popular Internet Service Providers in the United States																				
AT&T		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Roadrunner	CA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Comcast	Symantec	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
AOL		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Web	AOL	Web	No	AOL	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
United	Symantec	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Qwest	Microsoft	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Verizon		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Charter	F-Secure	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
EarthLink	Kaspersky	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Optimum	CA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Web	No	Web	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

E-Mail Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

All of the products in this chart include management of e-mail as part of a broader Internet parental controls package. So if managing e-mail is important to you, pay close attention when selecting an Internet parental controls package. Important issues to consider when selecting a product:

- Filtering of e-mail based on words is generally ineffective, so you need to decide if you want to block e-mail entirely or rely on monitoring e-mail.
- To be truly effective, a product must be able to manage **both** POP3/SMTP e-mail (such as Outlook), as well as web-based e-mail.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Children this age generally don't need e-mail.

Ages 8 to 10: A dedicated e-mail account with "white list" contact management.

Ages 11 to 13: A dedicated e-mail account with "white list" contact management, along with monitoring.

Ages 14 to 17: Monitoring as appropriate.

Important Features

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as receiving a message with inappropriate language.
- ✓ **Block POP3/SMTP.** Allows the blocking of POP3/SMTP e-mail programs, such as Outlook.
- ✓ **Block Web Mail.** Allows the blocking of web-based e-mail, such as Hotmail and Yahoo Mail.
- ✓ **Record POP3/SMTP.** Allows the recording of POP3/SMTP e-mail programs, such as Outlook.
- ✓ **Record Web Mail.** Allows the recording of web-based e-mail, such as Hotmail and Yahoo Mail.
- ✓ **Record Attachments.** Allows the viewing of e-mail attachments.
- ✓ **Block Private Info.** Can be configured to block the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc. via e-mail.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Control over who can contact children via e-mail.
- ✓ **Filter E-mail.** Can block profane or inappropriate words or phrases in e-mail.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit Internet use to preset times.

Product	Average Reviews	Cost (USD)	Multi profile	Time Mgmt	Auto Alert	Contact Mgmt	Block Private Info	Block POP3 / SMTP	Record POP3 / SMTP	Block Web Mail	Record Web Mail	Filter E-mail	Record Attach.	Stealth Mode	Vista	XP	Mac
Content Barrier	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes
Cyber Patrol	☆☆☆☆	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
McAfee Family	☆☆☆☆	\$39.99	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Net Nanny	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe Eyes	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	ID only	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spector Pro	☆☆☆☆	\$99.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
B-Secure	☆☆☆ ½	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Guardian	☆☆☆ ½	\$39.95	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
IamBigBrother	☆☆☆ ½	\$29.95	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
PC Pandora	☆☆☆ ½	\$69.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
IM View	☆☆ ½	\$59.95	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Optenet PC		\$39.95	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
PC Tattle Tale		\$49.95	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sentry		\$47.88	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
WebWatcher		\$97.00	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Social Network Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

Social Networking sites present a challenge for parental control products, since filters typically only block entire social networks – not individual pages within a network. So parents have to decide if they want to block all social networking, or allow all social networking and rely on monitoring software to flag problem behavior or contacts. Nearly all Internet parental control products offer the ability to block specific websites, so if all you want is to block access to popular social networking sites such as Facebook and MySpace, you do not need a specialized program for social networks – a good filtering product will do. But if you want detailed reporting on social networking activity, you'll probably want more of a monitoring product such as Spector Pro or Norton Family Online.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 13: Social Networks are not recommended for this age group, use a filter to block.

Ages 14 to 17: Several products specialize in monitoring behavior on social networks, including Norton Family, McAfee Family, and Spector Pro.

Important Features

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as an inappropriate profile or receiving inappropriate messages.
- ✓ **Block Private Info.** Can be configured to block the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc. via IM and e-mail. Some programs monitor for the display of private information, but send an alert message through e-mail rather than blocking the information.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Control over who which members of a social network can contact your children via social networks.
- ✓ **Monitor Social Network Visits.** Provides a detailed report of online activities while a child visits a social network.
- ✓ **Social Network E-mail Block and Monitor.** Ability to block or monitor e-mail accessed through a social network. (If the social network itself is blocked, the social network e-mail would of course be blocked)
- ✓ **Social Network Chat Block and Monitor.** Allows blocking or monitoring of Instant Messaging within social networks. (If the social network itself is blocked, the social network IM would of course be blocked)
- ✓ **Screen Capture.** Ability to record screen captures of all Internet activity.
- ✓ **MySpace, Facebook, Bebo, and Twitter Management.** The program has specific built-in options for managing these social network programs.

Product	Average Reviews	Cost (USD)	Block list of SN s	Monitor SN visits	Multi profile	Time Mgmt	Auto Alert	SN Contact Mgmt	Block Private Info	SN Email Block	SN E-mail Monitor	SN Chat Block	Screen capture	SN Chat Monitor	My Space Mgmt	Face Book Mgmt	BeBo Mgmt	Twitter Mgmt	Vista	XP	Mac
McAfee Family	☆☆☆☆	\$39.99	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Alerts	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Net Nanny	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Norton Family	☆☆☆☆	FREE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe Eyes	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Alerts	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spector Pro	☆☆☆☆	\$99.95	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guardian	☆☆☆ ½	\$39.95	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
PC Pandora	☆☆☆ ½	\$69.95	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
IM View		\$59.95	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
PC Tattle Tale		\$49.95	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
WebWatcher		\$97.00	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No

Instant Message Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

All of the products in this chart except for SafeChat include management of IM as part of a broader Internet parental controls package. There is really no reason to buy a stand-alone IM parental control product unless IM is the only program you want to manage. Most of the products in this chart offer the ability to either block or monitor IM programs. Price is based on the annual cost for subscription and software.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: IM is generally not appropriate for children in this age group.
Ages 8 to 10: IM is generally not appropriate for children in this age group.
Ages 11 to 13: Contact management with monitoring.
Ages 14 to 17: Monitoring as appropriate.

Important Features

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as viewing an inappropriate IM message.
- ✓ **Block Private Info.** Can be configured to block the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc. via IM.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Control over who can contact children via IM.
- ✓ **Block All IM.** Allows the blocking of Instant Messaging programs.
- ✓ **Record Chats.** Can record messages sent and received by Instant Messaging programs, such as Windows Live IM, Yahoo IM, AOL, etc.
- ✓ **Multi Profile.** Allows for the creation of multiple user profiles with different levels of filtering, blocking, and monitoring.
- ✓ **Filter Words.** Can block inappropriate words or phrases in chats.
- ✓ **Time Mgmt.** Ability to limit Internet and/or computer use to preset times.

Product	Average Reviews	Cost (USD)	Multi profile	Time Mgmt	Auto Alert	Stealth Mode	Block Private Info	Contact Mgmt	Block all IM	Records Chats	Filter words	My Space IM	AIM	Yahoo	MSN (Live)	ICQ	Google Talk	Vista	XP	Mac
Net Nanny	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Content Barrier	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Cyber Patrol	☆☆☆☆	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
McAfee Family	☆☆☆☆	\$39.99	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Norton Family	☆☆☆☆	FREE	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
PC Tattle Tale	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Safe Eyes	☆☆☆☆	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spector Pro	☆☆☆☆	\$99.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
B-Secure	☆☆☆ ½	\$49.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
CyberSitter	☆☆☆ ½	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Guardian	☆☆☆ ½	\$39.95	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
IamBigBrother	☆☆☆ ½	\$29.95	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
KidsWatch	☆☆☆	\$45.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
PC Pandora	☆☆☆ ½	\$69.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Sentry	☆☆☆	\$47.88	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
SafeChat *		\$34.95	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No
WebWatcher		\$97.00	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

* SafeChat is a "stand-alone" products that only manages instant messaging and do not perform other functions.

Search Engine Parental Controls Comparison 2010

Overview

All popular search engines such as Google, Bing, and Yahoo offer parental controls, which typically block search results based on keywords and using site black lists. The filtering of adult content by the major search engines tends to be effective, but the downside is these controls can be easy to disable. Google and Yahoo offer password protection setting for filtered search, which is generally effective for younger users but is fairly easy for a knowledgeable teen to disable. Additionally, safe search settings only apply to the Internet browser you apply them to, so if you have both Internet Explorer and Firefox, you'll need to configure search settings in both browsers. If it's important to you to really "lock in" safe search settings, a number of parental control software products such as Net Nanny and Safe Eyes offer this ability. Another option is to direct children to "walled garden" kids search engines where only pre-screened, age-appropriate sites are displayed in search results. The drawback of "walled gardens" is that a lot of good content is going to be excluded.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Direct children to kids search engines, such as Kids.Yahoo.com
 Ages 8 to 10: Use locked down filtered searches, preferably with a filtering product.
 Ages 11 to 13: Lock down filtered search engines with a filtering product
 Ages 14 to 17: Lock down filtered search engines with a filtering product or monitor use.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Explicit Words Being Entered.** Search engine blocks the user from searching on explicit words or phrases.
- ✓ **Block Results.** Search engine does not show explicit results.
- ✓ **Filter Settings.** Search engine offers a choice of filtering settings, typically "Strict," "Moderate," and "No Restrictions."
- ✓ **Password Protection.** Ability to fix settings with a password.
- ✓ **Multi-Browsers Settings.** Ability to lock the search engine settings so they cannot be overridden by switching browsers
- ✓ **Pre-screened Content.** Search results are limited to pre-approved, appropriate content.

Product	Blocks Explicit Words Being Entered	Block Explicit Results	Filter settings	Filtered image search	Filtered text search	Filtered video search	Password Protect	Multi-Browser Settings	Pre-screened Content
Most Popular Search Engines									
Ask	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
AOL	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Bing	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Google	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Yahoo	Limited	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Popular Kids Search Engines									
AskKids.com	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	Some
Fact Monster	No	Yes	NA	NA	Yes	NA	NA	NA	All
Safe Search Kids	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	Yes	NA	NA	NA	Some
Kids.AOL.com	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	Yes	NA	NA	NA	All
Kids.Yahoo.com	Yes	Yes	NA	NA	Yes	NA	NA	NA	All

Virtual Worlds Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

There are no products that provide parental controls for virtual worlds, so it is up to parents to check the safety policies of each site, and decide which virtual worlds are appropriate for your child. There are hundreds of virtual worlds aimed at children and teens, and most have a “safety” or “parents” link which informs parents of each site’s policies. Many of the virtual worlds aimed at younger children provide very safe environments that are tightly controlled by adults. Virtual worlds catering to teens are generally less restrictive. Popularity ratings are from [Kzero Metaverse](#).

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Most of the popular sites aimed at preteens are great for children this age.
Ages 8 to 10: Many of these sites are enjoyable for kids this age.
Ages 11 to 13: Tweens should limit participation to preteen virtual worlds.
Ages 14 to 17: The most popular teen virtual worlds may contain some moderate explicit content. Adult virtual worlds such as Second Life contain very explicit content and are inappropriate for minors.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Users.** Ability of users to block contacts from other members.
- ✓ **Filtered Chat/E-mail.** Provides chat and/or e-mail that filters out offensive words and phrases.
- ✓ **Moderators.** Virtual world employs moderators to screen online conversations and postings.
- ✓ **Parent Account Access.** Default ability for parents to view and change the account settings at any time.
- ✓ **Personal Info Block.** Blocks the display of personal information, such as phone number, address, etc.
- ✓ **Phrase Only Chat.** Specialized form of chat where children are only allowed to select from a preset collection of words and phrases.

Product	Parent Account Access	Phrase Only Chat	Time Limits	Filtered Chat/ Mail	Chat/Mail Block	Parental Consent Required	Personal Info Block	Moderators	Block users	Report Abuse Button
10 Most Popular Virtual Worlds for Preteens (8-12)										
BarbieGirl	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BuildaBearville	No	Yes	No	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Club Penguin	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
Free Realms	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Fusion Fall	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
NeoPets	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Niktropolis	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Poptropica	No	Yes	No	NA	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Webkinz	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
WhyVille	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
10 Most Popular Virtual Worlds for Teens (13-17)										
Gaia	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Girl Sense	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Go Super Model	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Habbo	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meez	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Ourworld	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Planet Cazmo	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Star Doll	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Taatu	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Wee World	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Video & Photo Sharing Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

There are hundreds of photos and video sharing sites available on the Internet, but the most popular sites, such as YouTube and Flickr draw large numbers of children, especially teens. While these sites all offer a great deal of fun and useful content appropriate for children, some of them also openly host inappropriate content, including pornography. Unfortunately, parental control options for video and photo sharing sites are poor. Few of these sites offer any meaningful controls over access to content, and stand-alone Internet parental control products such as Cyber Patrol or Net Nanny typically only offer the same “block everything or allow everything” choices as they do for social networks. If you are concerned about children accessing these sites, you should purchase either a filtering or monitoring parental control product, depending on if you want to manage these sites by filtering or by monitoring. Video market share from [Nielsen](#), photo market share from [ComScore](#).

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Block these sites with a filter and redirect to age- appropriate sites like ZuiTube.com.
 Ages 8 to 11: Block these sites with a filter and redirect to age- appropriate sites like ZuiTube.com.
 Ages 10 to 13: Either block these sites with a filter, monitor user, or use under supervision.
 Ages 14 to 17: Monitor use as appropriate.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Results.** Search engine does not show explicit results.
- ✓ **Block Words.** Search engine blocks the user from searching on explicit words or phrases.
- ✓ **Filter Settings.** Search engine offers a choice of filtering settings, typically “Strict,” “Moderate,” and “No Restrictions.”
- ✓ **Lock-In Settings.** Ability to lock the search settings so they cannot be overridden without a password.
- ✓ **Removes Explicit Content.** Site removes explicit content upon discovery.

Product Comparison	Blocks Words	Block Results	Filter settings	Removes Explicit Content	Account Required to view Explicit	Password Protect Settings	Lock-in Settings	Pre-screened Content
YouTube	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Hulu	No	No	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	Yes
Facebook Videos	No	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA	No
Microsoft Videos	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Yahoo Video	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	NA	Yes	No
MySpace Video	No	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA	No
Photobucket	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA	No
Flickr	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Picasa	No	No	No	No	No	No	NA	No
Webshots	No	No	No	Yes	NA	NA	NA	No

Kid Safe Browsers Product Comparison 2010

Overview

Customized “Kid Safe” web browsers such as KidZui have become a popular option for parents in recent years. These programs create a “walled garden” of age-appropriate content that has been pre-screened by reviewers. Kid safe browsers then offer parents a trade-off: they greatly reduce the risk a child will be exposed to inappropriate content, but at the same time restrict access to a large amount of innocuous content. Therefore, kid safe browsers are most appropriate for younger children. The products are ranked by an average review score adjusted to a 5 star scale and are drawn from reviews in publications such as PC Magazine, Mac World, and Computer Shopper. Price is based on the annual cost for subscription and software. Some products do not require an annual subscription.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Ideal for children this age.
Ages 8 to 11: Still appropriate, but at this age parents should start using filtered Internet access as well.
Ages 10 to 13: May interest some this age.
Ages 14 to 17: Unlikely to be of interest to teens.

Important Features

- ✓ **Pre-Screened Sites.** Offers default access to ONLY a selection of pre-screened sites.
- ✓ **Lock Out Other Browsers.** Ability to prevent child from launching other browsers, such as Internet Explorer or Firefox.
- ✓ **Add/Delete Sites.** Ability to add or delete sites from the approved list.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Manages who your child can communicate with online.
- ✓ **Monitor Activity.** Ability to view a history of sites visited by the child.
- ✓ **Time Limits.** Ability to set limits on the times a child can use the Internet.

Product	Average Reviews	Annual Cost	Pre-Screened Sites	Add/Delete Sites	Monitor Activity	Contact Management	Time Limits	Lock Out Other Browsers	Vista	XP	Mac
KidRocket	★★★★★	Free	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
KidZui	★★★★	Free/\$39	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kido'Z	★★★★	Free	Yes	Yes	No	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Buddy Browser	★★★	\$19.95	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
KidView	★★★½	\$39.95	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No
Peanut Butter PC	★★★½	\$24.95	No	Yes	No	NA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Mobile Phones Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

Mobile phones now include many features of online access, so most of the same cautions you should take with Internet access should also apply. Mobile phones also carry the potential problem of “sexting” – the sending of sexual images via mobile phone cameras. Fortunately, all major mobile phone providers in the United States offer parental controls, though features vary and there is usually a small monthly fee in addition to the charges to the phone itself. Some phones such as Firefly and Kajeet are specifically designed for children, and offer much tighter controls and are especially good for younger children. Monitoring of mobile calls and messages is a controversial area of online safety, as this involves privacy concerns but may be necessary in some circumstances. Mobile phone providers have chosen to not offer monitoring capabilities, which they have left to software companies. Unless you want to monitor text messages and e-mail sent via mobile phone, there really is little reason to buy additional software, since mobile providers typically offer the most popular features. Price is based on the cost of subscription, which in many cases will vary with providers depending on which plan you buy.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Mobile phones are generally not appropriate for children in this age group.

Ages 8 to 10: Mobile phones designed for children, such as Kajeet or Firefly.

Ages 11 to 13: Phone with a contact white list, GPS locator. Block sending photos, Internet access and texting.

Ages 14 to 17: Phone with a GPS locator and purchase restrictions. Consider monitoring if appropriate.

Important Features

- ✓ **Block Web.** Ability to block all Internet access.
- ✓ **Block Sending Photos.** Ability to block the taking of photos or the sending of photos.
- ✓ **Contact White List.** Ability to restrict contacts to a list of approved phone numbers.
- ✓ **Filtered Internet.** Internet filtering of mobile web browsers.
- ✓ **GPS Locator.** Ability to see via a web browser where a mobile phone is located.
- ✓ **GPS Zoning.** Ability to be alerted when a child's phone leaves a predetermined geographic area.
- ✓ **Monitor Text Messages.** Ability to read text messages that have been sent or received.
- ✓ **Purchase Restrictions.** Ability to limit types of purchases through the phone, such as ringtones.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit the times the phone may be used.

Product	Average Reviews	Cost (USD)	Block Web	Block Sending Photos	Block Text	Contact White List	Contact Black List	Filtered Internet	GPS Locator	GPS Zone	Monitor Call Logs	Monitor Phone Calls	Monitor Texts	Purchase Restrict	Time Mgmt	Usage Allowance	Mobile OS
Mobile Phone Providers with Parental Controls																	
AT&T		+ \$4.95/mo	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Texts Only	
Firefly		Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	
iPhone		Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Kajeet		Varies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Sprint		+\$5.00/mo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	
T-Mobile		Varies	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Verizon		+ \$5-15/mo	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Parental Control Software for Mobile Phones																	
SMobile	☆☆☆☆ ½	+ \$29.95/yr	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win; sym; Blk
Mobile Sentry	☆☆☆☆	+£5.99 UK	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Symbian
MobiCIP	☆☆☆☆	+\$14.98/yr	iPhone	iPhone	iPhone	No	No	Yes	iPhone	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone
MyKidsSafe	Review	+\$5.99/mo	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Win; sym; Blk
MobileWatchDog	No Review	+\$9.95/mo	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win; sym; Blk
Net Nanny Mobile	No Review	+\$29.95/yr	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Win; sym; Blk
Safe Eyes Mobile	Review	+\$19.95	iPhone	iPhone	iPhone	No	No	Yes	iPhone	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone	No	No	iPhone

Gaming Consoles Parental Controls Product Comparison 2010

Overview

Many parents don't realize that a gaming console can also be an Internet gateway – including to the web and chat rooms. Some gaming consoles can be used to watch DVDs or TV as well. Fortunately, all major gaming consoles now come with parental controls – no need to buy or even download anything. Different gaming consoles offer different options, but all offer the ability to enforce the ESRB game ratings, as well as shut off Internet access, making them very safe for even young children – when configured properly.

We Recommend:

Ages up to 7: Use parental controls to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, disable Internet access.

Ages 8 to 10: Use parental controls to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, disable Internet access.

Ages 11 to 13: Use parental controls to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, use online features with caution.

Ages 14 to 17: Use parental controls to enforce age-appropriate game ratings, manage contacts and online interaction.

Important Features

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as attempting to access inappropriate content.
- ✓ **Block Communications.** Allows the blocking of chat and messaging through a gaming console.
- ✓ **Block DVD.** Block the playing of DVDs on the console.
- ✓ **Block Internet.** Block all online access.
- ✓ **Block Private Information.** Can be configured to block the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc.
- ✓ **Block Purchases.** Can be configured to block purchasing games, etc. on line.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Control over who can contact children.
- ✓ **Monitor.** Allows the recording of gaming console communications.
- ✓ **Multi Profile.** Allows for the creation of multiple user profiles with different levels of filtering, blocking, and monitoring.
- ✓ **Rating Enforcement.** Allows the restriction of games by ESRB ratings (Everyone, Everyone- 10, Teen, etc.)
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit Internet and/or computer use to preset times.
- ✓ **TV/DVD Rating Enforcement.** Ability to block movies and TV based on ratings systems.
- ✓ **Web Filter.** Includes a web filter for inappropriate content if the console includes a web browser.

Product	Multi profile	Time Management	Auto Alert	Contact Management	Block Private Info	Rating Enforcement	Block Internet	Block DVD	Block Communication	Monitor	Web filter	TV /DVD Rating Enforcement	Block Purchases
Microsoft X Box	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Microsoft X Box 360	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Nintendo DSi	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	No	No	NA	Yes
Nintendo Wii	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	No	No	NA	Yes
Sony PlayStation 2	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Sony PlayStation 3	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sony PSP	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	No	Yes	NA	Yes

Overview

We Recommend:

Ages 14 to 17: Music ratings enforcement and purchase management.

- ✓ **Auto Alert.** Can be programmed to send automatic e-mail alerts triggered by specific events, such as viewing an inappropriate web page.
- ✓ **Block Communications.** Allows the blocking of chat and other contact through a media player.
- ✓ **Block Internet.** Block all online access
- ✓ **Block Private Information.** Can be configured to block the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc.
- ✓ **Block Purchases.** Can be configured to block purchasing games, etc. on line.
- ✓ **Contact Management.** Control over who can contact children through the media player.
- ✓ **Music Rating Enforcement.** Allows the restriction of movies and music based on ratings systems.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit media player use to preset times.
- ✓ **TV/Movie Rating Enforcement.** Ability to block movies and TV based on ratings systems.
- ✓ **Web Filter.** Includes a web filter for inappropriate content if the media player includes a web browser.

[illegible]

Using Parental Controls to Address Specific Safety Issues: Cyberbullying, Sexting, Privacy, and Predators

As noted earlier in this guide, parental controls can be powerful tools for helping to protect children, but they are not a substitute for parental involvement and safety education. Online safety issues such as sexting and cyberbullying may involve technology, but are really behavior issues – and there is no piece of software parents can download that will fix problem behavior. But parental controls can be an important part of addressing online behavior problems by alerting parents to problem behavior, and blocking access to potentially problematic Internet resources.

Cyberbullying

The National Crime Prevention Council's definition of cyber-bullying is "when the Internet, cell phones or other devices are used to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person." Cyberbullying is increasingly recognized as a growing problem among tweens and teens.

Useful Parental Controls:

- **Monitoring Software** installed on computers or mobile phones can alert you to bullying behavior.
- **Contact Management** features on e-mail and IM can help your child block problematic contacts or limit to approved contacts.
- **Content Filtering** can block websites that might pose potential problems, such as social networks.

Tips:

- Watch for warning signs of being cyberbullied, such as a sudden change in online behavior or a sudden change in mood.
- Instruct your children to talk to you about cyberbullying if they see it occur or become a victim.
- Instruct your children to protect their private information and not to share passwords – even with their “best friend forever.”
- Instruct your children to save messages from cyberbullies, which are important evidence.

For more information:

- Cyberbullying.org
- Cyberbullying.us
- [Stop Cyberbullying](http://StopCyberbullying.org)

Sexting

Sexting is practice among teens of sending sexually explicit messages and photographs over the Internet, particularly with mobile phone cameras. Sexting can humiliate victims, and when the subject of the photograph is a minor, it is a crime.

Useful Parental Controls:

- **Monitoring Software** installed on computers or mobile phones can alert you to problem behavior.
- **Contact Management** features on mobile phones can help your child block problematic contacts or limit to approved contacts.
- **Block Sending Photos** feature on many mobile phones can prevent photographs from being forwarded.

Tips:

- Teach your children about appropriate behavior online and appropriate sexual behavior
- Instruct your children on the serious nature of sexting, and the fact that it can be a crime.

For more information:

- [Connect Safely *Tips to Prevent Sexting*](#)
- [Internet Safety 101: Sexting](#)

Privacy

Children and teens sometimes fail to understand the ease with which personal information can be public on the Internet. A child's name, address, phone number and other personal information should not be shared with companies, marketers, and adult contacts.

Useful Parental Controls:

- **Block Private Information** feature on PC and mobile phones can block the transmission of private information such as name, phone number, etc. via IM and e-mail.
- **Contact Management** features on e-mail and IM can help your child block problematic contacts or limit to approved contacts.

Tips:

- Become familiar with the privacy policies of websites your children visit.
- Discuss the importance of privacy with your children.
- Instruct your children not to give out personal information.

For more information:

- [Get Net Wise: Privacy Tips](#)
- [Wired Safety: Personal Information Tips](#)
- [On Guard Online: Kids Privacy](#)

Predators

Children who communicate online may come into contact with adults, some of whom may be sexual predators. Parents can help prepare their children for this possibility by taking some appropriate precautions.

Useful Parental Controls:

- **Monitoring Software** installed on computers or mobile phones can alert you to potentially inappropriate contact.
- **Contact Management** features on e-mail and IM can help your child block problematic contacts or limit to approved contacts.
- **Content Filtering** can block websites that might pose potential problems, such as social networks.

Tips:

- Discuss with your children the dangers of online predators.
- Instruct your children to never respond to instant messaging or e-mails from strangers.

For more information:

- [iKeepSafe: *Warning signs that my child is targeted by an Internet predator*](#)
- [Internet Safety 101: Predators](#)

About GetParentalControls.org

The purpose of GetParentalControls.org is to address the lack of information parents face when selecting parental control technology by providing accurate, comprehensive, and unbiased information about parental control technology. GetParentalControls.org is not affiliated with any company or organization, is run entirely by volunteer effort, and accepts no outside funding and no advertising.

Because GetParentalControls.org strives to provide the most accurate information possible, parental control vendors and customers are encouraged to send updates and corrections on product information, and we strive to make those updates in a timely manner.

GetParentalControls.org encourages vendors to submit product news and updates, which we may announce on the GetParentalControls.org blog, and we will also consider products for future evaluation. When GetParentalControls.org conducts product evaluations, vendors will be notified in advance and provided with a testing specification. Vendors may choose to decline to submit products for evaluation, which will be noted.

GetParentalControls.org is owned and managed by David Burt, who is responsible for its content. A biography of David Burt is available [here](#).

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Reviews: Parental Controls

Reliable independent product reviews are an essential tool for evaluating parental controls. Included in this summary are all reviews of parental control products since 2007 appearing in publications such as PC Magazine, Mac World, and Computer Shopper, as well as well-established review websites such as Top Ten Reviews. The products are ranked by an average review score, which is adjusted to a 5 star scale. Not all product reviews are given ranks, and in these cases the products are listed alphabetically.

Product Categories

[Reviews: Internet Parental Controls](#)

[Reviews: Kid Safe Browsers](#)

[Reviews: Mobile Phone Parental Controls](#)



All Products:

BitDefender	Blue Coat K-9	BSecure	Buddy Browser
CA Internet Sec.	ChatWatch	ContentBarrier	Cyber Patrol
Cyber Sitter	D-Link	FilterPak	FSecure
IamBigBrother	IBoss	IMView	IShield
Kajeet	Kaspersky	KidRocket	KidView
Kido'Z	KidZui	KidsWatch	McAfee Family
McAfee Sec	MobiCIP	MyKidisSafe	Net Nanny
Norton Sec	Norton Family	PC Pandora	PeanutButterPC
PureSight	Safe Chat	Safe Eyes	Safe Eyes Mobile
Smobile Sentry	Spector Pro	Trend Micro	WebRoot

Reviews:	Internet Parental Controls
Content Barrier Average ☆☆☆☆	MacWorld, Aug 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: If you have a hard time keeping up with your kids and maintaining Parental Controls, ContentBarrier X4 can be a big help. Computer Active, Oct 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: The software offers an impressive degree of control without overwhelming the user with advanced settings and unnecessary fine-tuning, which makes it very easy to use.

Cyber Patrol Average ☆☆☆☆	Computer Shopper, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Apart from one or two small glitches this is a good program, but it's not as good as some others. Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 4) Summary: Overall, CyberPatrol offers an easy to use filtering solution with quite a bit of versatility and utility. The software isn't the best available, but has a unique combination of features and abilities that make it a good choice for effective internet filtering for the whole family. PC Magazine, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: CyberPatrol offers flexible and comprehensive parental control. Its IM filtering is innovative, though it needs some tuning. You can use it in home, school, library, or business settings. It's an especially good choice for school or library.
McAfee Family Protection Average ☆☆☆☆	Web User, Oct 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Products like this will never be perfect. The problem is that for every site on the 'block' list, there will be others that have yet to be identified. But on the whole, Family Protection does a good job of preventing access based on the administrator's criteria. Computer Shopper, June 2009 (Full Review) (7.7 of 10) Summary: McAfee Family Protection lacks some advanced options parents might expect, but its attractive price may be enough to sway them. PC Pro, Dec 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 6) Summary: The blocking tools offer impressive flexibility. Our teenage tester was thwarted from accessing porn via Google Images, nor could he perform searches for sexually-explicit material.
Net Nanny Average ☆☆☆☆	PC Magazine, Feb 2010 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆½ of 5) Summary: Net Nanny remains PCMag's Editors' Choice for traditional parental control. It does everything you'd expect and goes beyond the competition in real-time per-page content analysis and resistance to attack by budding hackers. PC Magazine, Feb 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Net Nanny 5.6 is powerful and flexible. Its content filtering, IM monitoring and time scheduler are hardened, so kids can't circumvent them, and the Flash-based activity reports are outstanding. Computer Shopper, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: This is a good program and passed all our tests, but it can be overly restrictive. PC Magazine, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆½ of 5) Summary: Net Nanny does everything a parental-control utility should do. It also offers unique features like secure Web-traffic filtering and ESRB-based game control. Balancing privacy and security, it can record IM conversations only if they seem dangerous. Editors' Choice. Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 4) Summary: ContentWatch offers Net Nanny with the cutting edge technology to create the ultimate internet safety software. Net Nanny has combined all the right features (and then some) in an easy-to-use internet filtering solution. Net Nanny is the best. Computer Shopper, May 2009 (Full Review) (8.5 of 10) Summary: If you need help controlling your child's Net access, Net Nanny can provide an abundance of tools, though you'll have to purchase a yearly subscription for each PC you want to cover. Laptop, May 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Although it's more difficult to configure than other parental control programs, Net Nanny offers a very good array of protective tools for children. Mac Life, Oct 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5)

	Summary: Net warden? Maybe, but you can decide how intrusive you need the app to be. And with the Net Nanny securely in place, parents can go back to doing whatever it was they were doing while their children surf the Web safely. Web User, July 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Net Nanny is synonymous with parental control software and rightly so – it's as good as these things get.
Online Family. Norton Average ☆☆☆☆	PC Magazine, May 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: This free Web-based product has everything you'd expect in a parental-control system and more. It blocks bad sites, controls time on the computer, supervises chat, and even watches social network use on all your PCs and Macs. Settings are stored in the cloud, making remote configuration and reporting simple. BusinessWeek, July 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: Simply designed site lets parents monitor a variety of surfing activities for all in the household. Default settings are restrictive, and unblocking sites can take hours. The software is free for the rest of the year, so it's worth a try despite some drawbacks. Computer Shopper, May 2009 (Full Review) (8.4 of 10) Summary: Though it lacks some of the advanced features found in the leading parental-control programs, OnlineFamily.Norton moves beyond the competition in encouraging communication between parents and kids. PC Pro, Dec 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆☆☆ of 6) Summary: The blocking tools offer impressive flexibility. Our teenage tester was thwarted from accessing porn via Google Images, nor could he perform searches for sexually-explicit material
PureSight Average ☆☆☆☆	Computer Shopper, Aug 2009 (Full Review) (8 of 10) Summary: PureSight enters the parental control software competition with a powerful filtering engine and an easy-to-understand interface.

Safe Eyes Average ☆☆☆☆	PC Magazine, Feb 2010 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Safe Eyes 6.0 is a very good parental control system. If you need a product that works on both Macs and PCs, Safe Eyes is your best choice. Laptop, May 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: Safe Eyes' easy-to-control interface and powerful controls, especially for social networking protection, will leave parents anxiety-free. PC Magazine, Jun 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Safe Eyes 5 does everything you'd expect a parental control utility to do and more. Its Web-based protection covers up to three computers (PC or Mac) and allows remote management from a browser. And this is one tough cookie. The kids won't break its protection. Computer Shopper, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: As with the other programs here, Safe Eyes lets you block or allow specific programs and websites. This feature worked fine, too. This is a good piece of software. Wired, Oct 2008 (Full Review) Summary: Overall, if you are looking for internet blocking/filtering (parental control software), SafeEyes brings a good suite of capabilities along with a high degree of customization. Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: Safe Eyes has a lot convenient features to protect your family, organized in an attractive interface. Whether you are using it in a home setting or for a business, Safe Eyes is easily scalable to the number of people you want to protect and monitor. It's also easy to customize and use from anywhere.
Spector Pro Average ☆☆☆☆	Mac Life, July 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Spector Pro's software license agreement requires you to inform anyone using the Mac that their activities are being monitored—this is powerful software, so don't use it for evil! But to keep an eye on who's talking to your kids online or which websites your employees are visiting, Spector Pro just works. PC Magazine, Jul 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: While it does include features related to controlling what your kids do on the computer, Spector Pro's real power is its comprehensive activity monitoring. Mom and Dad can view surfing history, IM conversations, passwords, e-mail—everything! MacWorld, Jun 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: Spector Pro mac 2009 is a powerful keylogging tool with the additional capability of giving you a visual representation of everything that is being done on a monitored computer at any point in time. Top Ten Reviews, Mar 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 4) Summary: Spector Pro can help you effectively and efficiently monitor all online activity. With the best lineup of features and great tools, Spector Pro is a complete monitoring software solution. Tech Radar, Jun 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Spector Pro offers flexible configuration options, and we found its recording accurate. And while we managed to halt it through a little-known utility, it remained hidden from tools like Activity Monitor.
BSecure Average	PC Magazine, Nov 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: Bsafe Online is a tough, effective, and comprehensive parental-control solution. It has a few rough edges, but the company is

☆☆☆ ½	already working on improvements. The current version is a worthy product; the next version could be a knockout.
Cyber Sitter Average ☆☆☆ ½	Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 4) Summary: CYBERSitter is one of the most effective programs you will find for filtering offensive content on the Internet, in emails or in IM conversations. CYBERSitter takes an impressive list of features and combines it with superior customizability and effective filters to create an effective Internet filter for your home. You won't be disappointed with CYBERSitter's performance. Computer Shopper, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: This is generally a good program, but a few glitches need to be sorted out before we can wholeheartedly recommend it. PC Magazine, Dec, 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆½ of 5) Summary: Being a complete rewrite, this edition has the kind of little problems usually associated with a 1.0 release. It still needs some work, but I'm sure the next version will be much more refined.
iAmBig Brother Average ☆☆☆ ½	Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 4) Summary: iAmBigBrother is an excellent product. The user design from the main menu is awesome. The designer used colorful icons for each of the applications that are monitored such as yahoo, AOL, and MSN. iAmBigBrother is extremely easy to use, as easy as any of the products reviewed.
PC Pandora Average ☆☆☆ ½	PC Magazine, Feb 2010 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: While it does include limited blocking of Web sites, PC Pandora's real purpose is comprehensive activity monitoring. Parents can view everything their kids do on the computer; employers can likewise monitor employees. It's a powerful tool that can be used for good or evil. PC Magazine, Jan 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: If you want to control the way your kids use the computer, this isn't the product for you. But if you want to secretly monitor every little thing they do on the computer, PC Pandora will definitely do the job.
Webroot Average ☆☆☆ ½	Laptop, May 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: Webroot Parental Controls is a good first step at limiting a child's time on the computer, but its lack of instant message–logging support gives us pause. PC Magazine, Jan 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Webroot Parental Controls blocks bad Web sites and offers comprehensive scheduling of your children's computer use. Kids can't get around its site-blocking or program control. There's no real-time notification or Web-based management, though, and the local-network-only remote client is disappointing.
Blue Coat K-9 Average ☆☆☆	PC Magazine, May 2009 (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: This parental control utility lacks many features found in the competition, most notably the ability to define different settings for different users. But what it does, it does well. If you can live within its limitations it's a good, free choice.
iBoss	C-Net, June 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5)

Average ☆☆☆	Summary: The iBoss Home Parental Control Wireless-N router offers the most comprehensive tool to manage access to the Internet. Beyond that, it's a rather simple router.
iShield Average ☆☆☆	Computer Shopper, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: This is a good program, but its filters need to be more consistent. PC Magazine, Feb 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: With iShield 2.0, you and your little ones can avoid accidentally viewing porn images online. The software also serves as a browser-independent Internet time scheduler. Its porn detection is mostly accurate, but it won't stop a teen (or spouse) from surfing for prurient pix. PC Magazine, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆½ of 5) Summary: This product will keep your littler ones from accidentally visiting inappropriate sites or viewing naughty pictures, but it won't stand up to a determined teenager. Teens will also easily evade its limited IM monitoring. The image-recognition feature is very clever, but the program as a whole needs work.
Kids Watch Average ☆☆☆	PC Magazine, Feb 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: KidsWatch shares its ancestry with Webroot Parental Controls, but it has additional features like real-time alerts and IM monitoring. It suffers the same lame remote access feature and several of the same bugs as WPC.
Sentry at Home Average ☆☆☆	PC Magazine, Nov, 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆½ of 5) Summary: Sentry At Home can keep the kids off porn sites and stop bad chat or just report any violations to Mom and Dad. Remote monitoring and management is effective, with changes active in near real time. Unfortunately, the product's protection is easily subverted. PC Advisor, Jan 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Sentry Parental Controls is in a class of its own and probably represents a level of overkill for most parents, but if you want the most comprehensive protection software this must be it.
Web of Trust Average ☆☆☆	PC Magazine, Aug, 2009 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: The free Web of Trust browser add-on supplies ratings for over 23 million sites, which it derives from user reports, other Web sites, and malware databases. It doesn't rate every site, but it's free and will help you avoid most unreliable sites.
D-Link Secure Spot Average ☆☆½	PC World, July 2007 (Full Review) (☆ of 5) Summary: Securespot is brilliant when it works. But it's a service, not a box. And the service doesn't work. Avoid it. PC World Australia, Aug 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆☆ ½ of 5) Summary: In the end, the SecureSpot was satisfactory at performing its intended duty, but it did require a bit of fiddling.

FilterPak Average ☆☆½	Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆½ of 5) Summary: Overall, this product was a good product. Computer Shopper, Sep 2007 (Full Review) (☆☆ of 5) Summary: Even if it did a consistently good job, FilterPak doesn't do enough to justify its price.
imView Average ☆☆½	Top Ten Reviews, Nov 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆ of 4) Summary: imView seemed to be more like a monitoring program than a filtering program and lacked many of the features that the other products we reviewed included
Safe Chat Average ☆☆½	CNET, Aug 2008 (Full Review) (☆☆☆☆ of 5) Summary: Parents with any PC skill level will appreciate its effective and comprehensive tools to help safeguard and monitor their kids' computer activities. PC Magazine, Feb 2008 (Full Review) (☆ of 5) Summary: Safe Chat is an instant-messaging aggregator with parental-control features added. Its free competitors do better at managing multiple IM accounts. Worse still, the parental-control elements are limited in scope and can be easily avoided by smart kids.
Bit Defender Security	PC Magazine, Sep 2008 (Full Review) Summary: With the heuristic filtering turned off, the product won't block inappropriate Web sites. With it turned on, it will block tons of valid sites. If you want category-based filtering of inappropriate Internet destinations, turn off this feature and get a real stand-alone parental-control program like Net Nanny.
CA Internet Security Suite Plus	Reviews PC Magazine, Dec. 2008 (Full Review) Summary: it's awkward to configure, its e-mailed reports are nearly useless, and the actual choice of sites to block or allow seems capricious.
F-Secure Internet Security	PC Magazine, Sep 2008 (Full Review) Summary: Parental control that's so easily defeated is worthless. If you need parental control, try a standalone product.
Kaspersky Internet Security	PC Magazine, Sep 2008 (Full Review) Summary: If you actually need parental control, leave this feature turned off and get Net Nanny 5.6 or another fully functional parental control program.
McAfee Total Protection	PC Magazine, Dec. 2008 (Full Review) Summary: Parental control is unchanged since last year, which means it's dreadful.
Norton	PC Magazine, Sep 2008 (Full Review)

Internet Security	Summary: Norton's parental-control solution is limited in scope. It doesn't offer the Internet time-control. But at least it does its one task well: Its category-based site blocking is browser-independent, and the kids can't tamper with it
Panda Global Protection	PC Magazine, Dec 2008 (Full Review) Summary: Don't bother installing this feature. If you actually need parental-control software, get a standalone solution like Net Nanny 5.6 or Safe Eyes 5.0.
Trend Micro Internet Security	PC Magazine, Dec. 2008 (Full Review) Summary: Trend Pro's parental control is more complete than that of most suites. I especially like its ability to keep the kids from sending out personal information—even the top standalone parental control programs like Net Nanny and Safe Eyes don't have that. PC Pro, Dec 2009 (Full Review) Summary: It didn't take long for our teen testers to bypass the controls. The “teen” profile claims to block access to adult content, but our tester found hard-core porn via Google Images.

	Kid Safe Browsers Product Reviews
KidRocket Av. ★★★★★	Common Sense Media, Nov 2009 (Full Review) (★★★★★ of 5) Summary: There's no substitute for parental supervision, but using the KidRocket browser and its features unquestionably makes the World Wide Web not as wide and definitely a whole lot safer.
Kido'Z Average ★★★★★	PC World, May, 2009 (Full Review) Summary: In short, KIDO'Z is a slick, well-designed app that's perfect for parents who want to let young kids have a little fun online, but who don't want to worry about inappropriate content. Common Sense Media, Nov 2009 (Full Review) (★★★★★ of 5) Summary: On the whole, though, Kido'z is fun, intuitive, imaginative and considerate of the unique needs of both children and their parents.
KidZui Average ★★★★★	PC World, Mar 2009 (Full Review) Summary: KidZui is a keeper. There are plenty of free activities to enjoy, and the numerous Web sites seem perfectly harmless. If you have children in your household, give this kid-safe browser a try. CNET, Dec 2008 (Full Review) (★★★★★ of 5) Summary: KidZui offers kids one of the safest methods we've seen to use the Web, while parents get the peace of mind that their children are learning and having fun while remaining the final arbiter of the Internet experience Common Sense Media, Nov 2009 (Full Review) (★★★★★ of 5) Summary: Parents will like that they can monitor kids' activity (what sites they visit, when they add a friend, and for how long). Kids will like the user-friendly graphic interface and the ability to tag sites and share them with friends. PC Magazine, Jun 2008 (Full Review) (★★★ of 5) Summary: This browser replacement protects kids while offering an engaging multimedia experience and some degree of social networking. PC Magazine, Dec. 2009 (Full Review) (★★★ ½ of 5) Summary: KidZui lets youngsters surf the Web, play games, view videos and interact socially online, "just like Mommy and Daddy." The protected environment is extremely lively, but don't expect your kids to still like it once they've started using computers in school.
Buddy Browser Average ★★★	Common Sense Media, Nov 2009 (Full Review) (★★★ of 5) Summary: Buddy Browser can help parents control what content their kids' access online -- long before kids ever log on. The nifty parental controls allow them to disable other Internet browsers while Buddy Browser is being used; parents also are able to limit the number of hours their child uses the Buddy Browser each day.
KidView Average ★★½	PC Magazine, July 2008 (Full Review) (★★ ½ of 5) Summary: Use Hoopah to keep the toddlers out of your files and limit them to kid-friendly Web sites. But when they get older, look for another solution.
Peanut Butter PC Average ★★½	PC Magazine, Jun 2008 (Full Review) (★★ ½ of 5) Summary: With Peanut Butter PC you can give your little ones computer playtime without worrying that they'll disable Windows or delete your important documents. Its protective shields aren't quite perfect, but with a little work it will be a good choice for the preschool set. PC Magazine, Dec 2009 (Full Review) (★★ ½ of 5) Summary: Peanut Butter PC's two aims are to amuse your kids at the computer and keep them from doing any harm to your files. Though this version includes more interactive elements, it doesn't strike me as exciting enough for a toddler, and a kid could still accidentally break out.

	Mobile Phone Parental Controls Product Reviews
SMobile Sentry Parental Controls Average ★★★★★	Top Ten Reviews, July 2009 (Full Review) (★★★★ of 4) Summary: SMobile Security Shield Parental Control Edition adds a new dimension to mobile security software by making parental control of the phone paramount. BlackBerry Sync, Aug. 2009 (Full Review) (★★★★★ of 5) Summary: This is the best comprehensive security software in my opinion that I have seen yet to monitor your child and protect your child, your child's information, and the phone.
MobiCip Average ★★★★★	AppCraver, Apr, 2009 (Full Review) (8 of 10) Summary: Mobicip Safe Browser provides a way to customize restriction options according to your preference while still ensuring safe Internet browsing for kids. If you have been hesitating to give your child access to an iDevice because of internet capabilities, definitely check out Mobicip. Unwired View, Apr, 2009 (Full Review) Summary: All in all, the browser worked quite well, and is something I would recommend to any concerned parent. There were no differences in performance whatsoever since it is still working off of the same network.
Kajeet Kids Phone	CNET, Mar 2009 (Full Review) Summary: Overall, we really like that Kajeet is trusting children with real full-fledged cell phones that will transition them easily into adulthood. It's a pretty decent service that lets parents teach their kids responsible cell phone usage, and add that to its low pay-as-you-go pricing, and we think the Kajeet service is great for families. Yahoo Tech, Apr 2007 (Full Review) Summary: All in all, if you're thinking of outfitting younger kids with cell phones and want to use them well and wisely without running up a new monthly bill, Kajeet is a well-designed service worth a closer look.
My Kid is Safe	SmartPhone, Jun 2009 (Full Review) Summary: Your kids will hate this software/service, but I think for a concerned parent, MyKidisSafe is essential. You can control almost every facet of their cell phone use, such as blocking use of it while they're driving or blocking outbound SMS while driving.
SafeEyes Mobile	LA Times, Mar. 2009 (Full Review) Summary: A protective layer for safer surfing. It's an app worth watching for additional functionality.