Parental Control 101

Overview

Access to the Internet provides children with a world of possibilities and limitless opportunities for learning and discovery. However without some parental guidance, the Internet can be a very dangerous playground. The following seven rules will help you to protect your child from online harm.

Parental Control Rules

1. Foster an open relationship with your children regarding what they do online

   Your child should feel safe discussing his/her online activities with you. It is important to not be overly judgmental. You do not want your child to start hiding what they do, or who they talk to from you.

2. Give each child his/her own user account on your PC

   Every child should have their own user account on any PC they are allowed to use. This will allow you to properly restrict what they can or cannot do. It will also enable you to track what they do online accurately.

3. Configure the user accounts of children to have appropriate restrictions

   Install Microsoft Family Safety software. It is free, and it contains fantastic features that allow you to protect your child from online harm on any version of Microsoft Windows from Windows XP to Windows 8.

4. Ensure that your child's cellphone service provider parental control features are turned on

   Some cellphone service providers allow a parent to specify a phone as belonging to a child. This will prevent the use of adult services from that specific mobile phone number.

5. Install and enable mobile parental control software

   Some phones, like iPhones, have build in parental control features. For others it may be possible to install 3rd party software that will allow you to prevent undesired content.

6. Educate your child regarding online dangers.

   As a parent you need to ensure that both you, and your child, is as educated as possible regarding specific online dangers. Take some time out a few times a year to ensure that you know what the current dangers are, and discuss these with your child. This will only work if you have an open relationship with him/her.

7. Limit downloads

   Limit the amount of bandwidth your child is allowed to use. Adult content often uses a lot of bandwidth. This will also help to prevent many forms of digital piracy. Remember, allowing illegally copied material not only teaches the wrong values, but also exposes your child to an increased risk of exposure to computer viruses and other malware.

Need more info?

We are very willing to help you meet your cyber safety needs. Please let us know what your needs are and we'll do our best to assist.

Contact the Cyber Security Research Unit at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University directly:

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
for tomorrow
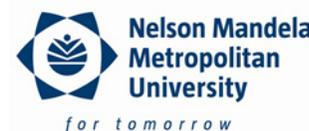
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Or email the South African Cyber Security Academic Alliance:

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Our Website

For more information visit www.cyberaware.org.za