

# Parental control on computers

[Technology](#), [Computer](#)



Privacy is a big issue but teenagers seem to not think so, until their parents want to know what is going on in their life; then teenagers want privacy and trust from their parents. Today, there are applications (APS) and software programs that parents can download to watch every move that their child is making on the computer. Found in my researching most children do not even know their parents are watching and this makes the parents feel guilty for not trusting their children. Some children do know and this causes household problems.

Other children gladly let their parents in their life because they feel safer and have nothing to hide. The question becomes, is irreverence the best way to protect children, or should parents trust them to share if they are scared by something online? Should children have the freedom from surveillance? I have interviewed parents and teenagers to see others opinions on this subject and researched information on software. Social media, and privacy issues. This paper discusses the pros and cons of parental monitoring with the use of APS, privacy issues, safety tools, and parental control software programs and the.

The extension of cell phones and tablets has complicated things, raising applications that attract the young and worry parents (Symbol Sanguine, 2012). In one house, there used to be one computer desktop that the household had to share, but now most all children in a household either has their own laptop, tablet, or a cell phone. This makes it more difficult for parents to monitor what their child is doing, especially when the child can put a lock code on these items. There are even APS for cell phones and tablets that can be downloaded to track children's physical places.

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Computer software programs can be installed to protect children from certain internet sites and to watch what children are saying. New tools can track what children are doing online, where they go and who they meet, Some teenagers may know that their parents are using these APS to monitor them, but If parents do not want their children to know, it could be very hard to install these programs without the children noticing. Symantec and Trend Micro have computer software that detects when a child creates a new social network account or tries to vaults a blocked website.

Even toddlers can have security thrust upon them. Apple's mobile operating system will soon offer an app mode that a parent can lock a toddler into one activity n an pad. It seems crazy that these software programs and tools can do so much, 'OFF for family safety tools is growing every day. Everyone knows about Backbone, which is the largest social networking site. The minimum age for users is 13, but many parents help their children Join, and younger children still make an account by simply changing their date of birth.

In my opinion, children under the age of 15 should not have a Backbone and members on Backbone should not be allowed to talk about drugs or use foul language. Members are only hurting themselves by doing so, UT it really bothers me seeing 13 year olds that talk about getting high and going to parties. At first Backbone was fun; easy to get a hold of friends and share pictures of each other. Now, statuses that are posted are usually about drama; hating someone, bullying someone, drinking alcohol, and wanting to get pregnant.

I honestly think parents should be stricter, monitor their children more, and these software programs are a great idea. A tool called nonskid. Com can show a child's Backbone page and text messages. Nonskid can send alerts about inappropriate language, show what child says on Twitter, and what photos a child is being tagged in on Backbone (Osmosis Sanguine, 2012). This is great because even though a teenager might not be aware, parents know that these statuses or pictures cannot go away, even if they are deleted.

An app called Stout that was designed for flirting, led to three sexual assault cases (Osmosis Sanguine, 2012). Some teenagers are very gullible and will do just about anything for attention. They do not see that talking to strangers online can lead to harm. Another app, called textiles can take the text a child sends out, copy it, and send the copy to the parents. This app does seem very helpful but really takes away a child's privacy. I think this app should only be used in a case when a teenager is in trouble.

These kind of APS are growing and being bought more. Even though parents are buying these APS and parental control software programs to watch and protect their children, four out of five do not turn them on. With this, 30 percent of parents say that they leave their children alone in their bedroom to surf the internet and 46 percent say they did not know that their children even had a social networking site. Even seven year olds have computers in their bedrooms and are allowed to access the internet.

Interesting enough, 88 percent of men say they were the ones responsible for installing and monitoring parental control software programs (Carrie-Ann

Skinner, 2009). I find these facts very interesting. Why are parents' spending money on these programs, tools, and APS, if they are not even using them? A seven year old should not even need a computer, must less their own in their bedroom. Children seem to know more about technology than adults because they're growing up with it and learn how to function computers in school. There are a lot of devices that can help protect children; options vary quite a bit.

It may be tough to find the most effective way for a parent to protect their children because parents are worried they can't keep up with their child's use of technology (National Consumers League, 2006). Adults should talk to children to tell them what they should stay away from, the dangers of the internet, and if another child tries to bully or harass them, they should tell someone (Child Development Institute ). Bullying is worse now than ever. It has been around for ages, but today it's more arrives, anonymous, psychologically scarring, and even deadly (Take, Allison, 2011).

A lot of children think it is very unfair for a parent to watch what they're doing be a supervisor, a teacher, or the government. Anything we do online is recorded, at least briefly, and linked to our computer, if not our name. There are some places where the department of education tracks college students (Holder, 2009). Younger children do not worry about these things now, but they will need to as they get older. Companies look at Backbone when teenagers are applying for a job and if they see meeting on their Backbone that they do not like, the teenager will not be hired.

Other things to look out for on the computer that people are not aware of are invisible information gathering; any information that is gathered about a person with or without their knowledge, cookies; tokens that are attached to a user or program and change depending on the areas entered by the user or program, data mining; the practice of examining large databases in order to generate new information, computer matching; the identification of similarities or dissimilarities in data found in two or more computer files, and computer profiling; the investigation of a program's behavior using information gathered as the program executes.

Also, there is always crime on the internet such as, hacking; intentionally accessing a computer without authorization, identity theft; the fraudulent acquisition and use of a person's private identifying information, credit card fraud; payment mechanism as a fraudulent source of funds in a transaction, and scams; a dishonest scheme. These types of things happen every day. All of these terms happen without the person's knowledge that they are happening to.

The internet is amazing in the fact that it can help with research, help stay up to date on news, and is easy to communicate with friends, but it is also very dangerous. There are a number of reasons why the internet can be dangerous, but here are a few. It is very easy to create a false identity because no one can see who is talking on the other end of a computer. The internet makes it simple for someone to be anyone they want to be in the world. The ones who do lie about who they are, are usually online predators.

It is obviously very hard to detect who is an online predator and it could end up being too late. There are a lot of websites that anyone can receive access to, which can be good and bad. Having a lot of websites makes it easy to find research but bad because without parental control, a child can simply access any website they want, such as adult chat rooms, pornographic sites, and hate speech sites. Even if a child does not mean to, a word can be misspelled and an adult site can pop up.

Many people do not know that information that is posted online is not always private (Child Development Institute). Anyone can view information posted on a social networking site if it is not set as private. A lot of people also do not know that there are online message boards that others can view, even years down the road. For children and teenagers in school, there is The Children's Internet Protection Act (CHIP) that blocks certain websites. It was enacted by Congress in 2000 because there was concern about children's access to obscene or harmful usage over the internet in schools.

The protection blocks pictures that are obscene, pornography, or harmful to minors. Schools and libraries are required to have an internet safety policy in order to use CHIP. They have to address access minors to inappropriate tater, the safety of email and chat rooms, hacking, giving out personal information, and measures that are harmful to minors (Consumer & Governmental Affairs, are blocked, but teenagers find ways to sneak past these. Most all students carry their cell phone with them and hide it to text people.

When I was in high school, we knew a site to go to, to get on Backbone. Teenagers know how to find ways around the rules. Some parents are concerned about threats their children may be receiving from the internet, but it seems like the more parents monitor their children, the more children avoid parents. Windows Live Family Safety is very simple to use and parents can restrict access to anything they want or allow specific websites. It can be installed on a computer or it is an online service.

Family Safety can let parents decide who they want their children contacting online through Messenger and Hotmail. Some children will probably never admit it but they more than likely feel comforted and reassured by the monitoring. All of these programs are used in different ways. Most are to spy on children to see exactly what they are up to, others protect children from harmful sites and being bullied. Interviewing people, I found differences between parents and children, and differences between married and divorced parents.

I asked ten questions to different people of age and marital status to find these results. Ages ranged from 9 to 45 while gender varied. There were five children asked, five teenagers asked, five married adults asked, and five single or divorced adults asked. Questions asked were, " Do you think it is okay if a parent controls a teenager's computer, do you have a social networking site, have you ever been or seen someone being bullied over the internet,

Parents: do you keep control of what your child is doing on the computer,

Teen: does your parent keep control of what you're doing on the computer,

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Parents: have you ever found your child hiding anything on the computer,  
Teen: have you ever hid anything from your parent on the computer, is privacy an issue in your household, were computers in school blocked from certain sites, do you agree with The Children's Internet Protection Act, if you think parents should control teenager's computers; till what age, and have you ever heard of software programs and APS that monitor children?

I summarized and put all of the answers together and this is what was said. All children said that they do not need monitoring by their parents and if they needed help, they would go to their parents or someone else. Younger teenagers agreed that they do not need monitored, but people around the age of 20 said children do need monitored and they wish there parents would have watched and told them information like cyber bullying and predators when they were younger. The ages of 20 also said they would have stayed out of more trouble and would have been more careful of what they put on their social media.

Married and single parents said children do need watched over on their personal computers until a certain age. It is acceptable because of perverted predators and bullying. A child can also get into porn, drugs, and crimes if they do not have guidance from their parents. Even though single parents said this, they confessed that they do not watch their children as they should. Every person that I interviewed had at least one social networking site; even the young children. The young all said that their parents knew they have an account because their parents have an account too.

Most of them said they hardly get on Backbone, but if they do it is just because they are bored and want know who they are and do not set everything to private. Young teenagers also said they accept anyone, and they post anything as a status or picture without thinking about it. Older teenagers and adults do not accept anyone as a friend, and definitely watch what they post because they know the consequences. More parents than children have seen bullying on the internet. I think parents are more likely to watch for bullying than children are because they have heard about children acting with suicide from social media sites.

Children are more likely to ignore this news because they do not think it will ever happen to them. Most of the parents do not keep control of what their child is doing on the computer. If they see anything disrespectful on the computer screen or T. V, then the parents do talk to their children about it and censor it. All of the parents said their children at one point were hiding something from them on their computer. A 19 year boy told me when he was a teenager he used to hide illegal videos he would stream online but his father always found them.

Now, he understands the consequences and will never do it gain. Most everyone said that privacy is not an issue in their household because they are pretty open in discussion with everyone. In high schools, all social media websites are blocked so students will pay attention and get work done in class. Usually this doesn't stop children and teenagers though. Even the younger children have cell phones and all of them said they text during class

and know how to get on Backbone. All parents said children should have parental control until they are at least 18 years of age.

Younger children did not believe in having parental control as much as older teenagers. The young ones wanted a lot of privacy, but the teenagers understand now that they are older why their parents wanted to know what they were always doing on the computer. It was found that divorced parents were less likely to watch over their children than married parents because a single parent is not around as much and doesn't have as much concern. None of the adults that I interviewed had heard of any of the software programs and APS that monitor children.

I have the same thought as the older teenagers and I am sure I will have most of the same thoughts when I am one day a parent. Children should have parental control to a certain extent. Children need to learn their own mistakes but should be watched over because of dangerous matters. I think children should be watched over more because they do not really have a need to be a member of a social networking site. Teenagers however, should have a little bit of more space and privacy because they are learning to grow on their own.

They should be taught the basics and should need to earn their trust. I wouldn't say that I was bullied on the internet, but I have definitely been in a lot of girl drama when I was younger. It seemed like all girls talk behind each other's backs and would post stuff about it on the internet. The postings always caused fights and most of us involved our parents, which caused even larger fights. My parents never monitored what I was doing on the

computer but my father had a talk with me about accepting friend requests of people that I did not know and talking to strangers.

My mother sometimes sits by me when I get on my Backbone, but I accept this because I am open with my parents and know not to post unacceptable things on social networking sites because they will find out. I do agree with The understand the extent of the dangers on the internet. The question asked; should parents be able to look at their children's computers thou their consent has been answered by researchers, random human beings, and me. Yes, it is okay because there are so many problems on the internet in today's world.

There are many ways to monitor computers and all of them are acceptable. Children should not have freedom from surveillance until they are old enough to show that they will not cause harm or get into any kind of trouble. Software programs, tools, and APS are a great idea, but need to be followed through with more. These kinds of things can maybe lower the rates of bullying, suicide, online predators, and young children from having a social networking site. Parental control on personal computers seems to be more of a valuable interest to most.