

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