

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.
- ✓ **Stealth Mode.** Can run without the user's knowledge.
- ✓ **Time Management.** Ability to limit Internet and/or computer use to preset times.

Product	Average Reviews (w/ links)	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	☆☆☆	\$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