

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 (w/ links)	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
Specter 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	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

+ Both the Apple Mac Snow Leopard and Windows Vista/Windows 7 operating systems contain parental controls with a PC.

* These programs contain parental controls as part of a "security suite" package, including anti-virus, anti-spam, and other security features. © GetParentalControls.org 2010