

Filtering Software Tips

Suggested monitoring software:

- Name: Net Nanny
- Price: \$39.99
- Free Trial: 14 Days www.download.com
- Download: www.netnanny.com
- Features:
 - o Blocks Pornography and Protects Families and Children
 - o PC Game Blocking based on ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board)
 - o IM Alert & Analysis
 - o Social Network Profile Reporting
 - o Secure Website Filtering/Blocking
 - o Integration With Popular Search Engines
 - o Net Nanny Software is More than Just Web Protection
 - Peer-to-Peer
 - FTP
 - Chat Rooms
 - o Enhanced Reporting
 - o Customizable "Allowed" or "Blocked" Lists

How can you track IM or MSN messenger threads

- Use Monitoring software like Net Nanny
 - o AOL IM
 - o Windows Messenger
 - o Yahoo
 - o Myspace
- Manually look at chat history.
 - o Windows Live
 - Setting needs to be active.
 - Can be turned on and off.
 - **Show Menu – File – Message History**
 - **Right Click User - View- Message History**

How to check the History in Internet Explore?

- Favorites Center (STAR ICON)
- History
 - o List all sites visited in the last 3 weeks
 - o

Use of filtering software

Filtering software is a great tool, it targets specific words in order to allow a web site to be displayed on your Internet browser. When an objectionable word is found by filtering software at a request web site, that site is then blocked from view.

However, there are concerns.

Many times a helpful web site is blocked by filtering software because one or two objectionable words are scanned within the pages.

Example: Information on Breast Cancer would be blocked because "breast" is considered an objectionable word. This occurs because software is programmed and cannot think or make judgments. This can lead to censorship and keep valuable information from your family.

Remember, web sites, as objectionable as they may be, are not as dangerous as chats, Instant Messages (IMs), and e-mails!!

Filtering software must be constantly updated. New web sites are added to the Web at a rate of 200,000 per month and not all are 'safe' websites.

Points to consider when selecting filtering software:

Selecting the right kind of filtering or blocking software for your family can be difficult. What is required for an eight year old will certainly be different than software for an adventurous teen.

Consider:

- The age of your children
- Are you trying to catch your child in the act of violating Safe Surfin' Rules?
- Are you trying to stop them from visiting pornography and hate sites?
- In your child technically savvy? Will they be trying to disable the software?

For Younger Children: You will want to protect your child by installing filtering software so they don't accidentally access pornography or something else that could be extremely disturbing to them.

For Older Children: Consider "Monitoring Software". This way, you can check where, who and what your child has been doing online, key stroke by key stroke.

IamBigBrother is able to record both sides of actual conversations your child is having in chatrooms, IMs, email and also what websites they are visiting.

Other monitors to consider are SpectorPro, eBlaster, NetVizor.

The best way to pick software that is right for you and your family is to go online and do a search of "parental controls" or "filtering Software".

Remember too, there is no filtering software that will prevent your child from chatting with a stranger and possibly sharing personal information. EDUCATION is the key!!