

Internet Safety at Home

There are a few ways in which the home Internet connection can be protected and one of the easiest is by setting up the free filtering that may be provided by your Internet provider (ISP).

This site helps you to set up filtering if your Internet is provided by BT, Sky, TalkTalk or Virgin Media.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/parents-and-carers/parental-controls> - this method will filter all devices connected to your home Internet connection - e.g. laptops, tablets, smartphones and gaming consoles

If you have a different broadband provider, it is possible that the manufacturer/model of the box that provides your broadband and possibly WiFi (your router) offers a similar function - Netgear & Linksys are two manufacturers that do. Do a web search for the model number of your router to find out its 'Parental Controls' functions/instructions. If this is possible, again it will filter all devices connected whilst at home.

Both these options will filter all devices in the home but it can also be done easily at the individual device level - for example, a simple way is by changing the way it looks up website addresses. By manually entering the 'DNS lookup' settings on the laptop/tablet/console etc., this can be pointed to use a safe list whilst the device is at home using your WiFi connection/profile. Information on a free service provided by OpenDNS.net can be found here <http://www.opendns.com/home-solutions/parental-controls/> and the instructions for setting this up are here <https://store.opendns.com/setup/>.

As you can see, it is fairly easy (and possibly free) to setup rudimentary filtering for your home broadband connection or devices - what needs to be understood is that if a tablet/laptop or smartphone is used away from the home or using 3G mobile data, this is possibly using an unfiltered or less strictly filtered Internet connection. Some of these measures are likely to not stand up to more net-savvy children, but at the primary level it is probably enough. If they offer to help out, make sure you change the passwords after!

As well as this, there are software packages that can be installed onto individual devices that lock all manner of activity - camera/GPS/data/WiFi etc, which means that even when away from home, you can lock down functions. This is a bit more extreme and instructions will depend on the device - to find out more, a web search for your device and parental controls will usually bring up further help.

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