

Rock Against Child Pornography and Abuse

Is a registered charity working to give a voice to the silent victims of childhood abuse. The children of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

RACPA UK can be found at

**[www.racpauk.org](http://www.racpauk.org)**

and on Facebook and Twitter.

We can also be contacted confidentially at:

**[racpauk@gmail.com](mailto:racpauk@gmail.com)**

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Further important information can be found at

**[www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com](http://www.virtualglobaltaskforce.com)**

**[www.ceop.gov.uk](http://www.ceop.gov.uk)**

**[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)**

All these agencies work on a national and international basis to protect children from online exploitation of any kind and have simple reporting procedures for child pornography websites, inappropriate content or contact concerning children or young people and for advice and information in all aspects of internet safety.

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## What you need to know about Parental Filter Software

Advice and information for parents and carers



It is not easy to know what your child is up to online, especially as they get older, but even if the common-sense approach to internet access is taken, keeping the computer in a family room where a discreet watch can be kept for example, there is still the chance that your child could stumble across something shocking and inappropriate through no fault of their own. This is where parental filters come into their own. There are many versions of this available, some free and some at a cost, so it is important that you choose the version best suited not only to your family's needs but also to its budget. All the different versions will, of course, have their own unique qualities, but as a general rule they will offer:

Monitoring - allowing you to see what sites your child may have been trying to gain access to.

Reporting - where you will be able to see what sites your child has been accessing.

Filtering - where you can deny access to certain sites you think inappropriate.

Time limits - allowing you to set limits on the amount of time your child can spend online.

These features will let you have very good control over how long your child is online, what sites they are allowed to access, information on sites that they have accessed and those they may have attempted to access.

Of course, there is a relationship of trust between you and your child, but curiosity can get the better of them sometimes, as we are all aware, and of course an innocently followed link can take them pretty much anywhere. Being able to protect them from that is an important part of being a parent or carer.

The four major providers: BT, Sky, Virgin and Talk Talk all offer very comprehensive and free filtering software and videos of how to set them up can be easily found online. We have provided the basic information on all these providers to give you an idea of the amount of protection that is offered by each.

#### **BT Family Protection:**

Completely free, this protection offers you tools that let you control the use of social networks like Facebook and Twitter and set up text alerts if your child posts personal information, when they try to view blocked sites or to review their online activity from anywhere in the world. It also allows you to set time limits to manage how long your children spend online and gives you YouTube filtering – a unique technology to prevent

exposure to unsuitable content and BT Cleanfeed to block sites classified as illegal by the Internet Watch Foundation. It also offers advanced spam filtering with image blocking to protect children from offensive content, block websites to stop your children from seeing inappropriate content, and also allows access to their internet abuse prevention team for children or parents to report any concerns they may have.

#### **SKY:**

Either free or for a small charge, depending on your Broadband package, Sky offers McAfee Internet Security suit, allowing you to monitor and control what sites your child visits and keep an eye on their online activities. This service is also available free as a separate download to all Sky Broadband customers and can be used to cover up to three PC's.

#### **Virgin Media:**

Virgin Media Security is available to all Virgin Media Broadband customers and with it you can screen out offensive material, filter sites by pre-defined age categories, add exceptions or block specific sites, control access to specific content types like chat or social networking, set an access-schedule for individual users and see a history of sites viewed, including those that were blocked.

#### **Talk Talk:**

Talk Talk's Internet security service is called HomeSafe. Built into the broadband network itself, HomeSafe is designed to help you block every device in your home from websites you've defined as unsuitable for your home. Parents also have the option to control the after-school homework routine specifically.

Any parental filtering is better than none. The one you choose will, of course, be the one that will work best for you and your children. Information about setting them up is easy to follow and user friendly, so if you are not a computer genius, the way many of our children seem to be, please don't be put off by what may seem to be an overwhelming amount of information. There will always be someone from your Internet Service Provider who will offer advice when and if needed.