

Connected: Guarding Yourself and Loved Ones

There are two types of software available to protect individuals from the dangers of the internet. What you do online impacts your life offline.

Accountability Software

- Monitors and reports Internet use
- Reports are sent to a person you choose: a parent, a friend, a spouse or a mentor
- Use reports to have conversations about online temptations

Filtering Software

- Blocks inappropriate content
- Can regulate the amount of time the web may be accessed
- Can choose the times of day the web may be accessed

Each individual and family needs to determine for themselves which software will best meet their needs. For example, families with young children will want to completely block inappropriate content, but as the child grows, you may want to begin teaching and trusting through accountability software. Adults who find themselves tempted may want to find a mentor to guide them, while others may want to completely block inappropriate content.

Software is available for computers and mobile devices, keep that in mind when choosing software. Many companies offer both types of software with a wide range of pricing options.

Internet Accountability & Filtering Software Companies

NetNanny – Net Nanny can block not only pornography, but hate sites, questionable chat rooms and other dangers of the Internet. Can be configured to block internet gaming and set to only install and play computer games with parental ratings you deem appropriate.

Covenant Eyes – Provides both accountability and filtering options. Try free for 30 days using promo code: connected

X3Watch Free – Free accountability software. Whenever an internet site is accessed which may contain questionable material, the program will record the site name, time and date the site was visited. An email with this information will then be sent monthly to a person of your choice.

Safe Eyes – Ability to set various controls on content, instant messages, file sharing, and time, just to name a few. Can notify a designated person instantly via email, text or phone when inappropriate sites are accessed.

Cyber Patrol – Block inappropriate sites, set time limits on gaming and internet use, control access to games and instant messaging.

K9 Web Protection – Free internet filter and parental control software for home computers.

ClearPlay – A DVD Player that filters movies and TV shows. Online version for streaming is also available. You establish your settings based on your family values, then they'll automatically be applied to their list of 4,500 ClearPlay compatible movies and TV shows.