

E-Safety: Tablets and Smartphones

Mobile Phone Internet Access

Mobile phones with internet access can use the 3G and 4G phone networks to connect to get online. This will bypass any controls you have placed on your home broadband connection. Thankfully the major networks now block access to inappropriate materials by default.

Parental Controls on Apple IOS Devices

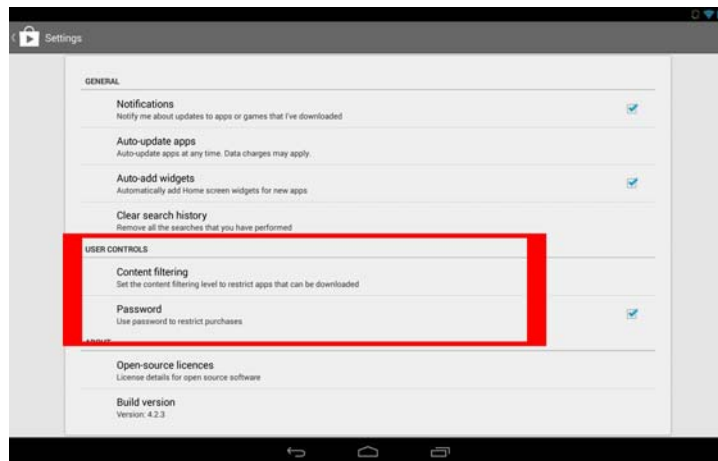
On IOS devices such as iPhones, iPads and iPod-touches there are quite extensive parental controls. These can be found under Settings -> General -> Restrictions. If you haven't accessed this page before you will be asked for a pass-code. Make sure you take a note of what you type in as if you forget it, the only way to reset it is to factory reset the device – which wipes everything on it. From the restrictions page you can block the Internet, the camera, individual applications, the level of access to the iTunes store and in-app purchases. The latter is highly recommended for devices owned by younger children as there are lots of very popular games, such as Candy Crush Saga, which encourage users to pay for things like bonus levels and extra lives. Here is a screenshot of the IOS restrictions screen:



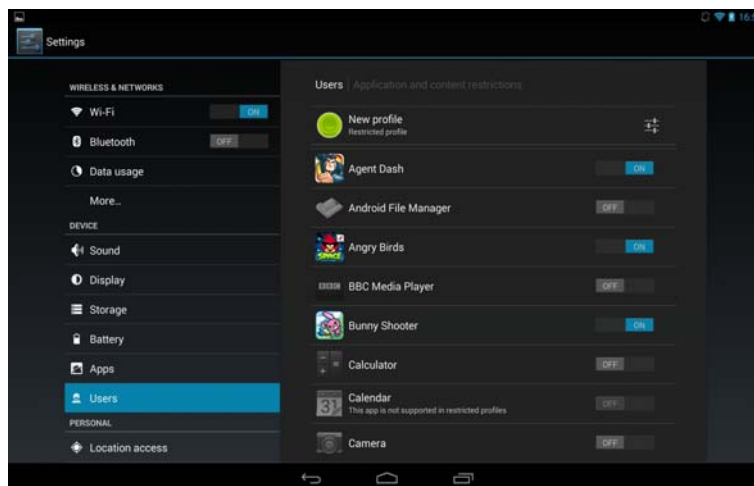
Parental Controls on Android Devices

Android devices include Google Nexus tablets, HTC phones and Samsung Galaxy tablets and phones. Parental controls were introduced in Android version 4.3 (Jellybean) and newer. Using the parental controls you can determine which applications users can access and also disallow in-app purchases. The latter is highly recommended for younger users, as explained in the section for IOS devices. Lots of popular games make use of in-app purchase to grant users bonus levels, upgrades and extra lives.

To enable the restrictions go to the Settings menu and under User Controls you will be able to restrict the apps that can be purchased and make it so your Google account password is required to make an in-app purchase:



You can also setup user accounts for individual people. If you create an account for your child you can then limit the apps accessible from their account:



Third-Party Android Parental Control Apps

If younger children in your home have access to an Android device, it is worth installing an app called Kid Mode. This is free to download from the play store and will limit the things your child can do on the device. It allows the child to play their favourite games, read stories and paint pictures but blocks them from being able to accidentally buy anything, delete anything or access non-permitted apps.

There are also parental control apps from Kaspersky, Norton Mobile Security and Funamo that are worth considering if you wish to have better control over the device. Kaspersky offer an app with basic protection for free or a premium edition with more extensive controls £10 per device per year. Norton is more expensive at £29.99 per year per device. Funamo costs around £15 for a one off fee.

Useful Links

- <http://www.kaspersky.co.uk/android-security>
- <http://us.norton.com/norton-mobile-security/>
- <http://www.funamo.com>