







## Operating system filtering

Parents can also restrict undesirable internet content by using parental controls provided by the major operating systems. For example, the popular Windows, Mac and Linux operating systems have parental content controls that are easily activated.

Microsoft offers a Windows Live Family Safety 2011 package that allows only predefined internet material to be accessed. It also lets parents put limits on when certain programs can be used at specific times during the day. The safety package can be downloaded for free from Microsoft's website and includes easy-to-follow instructions. The safety package is compatible with Microsoft XP, Vista and Windows 7.

Apple's Mac OS X Snow Leopard product features parental controls similar to those offered by Microsoft. Parents can manage, monitor and control the time their children spend on the computer, including the sites they visit and the people they chat with online.

The Linux operating system also has various applications and programs for internet content filtering.

Further information on how to activate the Windows, Mac and Linux operating system parental controls is available from their websites:

- > Windows Live Family Safety 2011 package<sup>9</sup>
- > Apple Mac OS X Snow Leopard security information<sup>10</sup>
- > Linux web filtering information<sup>11</sup>

## Family friendly internet filters

There are also a number of free or commercially available filtering programs and services that parents can install on their family's computers.

The Internet Industry Association (IIA) maintains a list of family friendly PC filters. To qualify for family friendly status, a filter must be thoroughly tested to block internet content that is prohibited by the Australian Communications and Media Authority, be easy to install and use, and include technical support.

Further information on the Family Friendly Filters scheme is available from the IIA website:

- > Internet Industry Association Family Friendly Filters<sup>12</sup>

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9 <http://explore.live.com/windows-live-family-safety?os=other>

10 [www.apple.com/macosex/security/](http://www.apple.com/macosex/security/)

11 [www.linux.com](http://www.linux.com)

12 [www.iaa.net.au/index.php/initiatives/family-friendly-filters.html](http://www.iaa.net.au/index.php/initiatives/family-friendly-filters.html)