

## Seeking to Provide a Safe Internet in the Home

### What is Internet Accountability?

“Internet Accountability is not about catching someone red-handed. It’s not even a Filter, blocking content outright. Instead, Internet Accountability is a report of what you see and do online, designed to start a conversation, helping everyone in your home make wiser choices about Internet use. For parents, it means that you can have targeted conversations about the sites your kids visit and the search terms they use.”<sup>1</sup>

### Entire Home

- OpenDNS - <http://www.opendns.com/><sup>2</sup>
  - Free version provides one setting for the entire house.
  - Paid (\$19.95/yr)<sup>3</sup>
    - Usage stats available for websites access from a given device.
- Circle – <http://meetcircle.com>
  - \$99.00 – one time cost
  - Provides you the ability to manage content and time across all devices on your home network.
    - Circle Go
      - This is an add-on to Circle.
      - \$9.95/month and covers up to 10 devices
      - Takes all of the great features of Circle at home and extends them to devices when they are away from home on another network.

### Device Specific

- Accountable2You<sup>4</sup> - <http://www.accountable2you.com/>
  - \$9.99/mo for up to 20 devices
  - One account covers all household computers, phones, tablets.
  - Works best on PC, Mac, Android and Chromebook
  - App available for iPhone, iPad and iPod<sup>5</sup>
  - Records private browsing modes for all browsers
- Covenant Eyes - <http://www.covenanteyes.com/>
  - Pricing
    - Personal Plan – Accountability ONLY
      - \$10.99/month
    - Personal Plan – Accountability & Filtering
      - \$12/49/month
    - Family Plan
      - \$14.99/month flat rate. Includes accountability and filtering

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<sup>1</sup> This definition is found at <http://www.covenanteyes.com/services/internet-accountability/> on 1/8/2017.

<sup>2</sup> OpenDNS does not provide reports on a per user or device basis. The paid version of OpenDNS simply provides statistics for the entire home.

<sup>3</sup> Pricing and features for all products was pulled from the respective websites on 1/8/2017.

<sup>4</sup> Records all computer and Internet activity regardless of content.

<sup>5</sup> In order to limit workarounds additional steps are needed to restrict portions of the device.

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### Practical Tips

- Create an open dialogue about the potential dangers associated with the Internet.
- Keep device use limited to a shared family space.
- Limit or completely block your child's access when they are alone.
- Establish a "technology free" zone or time in the house.
- Do not depend on filters alone. Kids can defeat filters.
- Check browser history regularly.

### Additional Resources

#### Safety Tips for Middle School Kids

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/internet-safety-tips-for-middle-school-kids>

#### Safety Tips for High School Kids

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/internet-safety-tips-for-high-school-kids>

#### Tip to Control Children's Internet Usage

<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/tips-control-childrens-internet-usage-12770.html>

#### Why Filters Matter

<https://www.common sense media.org/blog/internet-filters-tips>

#### Mobility and Privacy

<http://www.challies.com/articles/mobility-privacy-pornography>

#### Teens and Technology: An Interview with Tony Reinke

<http://therebelution.com/blog/2016/12/teens-and-technology-an-interview-with-tony-reinke/>

#### Please Don't Give Them Porn for Christmas

<http://www.challies.com/articles/please-dont-give-them-porn-for-christmas>

### Overarching Thought

The heart of the issue is the issue of the heart. Therefore, filters and accountability software are like guard rails on a mountain road. They cannot keep a person from driving off the edge but they can guide and help deter you from the edge.