PARENTAL CONTROL WITH VISTA

Prepared by Betti McTurk, MSIS
Parental Controls

• The new parental controls in Windows Vista allow parents to monitor their children’s activities online as well as set time limits for their use. In order to set-up the Parental Controls, the user must be the administrator. Let’s look at all we can do with the new Parental Controls.
Open an Account

• If you have not created an account for your children, do so using the “Create a new user account” link. After you see your child’s name in this menu, choose them from the list. You will see a menu where you can turn on the Parental Controls, Activity Reporting, and set-up the various settings.
Parental Control

Choose a user and set up Parental Controls

What can I do with Parental Controls?

- **Jason**
  - Computer administrator
  - Password protected

- **My Kid**
  - Standard user - Parental Controls On
  - Password protected

If you want to apply Parental Controls to someone who isn't in this list, create a new user account for them to use.

Why do I need an account for this?

Create a new user account
User Controls

Set up how My Kid will use the computer

Parental Controls:
- On, enforce current settings
- Off

Activity Reporting:
- On, collect information about computer usage
- Off

Windows Settings:
- Windows Vista Web Filter
  Control allowed websites, downloads, and other use
- Time limits
  Control when My Kid uses the computer
- Games
  Control games by rating, content, or title
- Allow and block specific programs
  Allow and block any programs on your computer

Current Settings:
My Kid
Standard user
Password protected

Web Restrictions: Medium
Time Limits: Off
Game Ratings: Off
Program Limits: Off

View activity reports

OK
Windows Vista Web Filter

- This web filter can limit the sites to which the child has access, as well as limit downloads and the like. Let’s take a look at its interface.
Web Restrictions

Which parts of the Internet can My Kid visit?
- Block some websites or content
- Allow all websites and content

Allow and block specific websites
- Edit the Allow and block list
- Only allow websites which are on the allow list

Block web content automatically
Choose a web restriction level:
- High
- Medium
- None
- Custom

Medium level: block unratable content and web content in the following categories: mature content, pornography, drugs, hate speech, and weapons. Not all content in these areas can be automatically blocked.
To control access to specific websites, add the website to the Allow and block list.
How does the web filter work?
Block file downloads
Go to the Site Review website to give feedback on website categorization

OK  Cancel
Options

- You can manually administer which sites they are not allowed to view.
- Select “Edit the Allow and block list” link.
- You can specifically only allow them to view certain websites inside this list.
- The Parental Controls also allow you to choose which level of security they can see.
- The medium level is described as any unrated content and web content in the context of pornography, drugs, hate speech, and weapons.
- It is important to know that these controls may not block all content, but should be a good guide for your child online.
- The parent can also block file downloads, thus eliminating the possibility that your child might accidentally download spyware or malware to the computer.
Time Limit

Control when My Kid will use the computer
Click and drag the hours you want to block or allow.

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Midnight (AM)</th>
<th>Noon (PM)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
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- Allowed
- Blocked
To set a time limit for the computer use

• A parent can simply block sets of hours for the week.

• If a parent did not want their child online while they were still at work they could simply drag the cursor over the time period and that time would be blocked.

• Whenever the box appears as blue it is blocked and Vista will not allow them to log onto the computer
Controlling Games (oh yeah!)

• The robust parental controls can filter out certain type of games.
• They can eliminate anything under a specific rating, according to content, or disallow games all together.
• This would help many parents to enforce disciplinary actions, but can easily be changed in the future.
• Let’s take a look at the game control features.
Game Controls

Control which types of games My Kid can play

Can My Kid play games?
- Yes
- No

Block (or allow) games by rating and content types

Set game ratings
- Maximum allowed rating: ADULTS ONLY, including unrated games
- Game descriptors blocked: None

Block (or allow) any game on your computer by name

Block or Allow specific games
- Always blocked: None
- Always allowed: None
More Choices

• By selecting No to the question of “Can My Kid play games”? effectively stops any games from running on the system. To get more advanced settings, open the **Set game ratings**.
Here is How

Control which types of games My Kid can play

If a game has no rating, can My Kid play it?

- Allow games with no rating
- Block games with no rating

Which ratings are ok for My Kid to play?
The Entertainment Software Rating Board defines these ratings.

- **EARLY CHILDHOOD**
  Titles rated EC - Early Childhood have content that may be suitable for ages 3 and older. Titles in this category contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.

- **EVERYONE**
  Titles rated E - Everyone have content that may be suitable for persons ages 6 and older. Titles in this category may contain minimal violence, some comic mischief, and/or mild language.

- **EVERYONE 10+**
  Titles rated E10+ - Everyone 10 and older have content that may be suitable for ages 10 and older. Titles in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence, mild language, and/or minimal suggestive themes.

- **TEEN**
  Titles rated T - Teen have content that may be suitable for persons ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violent content, mild or strong language, and/or strong language.

- **MATURE**
  Titles rated M - Mature have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17 and older. Titles in this category may contain mature sexual themes, more intense violence and/or strong language.

- **ADULTS ONLY**
  Titles rated AO - Adults Only have content suitable only for adults. Titles in this category may include graphic depictions of sex and/or violence. Adult Only products are not intended for persons under the age of 18.

Block these types of content

Even if a game has an allowed rating, you can block it for the type of content it contains.

- Online – Experience
  - Game experience may change during online play
  - Can Change
Parents, you are in control!

• As you can see, there are plenty of options for filtering games on your child’s computer.
• You simply select the appropriate ratings for your child or go back to the previous screen and only allow certain games.
• Select the Block or Allow specific games link.
• Every game that has been installed on the system appears in this list. As a default, these games look to the rating system to determine whether or not they can be run.
• If you wish to manually change this, then you can do so from this menu.
Game Overrides

Control specific games My Kid can and can not play

Allowed Ratings:
E10+ - EVERYONE 10+, T - TEEN, Ao - ADULTS ONLY, E - EVERYONE, Ec - EARLY CHILDHOOD, M - MATURE

Denied Descriptors: None

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Rating</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>User Rating Setting</th>
<th>Always Allow</th>
<th>Always Block</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chess Titans</td>
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<td>Hold ‘Em</td>
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<td>T: Simulated Gambling</td>
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<td>InkBall</td>
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<td>Minesweeper</td>
<td>Can play</td>
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<td>Spider Solitaire</td>
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</table>
Allow or Block, that is the question!

- A parent can also block or allow certain programs installed on the system. The menu for this option gives control to users who select which programs to allow and which to block.
- These selections be changed and administered at any time, but only by the administrator of the computer. The administrator selects the program checkbox next to each installed software item.
See How it is done

Which programs can My Kid use?
- My Kid can use all programs
- My Kid can only use the programs I allow

Check the programs that can be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>File</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Product Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 7.0\Reader</td>
<td>Adobe Reader 7.0</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>AcroRd32.exe</td>
<td>Adobe Reader 7.0</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>AcroRd32Info.exe</td>
<td>Adobe Reader 7.0</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>AdobeUpdateManager_.exe</td>
<td>Adobe Update Manager</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>reader_sl.exe</td>
<td>Adobe Acrobat SpeedLauncher</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 7.0\Reader\Updater</td>
<td>Adobe Acrobat 7.0</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>acroaum.exe</td>
<td>Acroaum 7.0.8</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C:\Program Files\Adobe\Acrobat 7.0\Setup Files\RdrBig708\ENU</td>
<td>Windows Installer - Unicode</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>instrmsiw.exe</td>
<td>Installer for the Windows Installer</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>setup.exe</td>
<td>Setup Launcher</td>
<td>&lt;Unknown&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td>C:\Program Files\ATI Technologies\ATLACE</td>
<td>atishlx Application</td>
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<td>atishlx.exe</td>
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<tr>
<td>DXStress.exe</td>
<td>Win32 Dxstress Application</td>
<td>Dxstress Application</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Add a program to this list:  [Browse...]

[Check All]  [Uncheck All]

[OK]  [Cancel]
How about Game Report?

• The Activity Report gives detailed usage descriptions to the administrator, which cannot be altered by the user.
• The activity report gives a month’s worth of web traffic, hours played on games, which software was used, and much more.
• Let’s take a look at a sample report.
Activity Report

Activity Reporting is On

### Web Browsing

**Top 10 Websites Visited**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Website 1</th>
<th>Website 2</th>
<th>Website 3</th>
<th>Website 4</th>
<th>Website 5</th>
<th>Website 6</th>
<th>Website 7</th>
<th>Website 8</th>
<th>Website 9</th>
<th>Website 10</th>
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</table>

**Most Recent 10 Websites Blocked**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Website 1</th>
<th>Website 2</th>
<th>Website 3</th>
<th>Website 4</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Web Overrides**

- None

**File Downloads**

- None

**File Downloads Blocked**

- None

### System

**Logon Times**

- None

### Applications

**Applications Run**

- None

**Application Overrides**

- None

### Gaming

**Games Played**

- None

### Email

There are no email events for this user. This is likely because the email application being used does not support parental controls, or this user has not used an email application during this time period.

### Instant Messaging

There are no instant messaging events for this user. This is likely because the instant messaging application being used does not support parental controls, or this user has not used an instant messaging application during this time period.
Safe, Safer, Safest

- A list of top ten sites visited,
- top ten sites blocked,
- web overrides,
- file downloads,
- blocked downloads,
- system logins,
- applications run,
- games played,
- email, and ....
- instant messaging appear right on the front of the report.
- By selecting the folder tree options on the left hand side, a parent can drill down into the usage statistics to see specific items
Do not over kill but protect your child

• Overall the Parental controls can assist parents with administering a computer that opens a whole world up to an impressionable child.

• The much needed assistance with web browsing, software usage, and downloads should assist most guardians with keeping their Windows Vista install clean, their children safe, and their peace of mind intact.