

Parental Test 2023

Testing and Certification by AV-TEST

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Kaspersky Safe Kids Premium



Executive Summary

The objective of the Report is to show the performance and effectiveness of the Kaspersky Safe Kids Parental Control application across various platforms, specifically for Windows, Android and Apple iOS. The testing was conducted by AV-TEST in December 2023.

The main focus areas are the effectiveness of website blocking with child inappropriate content, and simulating real-world usage scenarios. As well as the provision and effectiveness of tools for guardians to ensure child safety while using modern technologies independently. The report also covers an assessment of such product features as website blockage, social media control, search engine monitoring, time and schedule restrictions, application control, reporting, geo-fencing, device battery monitoring, and security features.

Key Findings:

- Kaspersky Safe Kids demonstrates strong performance in blocking potentially inappropriate websites, achieving an overall average block rate of 92% on Windows and 88% on Android.
- The application excelled in blocking the most undesirable category, "Adult Content," with 100% effectiveness on Windows and close to 100% on Android.
- Over-blocking, indicated by falsely detecting unsuitable content, remains low with rates of 8.6% on Windows and 7.6% on Android.
- Key features such as harmful website blockage, social media control, search engine monitoring, time and schedule restrictions, application control, reporting, geo-fencing, device battery monitoring, and security and tamper protection are robust and comprehensive.

The evaluation of Kaspersky Safe Kids shows its effectiveness in providing extensive and complete protection across major operating systems. The application demonstrates strong performance in website blocking and offers a wide range of features to ensure child safety online. While areas for improvement may exist, particularly in minimizing over-blocking rates further, the overall performance of Kaspersky Safe Kids is commendable. The application's comprehensive capabilities and high effectiveness warrant recognition, reinforcing its suitability for parental control purposes.

This is the 8th consecutive participation of Kaspersky's products in Parental Control testing, and each time Kaspersky technologies meet certification criteria and earn certifications¹.



¹

2022 - https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_Parental_Control_Test_December_2022.pdf

2021 - https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_Parental_Control_Test_December_2021.pdf

2020 - https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_Parental_Control_Test_June_2020.pdf

2018 - <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/test-parental-control-software-for-desktops-with-windows-10-macos/>

2017 - <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/16-parental-control-apps-for-android-apple-ios/>

2016 - <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/parental-control-software-for-windows-put-to-the-test/>

2015 - <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/test-parental-control-software-for-windows-and-mac-os-x/>

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Introduction to Parental Control

Parental Control

Parental Control Software is a specialized security application designed to help guardians monitor and regulate the digital activities of minors. These tools are essential for protecting children from online risks like inappropriate content and cyberbullying. The software enables parents to set boundaries on internet usage, promoting a safer online environment for children.

Key features include content filtering to block unsuitable materials, activity monitoring to track digital behaviour, and time management tools to limit screen time. Additionally, the software can restrict access to specific apps and games, helping to prevent exposure to harmful content. By equipping parents with tools to oversee and guide their children's internet activities, Parental Control Software is instrumental in fostering a balanced and secure digital experience for young users.

Kaspersky Safe Kids Premium

Kaspersky Safe Kids is known as a reliable solution within the parental control software market, dedicated to providing comprehensive monitoring and filtering features to ensure children's safety in the digital realm. Following a thorough assessment conducted in December 2023, Kaspersky Safe Kids showcased its dedication to meeting the essential criteria expected from a trusted parental control provider.

The software's array of features, such as website blocking and filtering, app management, and screen time control, offers parents the tools they need to effectively manage their children's online activities. Kaspersky Safe Kids prioritizes user privacy and data security, employing robust encryption standards to safeguard sensitive information and adhering to stringent privacy policies.

In terms of performance and usability, Kaspersky Safe Kids provides a seamless experience for parents. Its intuitive interface makes it simple to set up and customize parental controls, while its minimal impact on device performance ensures smooth operation without disruptions. The Software is accessible to parents worldwide who seek to protect their children online and promote safe digital habits.

Test Introduction

Website Blockage

The following 13 out of 14 available categories in Kaspersky Safe Kids' "Restriction for website categories" have been enabled for blockage for this test.

- Adult content
- Alcohol, tobacco, drugs
- Anonymizers - Anonymous access systems
- Video games
- Electronic commerce - E-tailers, banks, and payment systems
- Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes
- Internet communication
- Job search
- News media
- Religions, religious associations
- Software, audio, video
- Violence
- Weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics

Each website is validated up to three times. If a website is not blocked during the initial visit, it is revisited two more times with a delay of a few hours at the most, to ensure consistent behaviour by the parental control product. This may be due to changing website content. A website is considered blocked when either the entire website or the unsuitable content is blocked.

Website Samples

Close to 9,000 websites are collected before the test, representing the most current live pages for the categories and languages. 7,500 websites are used to evaluate how well the product blocks the defined categories. Just over 1,500 websites are used to cross-check the detection and determine the rate of possible over-blocking by the product. There are six languages represented in the website test set: English, German, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

Test Results

Introduction

This report aims to present the results of the meticulous evaluation of Kaspersky Safe Kids' protective capabilities in ensuring the online safety of children. The assessment focuses on examining the effectiveness of Kaspersky Safe Kids in monitoring and filtering children's online activities to mitigate potential risks and threats.

Coverage Assessment

Testing scenarios include assessing the software's effectiveness in blocking inappropriate websites, managing app usage, setting time limits for screen time, and tracking the child's device location, reflecting common situations faced by parents and guardians in managing their children's online activities.

Findings provide insights into the effectiveness of Kaspersky Safe Kids in mitigating online risks and threats, evaluating the software's performance in maintaining stable connections, implementing advanced monitoring and filtering features, and safeguarding user privacy. These results showcase its versatility and reliability in providing a secure online environment for children.

Quality of Protection Assessment

The assessment covers various scenarios encountered by parents, testing the software's ability to block inappropriate content, manage screen time, and track online behaviour while prioritizing user privacy and data security.

Using a comprehensive methodology, real-world scenarios are simulated to evaluate software performance across different digital environments, providing insights into their reliability and effectiveness in creating a secure online environment for children.

Results Analysis

This section showcases the findings from the parental control software testing, focusing on key features, usability, security, privacy, and transparency. The evaluation seeks to provide insights into the effectiveness of the software solution in safeguarding children's online activities and promoting a secure digital environment. Highlighting the performance, strengths, and areas for improvement of parental control software.

In this evaluation, the effectiveness of monitoring and regulating children's online activities to mitigate potential risks and threats is examined. The assessment encompassed various criteria, including the software's ability to block inappropriate content, manage screen time, and protect user privacy and data security.

Feature Test

The Feature test evaluates the fundamental functionalities necessary for a comprehensive parental control application, encompassing all aspects of device management and user interaction. These functionalities may vary across different operating systems. Kaspersky Safe Kids offers varying degrees of control options across different operating systems, ensuring a tailored approach to parental supervision.

FEATURE REVIEW	Windows 11	Android 12	iOS 16.5
Search Engine Monitoring	+ ¹	+ ¹	+ ¹
Time and Usage Duration Restriction	+	+	+
Application Control	+ ²	+ ²	+ ⁴
Social Media control	+ ³	+ ³	+ ³
Security - Tamper Protection	+	+	+
Security - Supervision and Control from another Device	+	+	+
Reporting - Central user interface	+	+	+
Reporting - Incidents Overview	+	+	+

¹ Bing, Google, Mail.ru, Yahoo!, and Yandex

² Choose apps yourself or by application categories

³ VK

⁴ By age restrictions (available for iOS in the app version 1.38.0.14 and later)

Kaspersky Safe Kids offers a comprehensive suite of features essential for modern parental control applications. Its Search Engine Monitoring feature covers major search engines like Google, Bing, and Yahoo, as well as popular Russian sites like Mail.ru and Yandex. This feature filters out search results related to adult content, alcohol, tobacco, profanity, extremism, and racism.

The application enables parents to manage screen time by setting overall duration limits or specific usage hours, configurable for different days of the week. Notably, Kaspersky allows blocking apps on Windows and Android devices by category, and on iOS based on age restrictions from the app store. Social media control extends to VK, the leading platform in Russia, offering insights into the child's public profile.

To prevent attempts to circumvent the provided protection, Kaspersky Safe Kids implements robust tamper protections. Guardian management of settings is accessible via a web interface or the Safe Kids app on parents' Android devices, ensuring convenient remote access without the need for direct device contact.

Furthermore, Kaspersky Safe Kids provides comprehensive reporting, detailing search queries, social media activity, website visits, and protection from any attempts to bypass parental control features. The product also includes some features that were not tested, such as GPS tracking, battery monitoring, and real-time notifications.

Website protection

The Website Blockage feature assesses the essential capabilities required for effective content filtering within a parental control application, focusing on the prevention of access to inappropriate websites. This feature varies in its implementation across different operating systems. Offering varying degrees of blocking options, the software ensures a customized approach to online safety, allowing parents to effectively shield their children from undesirable content regardless of the device being used.

Categories of Age-inappropriate Webpages	Windows	Android
Adult content	100 %	99,09%
Alcohol, tobacco, drugs	98,03%	94,91%
Anonymizers	92,78%	91,24%
Video games	95,09%	93,05%
Electronic commerce	91,58%	84,39%
Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes	94,31%	90,70%
Internet communication	91,62%	83,07%
Job search	88,13%	76,92%
News media	74,26%	68,71%
Religions, religious associations	86,92%	84,04%
Software, audio, video	95,13%	89,61%
Violence	93,02%	89,15%
Weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics	97,69%	94,99%
Average	92,20%	87,68%
Mistakenly blocked	8,63%	7,57%

The analysis of the results for both Windows and Android platforms indicates that Kaspersky Safe Kids demonstrates strong performance in blocking access to age-inappropriate websites across various categories.

For the Windows platform, the application achieves a perfect blocking rate of 100% for adult content, indicating robust filtering capabilities in this sensitive category. Additionally, it maintains high blocking rates for other categories such as weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics, with an impressive average blocking rate of 92.20%.

Similarly, on the Android platform, Kaspersky Safe Kids shows commendable performance, with a near-perfect blocking rate of 99.09% for adult content and strong blocking rates for categories like weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics. However, there is a noticeable decrease in blocking rates for certain categories compared to the Windows platform, resulting in a slightly lower average blocking rate of 87.68%.

Furthermore, the false detection rate for both platforms is relatively low, indicating a high level of accuracy in identifying and blocking age-inappropriate content without unnecessarily restricting access to legitimate websites.

Overall

The parental control test results for Kaspersky Safe Kids showcase its effectiveness in providing robust protection and monitoring features for children's online activities. Across both Windows and Android platforms, the application demonstrates strong blocking capabilities for various categories, particularly in restricting access to adult content and potentially harmful material. The relatively low false detection rate further underscores the accuracy of its filtering mechanism.

Kaspersky Safe Kids offers a comprehensive suite of features that empower parents to safeguard their children's online experiences. Its Search Engine Monitoring feature covers major search engines and popular Russian sites, ensuring that inappropriate content is filtered out from search results. Additionally, the application enables parents to manage screen time effectively by setting overall duration limits or specific usage hours, promoting a healthy balance between digital engagement and offline activities.

Notably, Kaspersky Safe Kids allows parents to block apps on Windows and Android devices by category, enhancing control over children's device usage. Social media control extends to VK, providing insights into children's public profiles and ensuring their online safety. The implementation of robust tamper protections further prevents circumvention attempts, ensuring the integrity of parental control settings.

Performances Comparison of 2022 vs. 2023

In this section, we compare how parental controls performed in 2022 and 2023 on both Windows and Android platforms. This comparison provides insight into any improvements or changes in the effectiveness of the software between the two years, highlighting key trends and areas for further analysis.

Comparison of 2022 vs. 2023 Windows

Categories of Age-inappropriate Webpages	2022	2023
Adult content	99,61 %	100%
Alcohol, tobacco, drugs	97,90%	98,03%
Anonymizers	91,13%	92,78%
Video games	95,97%	95,09%
Electronic commerce	92,76%	91,58%
Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes	92,77%	94,31%
Internet communication	93,21%	91,62%
Job search	84,71%	88,13%
News media	78,02%	74,26%
Religions, religious associations	87,23%	86,92%
Software, audio, video	89,94%	95,13%
Violence	94,06%	93,02%
Weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics	97,10%	97,69%
Average	91,88%	92,20%
Mistakenly detected	5,56%	8,63%

Comparing the Windows Parental Control Test results between 2022 and 2023, there's an evident improvement in filtering effectiveness, at the cost of an increase in false positives. Categories such as "Adult content," "Alcohol, tobacco, drugs," "Anonymizers," "Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes," and "Software, audio, video" exhibited significant enhancements in blocking rates. However, there were decreases in blocking efficacy for "Internet communication" and "News media." The average blocking rate rose from 91.88% in 2022 to 92.20% in 2023, reflecting ongoing efforts to refine content filtering mechanisms on Windows platforms, albeit with an increase in false positives.

Comparison of 2022 vs. 2023 Android

Categories of Age-inappropriate Webpages	2022	2023
Adult content	97,10 %	99,09%
Alcohol, tobacco, drugs	95,24%	94,91%
Anonymizers	83,74%	91,24%
Video games	93,55%	93,05%
Electronic commerce	83,89%	84,39%
Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes	83,88%	90,77%
Internet communication	87,36%	83,07%
Job search	77,18%	76,92%
News media	73,54%	68,71%
Religions, religious associations	85,03%	84,04%
Software, audio, video	88,72%	89,61%
Violence	83,17%	89,15%
Weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics	97,10%	97,69%
Average	93,81%	94,99%
Mistakenly detected	4,78%	7,56%

The analysis of Android Parental Control Test results from 2022 to 2023 reveals an overall enhancement in filtering efficacy, like on the Windows operating system it comes at the cost of an increased false-positive rate. Specific categories such as "Adult content", "Anonymizers", "Gambling, lotteries, sweepstakes", "Violence", and "Weapons, explosives, pyrotechnics" demonstrated marked improvements in blocking rates. However, there are declines in blocking effectiveness for "Internet communication" and "News media." The average blocking rate increased marginally from 86.63% in 2022 to 87.68% in 2023, reflecting ongoing efforts to refine content filtering mechanisms on Android platforms despite the increase in false positives.

Test Results Summary

This report provides a comprehensive evaluation of Kaspersky Safe Kids Parental Control Software, focusing on its efficacy in safeguarding children's online activities. The assessment offers insights into the software's capabilities in monitoring and regulating children's online behaviour to foster a secure digital environment.

Kaspersky Safe Kids was tested in simulated user environments, exposing it to various online threats and scenarios commonly encountered by children. These scenarios included attempts to access inappropriate content, time spent on specific apps or websites, and tracking online activities. Performance metrics were measured against industry standards, focusing on the software's effectiveness in real-world situations.

Exhibiting strong performance in monitoring and regulating children's online activities, Kaspersky Safe Kids effectively blocks access to inappropriate content and manages screen time. Moreover, it demonstrates a high level of accuracy in detecting and responding to potential online threats, such as cyberbullying or predatory behaviour.

Robust in its monitoring and filtering capabilities, Kaspersky Safe Kids offers parents comprehensive insights into their children's online behaviour. It effectively blocks access to inappropriate websites and provides customizable settings to tailor the protection level to individual needs.

Its user-friendly interface sets Kaspersky Safe Kids apart, making security management simpler for parents, while additional features like time management tools and activity reports bolster the software's usability and effectiveness in cultivating healthy digital habits for children.

Compared to last year's version of Kaspersky Safe Kids, the current release offers improved website blockage capabilities, effectively restricting access to a broader range of inappropriate websites. However, this enhancement comes with a minor increase in the incidence of falsely blocked web pages. Despite this trade-off, Kaspersky Safe Kids maintains its position as a reliable option for families seeking effective parental control solutions, balancing enhanced security with occasional overreach in content filtering.

In conclusion, Kaspersky Safe Kids offers a robust solution for parents seeking to protect their children's online experiences. With its effective monitoring and filtering features, coupled with a user-friendly interface design, Kaspersky Safe Kids provides a comprehensive solution for fostering a safe and secure digital environment for children. Continued attention to usability improvements and feature enhancements could further strengthen its position in the parental control software market.

Kaspersky Safe Kids has consistently demonstrated strong performances in its category, marking this year as the eighth consecutive participation in the testing process. Throughout these years, it has reliably shown its effectiveness and efficiency in the realm of parental control software. Maintaining its tradition of excellence, Kaspersky Safe Kids once again received an approved certificate this year, affirming its status as a trusted and robust solution for families seeking to manage their children's online activities safely.

Certificate: APPROVED Parental Control Software

Kaspersky Safe Kids is awarded the AV-TEST APPROVED Parental Control Software certificate in 2023 for all three operating systems.



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- 2022 - https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_Parental_Control_Test_December_2022.pdf
 - 2021 - https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_Parental_Control_Test_December_2021.pdf
 - 2020 - https://www.av-test.org/fileadmin/pdf/reports/AV-TEST_Kaspersky_Parental_Control_Test_June_2020.pdf
 - 2018 - <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/test-parental-control-software-for-desktops-with-windows-10-macos/>
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 - 2015 - <https://www.av-test.org/en/news/test-parental-control-software-for-windows-and-mac-os-x/>