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CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES

Internet Safety



INTERNET SAFETY

We seem to hear about the negative sides of the Internet: people being bullied, ripped off, meeting people who aren't who they say they are etc. It's important that we realize that the Internet, social media sites and all of the other tools we use online aren't the issue – it's the way some people choose to use these tools.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that our online experiences, as well as the experiences of those around us, are positive ones. The growing popularity of doing things online also means that you are at a greater risk of being taken advantage of online.

Where to begin?

Different aged children use the internet differently.

Are you aware what your children/grandchildren are doing while they are online, are they chatting, are they playing games, are they messaging, sending videos? Maybe its time to ask.

It is a responsibility of the adults and caregivers to be aware what their family members are browsing. By knowing what they are accessing, you will know better what conversations to have.

Don't know where to start? This site explores different age groups.

https://protectkidsonline.ca/app/en/interests_and_risks-5_to_7

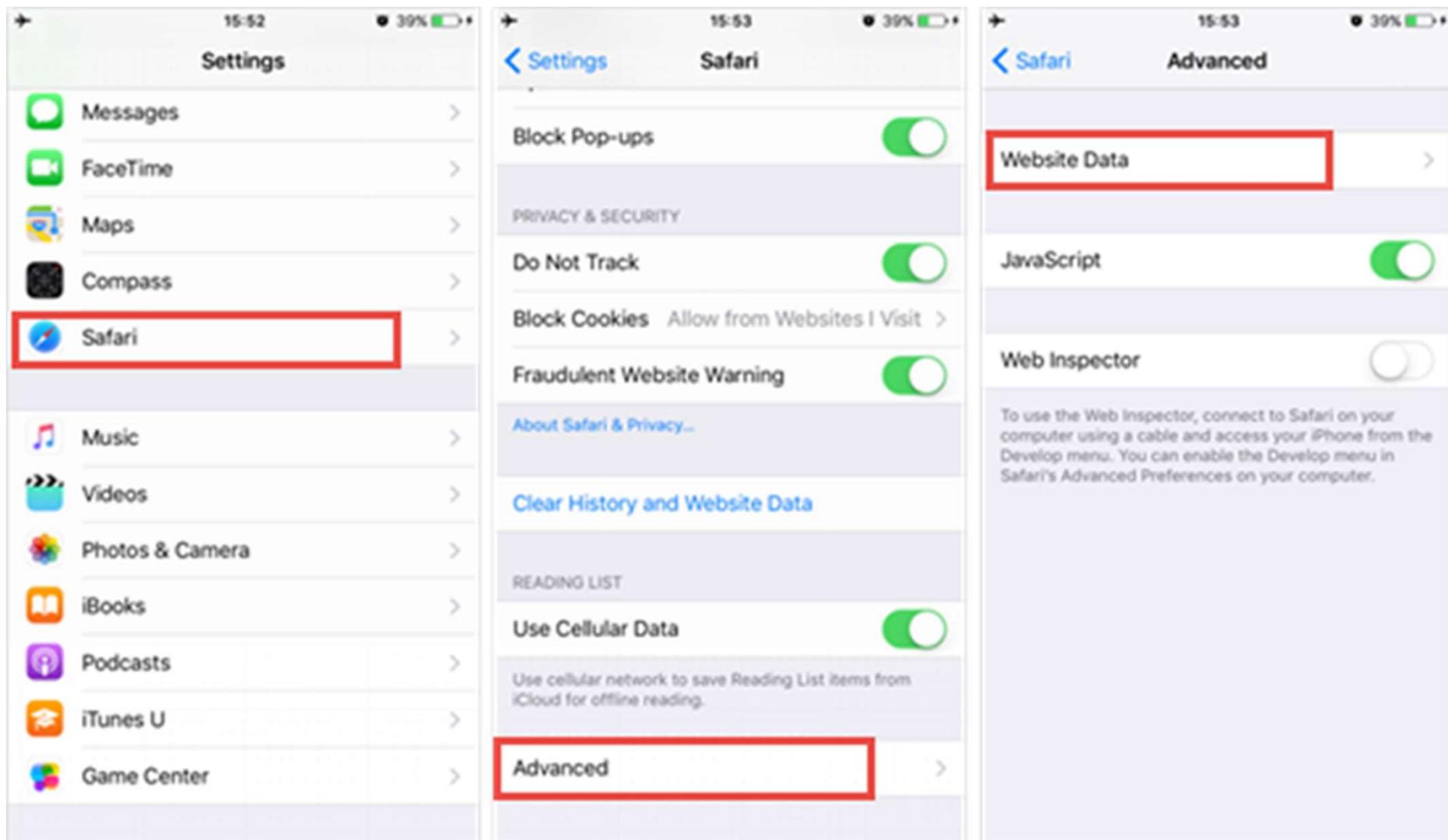
Did you know?

- You are able to check the history of the web browsers
- You can also check the history on your child's device as well.

How to Check their computers



How to Check their Smart Phones



Online Scams and Fraud

The Internet has made it easier to find information we're looking for, stay in contact with friends, shop for clothes from our couch, play games with people halfway across the world and plan events without leaving home. However, the growing popularity of doing things online also means that you are at a greater risk of being taken advantage of online.

Be sure the site you are using is a trusted source/site – take some time to ask questions, read up, seek more information do your own research.



Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is when an individual repeatedly uses information and communication technologies in a way that is intended to cause, or should be known to cause, the intimidation or harassment of another person(s).

Make sure you are talking about your kids about their comfort levels. If they aren't happy with the way someone is messaging them, or they are feeling hurt make sure you have open communication about how you can support and deal with it.



Online Gaming

While scoring points and unlocking new worlds may be the name of most games, privacy shouldn't be an afterthought. You should take seriously how information is collected, shared and used by everyone in the gaming ecosystem.

What information do gaming companies collect through online gaming?

The answer is everything from names, addresses, credit card information for billing purposes, email and IP addresses, feedback rankings from others, digital images and personalized profiles.

Have a conversation with your kids so they know they should not be giving any of their information out online without talking to you first.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQWhQAJkSOE&t=87s>



Parenting Teens in a Digital Age



The digital realm also allows kids/teens to experiment in ways they typically wouldn't face-to-face, including who they talk to and what they talk about. This need for acceptance and belonging makes tweens/teens particularly vulnerable to individuals who may be seeking opportunities to take advantage of them. The personal fable of invincibility (e.g. belief that bad stuff happens only to others) makes tweens/teens even more vulnerable. The perception of anonymity and privacy online increases a young person's willingness to share personal information, leaving them open to manipulation by others. In some instances, there are adults who have harmful intentions or sexual interest in children, and in other cases, it may involve peers who use technology in an effort to harm another young person.

Video

Safe Web Surfing: Top Tips for Kids and
Teens Online.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrln8nyVBLU>

PARENTS, IF YOU'RE NOT ASKING, ***THEY'RE NOT TELLING***



48% of parents believe their teens tell them everything they do online



71% of teens have hidden their online behavior from their parents



Source: TRU Insights & McAfee, May 2012

Ask Yourself...

Please consider these things before allowing your children to be on devices:

- *What are the rules around technology in your home? IF you don't have any what should they be?*
- *What are some issues your child(ren) might have when they are online?*
- *How will you know that your children are safe when they are on their devices?*

It is encouraged to have technology devices be used in common areas and to set limits for use.