

#SaferInternetDay on February 11th, is a great time to talk with your family about staying safe online. #StartTheConversation

SNAPCHAT allows users to send photos and videos that disappear after they're received, but pictures don't completely disappear from a device and users can take a screenshot before an image vanishes.

SKOUT is a location-based dating app and website. While users under 17 are unable to share private photos, kids can easily create an account using a different age.

X is a networking site for "public" conversations or direct messages. It has also been used for bullying or harassment.

OMEGLE lets users chat with strangers through text or video in real time, with no registration required. While it can be used for casual conversations, users have reported encountering inappropriate content, cyberbullying, explicit material, and even predatory behavior.

INSTAGRAM is a photo/video sharing app. Profiles can be public allowing anyone to see or comment. Teens can create fake accounts to hide content and use the messaging feature.

GRINDER is a dating app geared toward gay, bi, and transgender people. The app gives users options to chat, share photos, and meet up based on a smartphone's GPS location.

WHATSAPP is a messaging app that allows users to send texts, photos, voicemails, make calls, and video chats worldwide. The app uses an internet connection on smartphones and computers.

ROBLOX is an online gaming platform where users can play games designed by others or create and share their own. Be aware of in-app purchases chat features, "condo" games, and using "signs" to communicate if chat is blocked.

BADOO is a dating and social networking app where users can chat, share photos & videos, and connect based on location. While the app is for adults, teens are known to create profiles.

KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

HILY is a dating app where users can browse photos, engage in chats, send private videos, and more. Based on the GPS location of the phone, strangers can arrange to meet up locally.

DISCORD allows users to talk to friends or strangers in real-time via voice/text or video chat while playing games. Users have seen racial slurs, explicit content, cyberbullying, and more.

MEETME is a dating social media app that allows users to connect with people based on geographic proximity. As the app's name suggests, users are encouraged to meet each other in person.

WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

MONKEY is a live video chat app that connects users to random strangers worldwide, offering group chat and private message options. Rated for 12+, but has mild sexual content and nudity.

AMONG US is a space-themed online multiplayer social game where players can message and chat with each other.

ASKFM is known for cyberbullying. The app encourages users to allow people to ask and chat anonymously with them in 40 different languages.

HOLLA is a video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in seconds.

BEST SECRET FOLDER is specifically meant to hide photos and videos. It features password protection, decoy videos, and alarm settings.

LIVE ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcaster's exact location. Users can earn 'coins' to pay minors for photos.

YIK YAK app to connect with people around your location. It is an anonymous virtual bulletin board known for bullying.

CALCULATOR% is only one of several secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.

REDDIT is a chat/discussion board app. Users can post whatever they want without identity verification. Reviewers have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content & more.



APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW



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A SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE FOR PARENTS

While these are not all, it is just to give parents and idea of what is out there. Do your research.

APPS

DATING APPS



WHATSAPP -texting, video chatting app

- Allows users to text, send images/videos/ audio and video chat
- Does not require cell service, an internet connection



SNAPCHAT -photo and video sharing app

- Users send "disappearing content"
- Content can still be saved or screenshot
- Story posts can be visible for up to 24 hours



TINDER

- Adult dating and hookup app for users over the age of 18
- Can falsify ages to use app underage



MONKEY

- Advertised as "speed dating for teens"
- After users match, a video chat starts for users to talk "face to face" for 15 seconds



KIK MESSENGER

- Users text in group chats and direct messages
- Certain features encourage chatting with strangers by searching for common interests



TIKTOK -short video sharing app

- Users can create and view videos
- Limited privacy settings
- Leaves kids vulnerable to cyberbullying and explicit content



HINGE

- Recommends other profiles to connect with
- "Your Turn" reminders encourage constant engagement



CHATOUS

- Randomly matches users for chat sessions
- Users can video/audio chat with matches
- No age verification required to join



WIZZ -social discovery, chatting app

- Encourages meeting new people from around the world via video chatting
- App has been linked to sextortion scams



DISCORD -text and voice app/website

- Users can form groups or "servers" to share voice, video, and text messages
- Popular with classmates



BUMBLE

- Automatically matches local profiles with similar interests
- Only allows female user to message the male user first



BADOO

- Targets younger teen dating audience for casual dating
- Users can text, video call, and search the app for other users anywhere in the world



LIVEME -broadcasting/live streaming app

- Users can live stream or join other's live videos
- Users can give and receive virtual gifts (can require in app purchases)



TUMBLR -blogging app/website

- Users create their own sites to post text, images, audio, videos
- Popular for spread of drug use, offensive language, and pornography



GRINDR

- Geared towards LGBTQ+ communities
- Profiles are sorted by geolocation, users are encouraged to share their precise locations



TAGGED

- Allows users to share photos, post videos, and form groups
- No age verification required to join app



ROBLOX

- Users play a variety of games and chat with others
- Be aware of in app purchases (Robux), "condo games", and individual chat features



ASK FM -anonymous app/website

- Users can post or ask anonymous questions to other profiles
- Frequently used to share rude, harassing, and even sexualized comments



SPOTAFRIEND/MYLOL

- Teen dating app that targets users ages 15-19
- Users "swipe" through profiles to find people to chat with and meet up with



CHAT AND DATE

- Users upload pictures of themselves to be evaluated and rated by others
- Potential for cyberbullying and inappropriate feedback



BEREAL -photo sharing app

- Users post one photo a day of what they are doing
- When enabled, the app shares the exact location the picture was taken



OMEGLE -anonymous video chatting app/website

- Slogan is "talk to strangers"
- Randomly pairs users with other users to video chat



MEETME

- Users are encouraged to connect with and meet with other people in the same area
- App allows for direct messaging and live streaming



SEEKING ARRANGEMENT

- Encourages younger users to seek out older individuals for financial assistance
- Enables engagement in prostitution and other sexual acts for payment



VAULT APPS -apps used to hide messages, photos, videos, browser history, etc.



WHISPER -anonymous social posting app

- Randomly assigned usernames allow users to post anonymous content
- Geolocation services pinpoint where users are



SKOUT

- Users are matched by similarities in locations or personal preferences
- Provides opportunities to chat, share pictures, and send virtual gifts



SUGAR DADDY MEET

- Older users seek out companionships with younger users
- Younger users are asked to chat or share sexually explicit photos in return for financial compensation