

## What is content filtering?

Content filtering is about filtering content that can be accessed by a user browsing the web. By using a program (application), users and parents in particular, can limit their children's access to websites with inappropriate content for minors such as pornographic content, violence, weapons, gambling, auctioning, adult dating platforms, racism and others. These programs (apps) can also be used to restrict access to dangerous websites, files, or applications that are intended to intercept personal data or infect the user's device. In particular, content filtering tools protect users' devices from unwanted programs that can run without their permission, on their computer or other device, and are usually connected to the Internet (mobile, tablet). These programs have access to and can maliciously modify user files or access sensitive personal data such as credit card codes, personal account codes, private photos and videos.



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**CONTENT  
FILTERING  
PROTECT  
YOUR PERSONAL  
DATA AND FILES  
USEFUL  
GUIDE**



## Where can the user find the available tools?

The user can find tools (applications) for content filtering on the Internet, on application platforms, e.g. Play Store, AppStore, looking for the right keywords such as content filtering, antispam, porn blocker, kids safe browser, parental controls, web filter, and more. More specialized programs with content filtering capabilities also provide protection against malware, e.g. Antivirus / anti-malware / antispyware software. A number of internet service providers in Cyprus provide free applications to their customers or even specialized content filtering services for this purpose. Each user should choose the content filtering tool, according to his needs and purpose of use, for example, protection against malware, protection against inappropriate content, etc. Users should also pay special attention to the reviews of other users who have already used this tool.

Although there are various charges for content filtering tools, there is software available for free, offering only some very basic choices. In these programs the user is only required to pay to make use of additional options or services. Tools, which are offered through subscription charges and are constantly renewed with new features and options, have also been developed.

## Which devices can use the Internet content filtering program?

Content filtering tools can be used on personal computers, tablets and mobile phones. They are also available as a server edition that allows both centralized installation and individual installation for each device within a network.

## Capabilities and Limitations of Content Filtering Tools

There are licensed tools available that are centrally installed and include various device / user options for terminals on the same network. In addition, some electronic communication providers in Cyprus have filtering tools installed in their network to protect their customers, in addition to individual measures. Interested customers can contact their service provider for more information.

The content filtering tool enables the administrator to monitor the web pages visited and offers various features such as historical data, always in full compliance with the requirements and provisions of the relevant privacy legislation.

The tool can be configured to perform controls undetected and is perceived by the user only when attempting to access a web site that is not allowed to access or if suspicious content is detected.

In most tools, the software can be turned off by the device manager for a certain amount of time, and, it will then automatically return to an activated form.

More specialized content filtering tools enable the users to create their own list of prohibited application or web pages, to inactivate specific applications on the device, (e.g. browsing, social networks, remote access to the tool, tracking usage statistics) as long as the users have the administration rights and privileges of the device.

