


Below are posts from a Facebook group of caregivers concerned about technology.

Post:



January 19 · 🌐

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Is there a way to block content on the App Store?

Background:
we allow downloading apps, but block access to deleting apps via parental controls on screen time. That way, a sense of autonomy is given to download apps, but we can monitor whatever is on the phone because he won't have the ability to delete the apps. If I delete an app that I don't like that he has downloaded, and he then goes and re downloads it, I will know because he won't be able to delete it again, and it will be on the phone, if that makes sense.

In allowing this autonomy though, I have noticed that the App Store is a cesspool of inappropriate content.


I have set up parental controls via screen time for apps to be 9+, but if you go into the App Store and search words like "porn" or "sex" or any word related to those things, crazy content comes up even when the apps are set to 9+.

Is there another way to block this kind of content from popping up in the search bar?

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16 comments

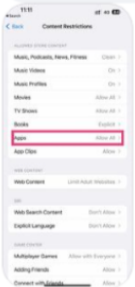
Comments:




Experienced parent

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Change Apps under Content and Privacy Restrictions to the appropriate age. That will reflect in the App Store.



Like Reply 6w




Author

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I did this. I set it to 9+ and am still seeing extremely questionable content.

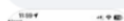
Like Reply 6w

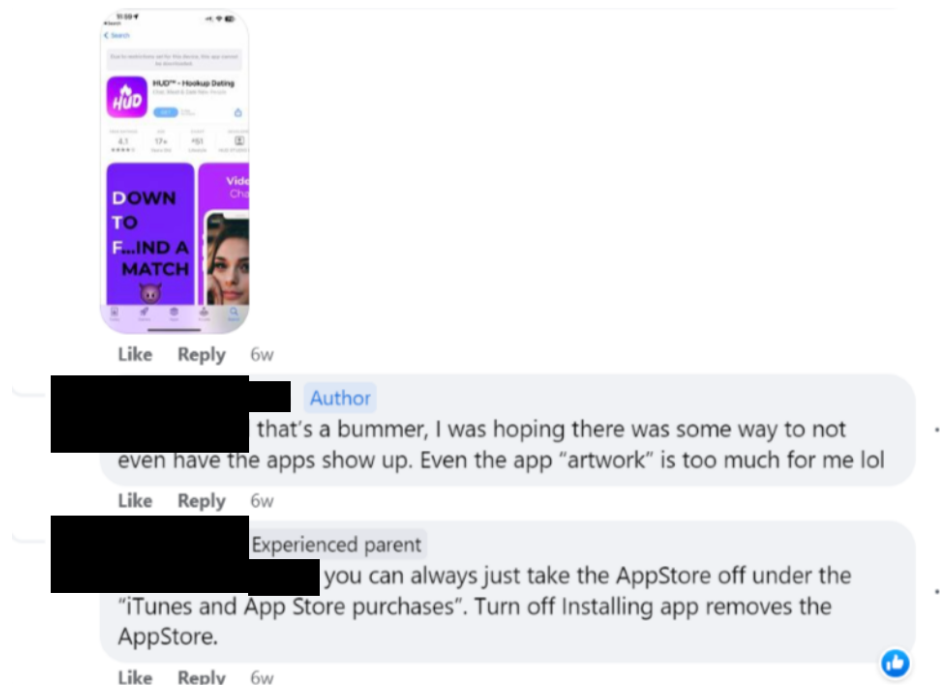


Experienced parent

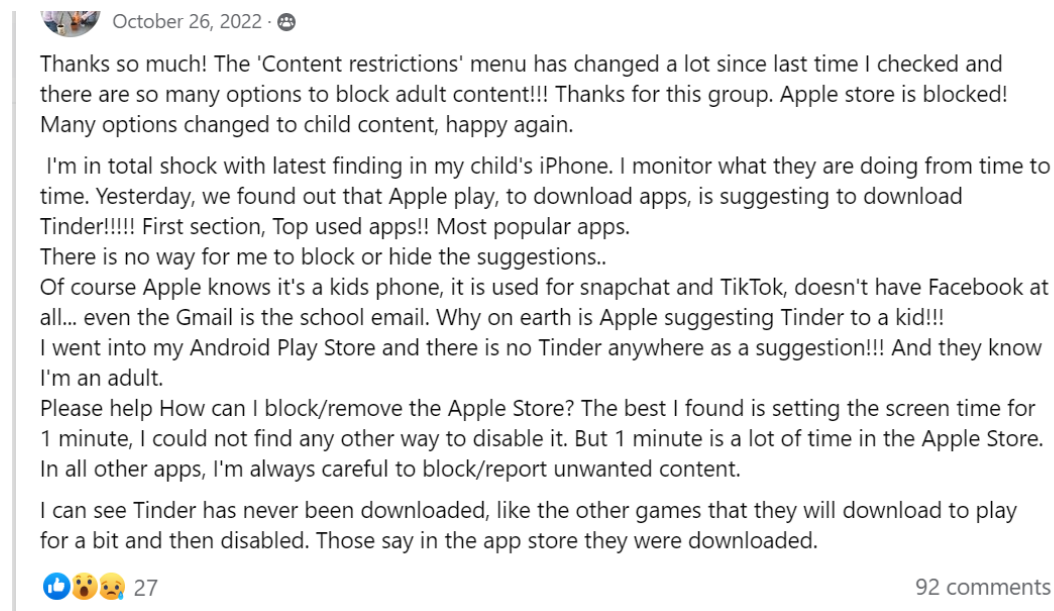
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the apps will still show but you will get a message like this:

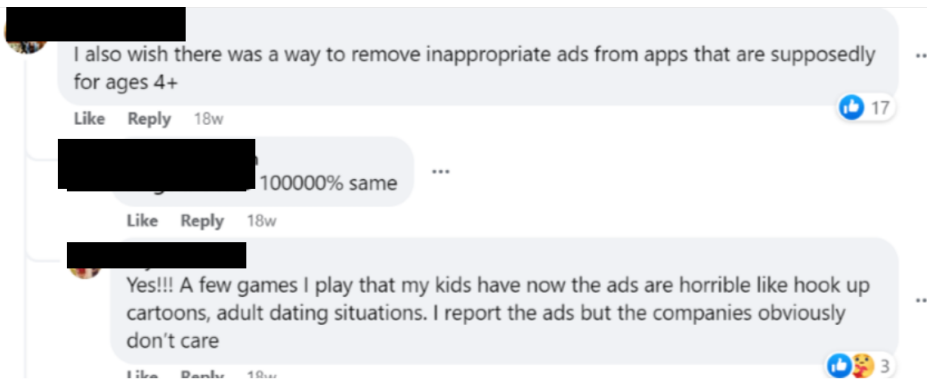




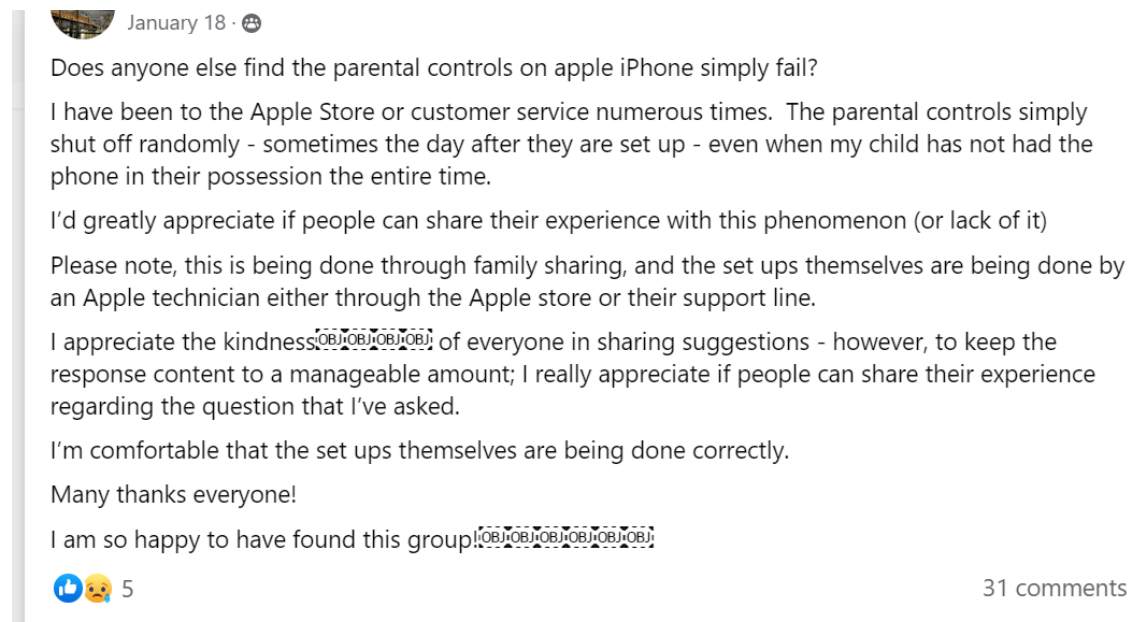
Post:



Comments:



Post:



Comments:



Post:



Yesterday at 11:59 AM · 🌐

I am physically, mentally and emotionally exhausted from dealing with tech and my 12-year old daughter.

I'm on week 2.5 of parental patrolling with Bark and I'm just exhausted by what this incredibly wonderful app has brought to light. It prevented a cybersex incident 2ish weeks ago because I was able to intervene in time.

Luckily, I'm self-employed so I've been able to neglect my work for the most part over the last two and a half weeks, but I can't continue like this.

How are other parents supposed to do this when they aren't self-employed and can't ignore their work for two and a half weeks to focus solely on setting up and managing controls for their children's phones and devices? This is truly insane and ridiculous. How have we let all of this get to where it is and be SO bad that it takes days of our lives to try to put it into SAFE order?

What am I doing wrong? I don't want to be a parent anymore. I don't know how to do this.

I'm about ready to walk to Washington, DC to beg and plead for regulation on technology for children under the age of 18. This is insane.



979

624 comments

Comments:



I'm usually opposed to censorship but I'm **100** with you about this. I have thought about it so much in the last year. My oldest is almost 14 now and, like you, the process of safeguarding tech for her was absolutely traumatizing. Like I need therapy to keep it up for my two others.

I have a lot of ideas about what changes this legislation might implement, like-

- Age-restricted advertising
- Chat opt-in for each app with parental controls instead of opt-out
- Age rating apps for content and safety vs info sharing, etc)
- No GPS tracking for apps targeted to users under 18

I am super passionate about this. 🙏 Unfortunately I live in a state where my house representatives aren't interested.

Who lives in a more progressive place than Nebraska?

Like Reply 1d Edited



14



N [redacted] well, and I sort of think apps should be specially regulated because lots of them are they're advertised and targeted specifically at children, like Roblox. Like I get that it's user generated content, but Roblox is perfectly capable of assigning a rating to each game before it goes live, and that could allow users to block games with explicit content. They just don't.

But that's because our kids are where the \$\$\$ is and they won't change unless we make them.



...
yep! The ratings are pretty much a joke anyway. An app can be rated for a younger audience but inappropriate ads will still pop up in the users face. How does that work and who regulates this? It has moved way too fast for the right protections to be put in place in order to protect our children. It needs to change!

Like Reply 1d Edited



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That's because the current rating system isn't rating the content. It's rating how they collect and share user data. The US currently has no internet safety ratings at all.

There were some attempts to block porn completely 😞 but there have been zero attempts to create a rating system for app users.

Like Reply 1d



I also want to say that Snapchat would likely be assigned an adult rating, which will move our children away from Snapchat and into other chat programs we can more easily moderate. This will reduce so much of the stuff we're trying to prevent- teen drug use, bullying, grooming, sexting. Just putting all this stuff into the daylight will help them so much. It seems like common sense to me.

Like Reply 1d

