

## ASK THE COMPUTER SURGEON

### Protecting kids from the dangers of the internet

**Marjorie from Akron asks** "I'm concerned about protecting my young son from the dangers of the internet. Are there parental controls or any type of software I can purchase to keep my son from seeing something he shouldn't or going somewhere he shouldn't?"

**Barbara from Wadsworth asks** "I know you have addressed this before but I have forgotten what to do for a SLOW computer. Mine seems to be taking forever to open programs and move from one thing to another." Also, numerous people are asking about the "new" spam they are receiving that is getting past their filters. What is going on?

**Answers:** Thank you for the questions. Many kind readers have been asking why I have not been writing. Questions have stopped. Then some will say, "I do not know what to ask." I am never sure how to answer that comment... if you want me to discuss certain subjects in general, that will be fine with me.

On to Marjorie's question, protecting your young son is very important. If your son is 2 to 7, he can be stopped by disconnecting the Internet from the computer when he is using it. Otherwise, you need to consider more complex solutions.

Microsoft Vista has protection built into it. Many reviews state that it is working well. Internet Explorer in Windows XP has controls but they are somewhat difficult to set and can be pretty easy to defeat.

The best software I have worked with at this point is CyberSitter. It is fairly simple to install and configure.

There is a fairly new line of defense available on-line. Services are available which will actively control web surfing. Contact me for a complete listing of the service I know about. The one that I am personally familiar with is [www.safeeyes.com](http://www.safeeyes.com). Another three that are rated well are [www.hedgebuilders.com](http://www.hedgebuilders.com) and [www.americanhomeschoolers.com](http://www.americanhomeschoolers.com) and [www.angelsafenet.com](http://www.angelsafenet.com).

Nice to hear from you again Barbara! Your question is one we hear frequently. Most of the time, we find Viruses or Spyware to be the problem. Sometimes we discover that the computer is a Zombie and being used remotely by Internet criminals. It is possible that you have loaded a piece of software which changed configuration settings to cause speed issues. It is possible that a piece of hardware is going bad and causing speed problems.

In any of these cases, please have a competent professional look at your computer. I have posted a recently released memo from the FBI on our web site. It is an article about a particular kind of Virus / Spyware called a keylogger. This document is classified but I have written permission from the FBI to post this for you.

Finally, spam has been a problem for years now, but the spam today is not the same as yesterday's spam.

Over the last few years, though, spammers have become much more sophisticated. Next week I will dive into this important subject.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions? Please contact us at [questions@compusurgeon.com](mailto:questions@compusurgeon.com).