COP : Child online protection, guidelines

<u>Implementing parental controls on Wi-Fi routers at home</u> involves configuring the router settings to filter and control internet access. The process may vary based on your router's brand and model, but here's a general step-by-step guide:

Step 1: Access Router Settings

Connect to your router's network either through Ethernet or Wi-Fi.

Open a web browser and enter the router's IP address (usually 192.168.1.1 or 192.168.0.1) in the address bar.

Enter your router's admin username and password. If you haven't changed these, check the router's manual or the bottom of the device for default credentials.

Step 2: Locate Parental Control Settings

Parental control settings might be labeled as "Access Controls," "Content Filtering," or similar. Look for a section that allows you to manage user access and restrictions.

Step 3: Set Up Device Profiles

Create profiles for each family member or device that will connect to the network.

Assign a unique name or label to each profile.

Step 4: Configure Content Filtering

Enable content filtering or website blocking.

Add specific websites or categories that you want to block. This can include adult content, social media, gaming sites, etc.

Some routers might allow you to enable a pre-set filtering level based on age groups.

Step 5: Schedule Access Times

Set up time limits for internet usage by specifying when devices can access the internet.

Define time periods when the internet is accessible and when it's blocked. For instance, you might want to restrict access during study hours or bedtime.

Step 6: Apply Restrictions

Apply the content filtering and scheduling settings to the user profiles you've created.

Step 7: Save and Apply Changes

After configuring the settings, save the changes and apply them to the router.

Step 8: Test the Settings

Connect devices to the Wi-Fi network using the profiles you've set up to see if the restrictions and filters are working as intended.

Step 9: Regularly Monitor and Adjust

Periodically review and update the settings as needed based on your family's changing needs and online behaviors.

Step 10: Educate Your Family

Inform your family members, especially children, about the new restrictions and the reasons behind them.

Encourage open communication and address any questions or concerns they might have.

Remember that while router-based parental controls are effective, tech-savvy children might find ways to bypass them. This makes ongoing communication with your children about responsible internet use essential. Additionally, make sure to consult your router's manual or manufacturer's website for specific instructions related to your router model.

Implementing parental controls at the operating system (OS) level involves using built-in tools and settings to manage and restrict content, applications, and device usage. Here's a guide on how to set up parental controls at the OS level on different platforms:

Windows:

Step 1: Set Up a Child Account:

Go to Settings > Accounts > Family & other users.

Click on "Add a family member" and select "Add a child."

Follow the prompts to create a Microsoft account for your child.

Step 2: Configure Parental Controls:

Go to Settings > Accounts > Family & other users.

Click on your child's account and then "Manage family settings online."

Adjust settings for screen time, app and game restrictions, content filters, and more.

macOS:

Step 1: Set Up a Managed User Account:

Go to Apple menu > System Preferences > Users & Groups.

Click the lock icon and enter your admin password.

Click the "+" button to add a new user, select "Managed with Parental Controls," and follow the prompts.

Step 2: Configure Parental Controls:

Go to Apple menu > System Preferences > Parental Controls.

Select the managed user account and adjust settings for app limits, web access, content filters, and time limits.

iOS (iPhone/iPad):

Step 1: Set Up Family Sharing:

Go to Settings > [Your Name] > Family Sharing > Add Family Member.

Follow the prompts to invite your child to join the family group.

Step 2: Configure Parental Controls:

Go to Settings > [Your Name] > Family Sharing > [Child's Name].

Enable "Ask to Buy" for app and media purchases.

Set up Screen Time to manage app usage, device usage, and content filters.

Android:

Step 1: Set Up a Google Account for Your Child:

Open Google Play Store and tap Menu > Account > Family > Sign up for Family Library.

Follow the prompts to create a Google Account for your child.

Step 2: Configure Parental Controls:

Go to Play Store > Menu > Family > [Child's Account].

Set up content filters, app approvals, and device usage time limits using Google Family Link.

Step 3: Additional App-Based Controls:

Many third-party parental control apps are available on Android that offer more advanced features for managing app usage, website filtering, and tracking location.

Remember that each OS and device might have slightly different steps, but the general process involves setting up user accounts for children and then using parental control settings to manage their access and usage. Regularly review and adjust these settings as your children's needs change.