

Windows Vista Parental Controls Overview

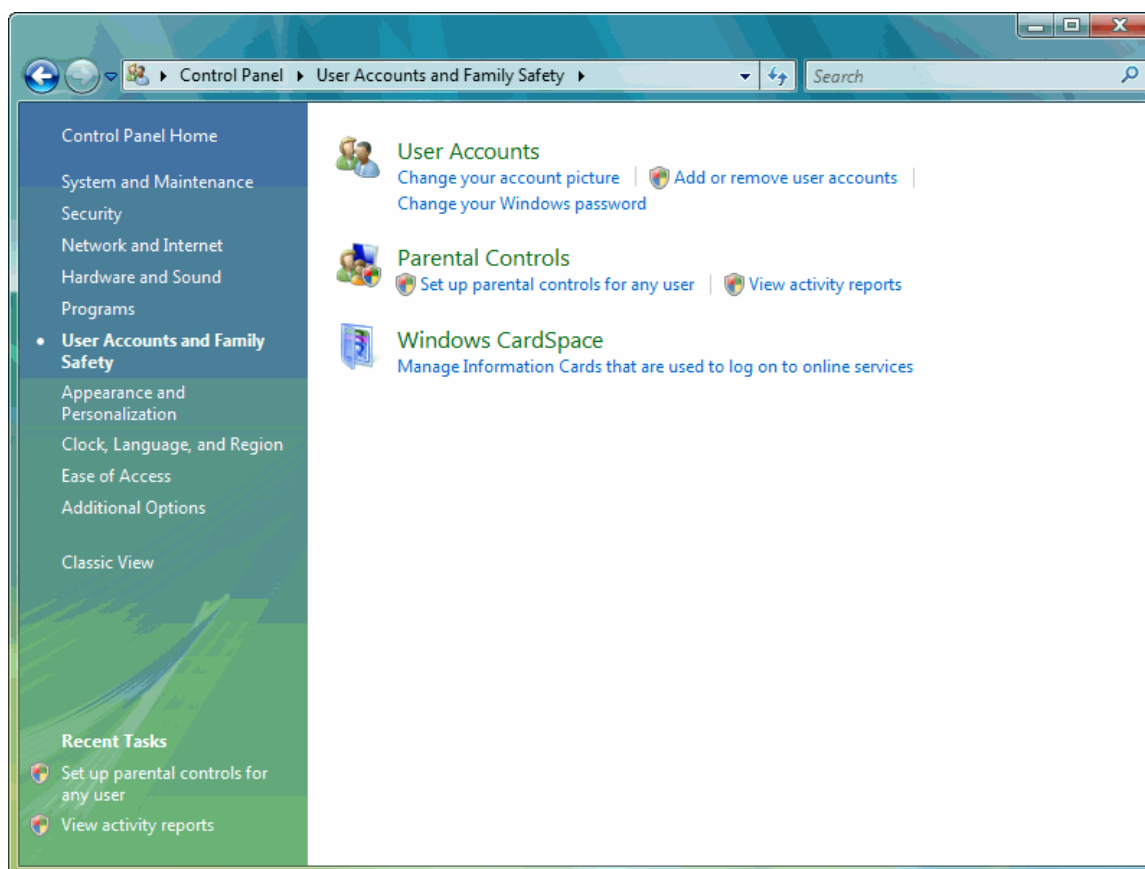
Audience: Home users of Windows Vista looking to implement Parental Controls

Environment: Windows Vista Home Premium or Ultimate

Parental Controls in Windows Vista allows parents to control what websites and programs their children use and when they may use them. This is one of highlight features provided by Windows Vista that is not available in older versions of Windows. This document will give you a brief overview of a typical setup used as a starting point. Review the Vista help pages for more detailed information.

The first step to implement these controls is to setup two or more user accounts on your Windows Vista computer, assigning one Administrative level access for the parents and one or more Standard access for the children. Make sure you assign a good password or these controls can easily be overridden by your kids!

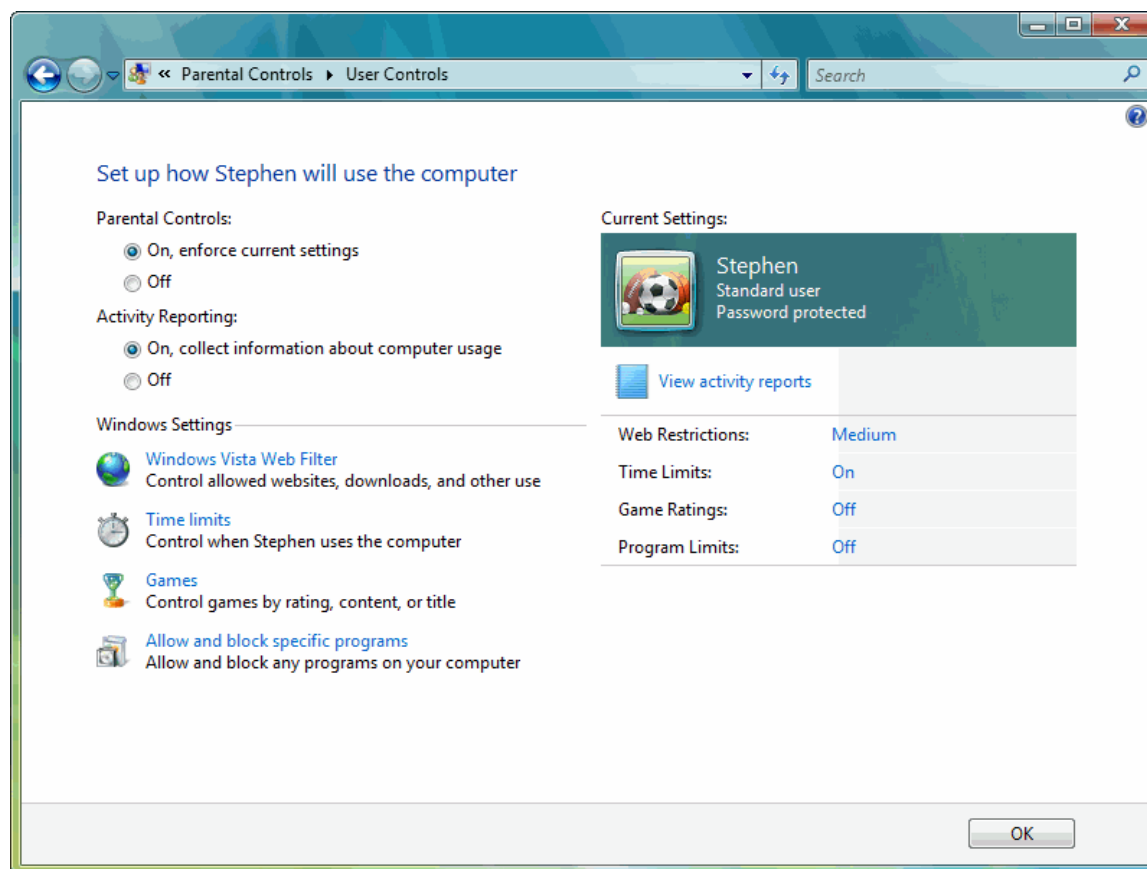
Start in the **Control Panel** (Start, Control Panel) and then select the **User Accounts and Family Safety** section.



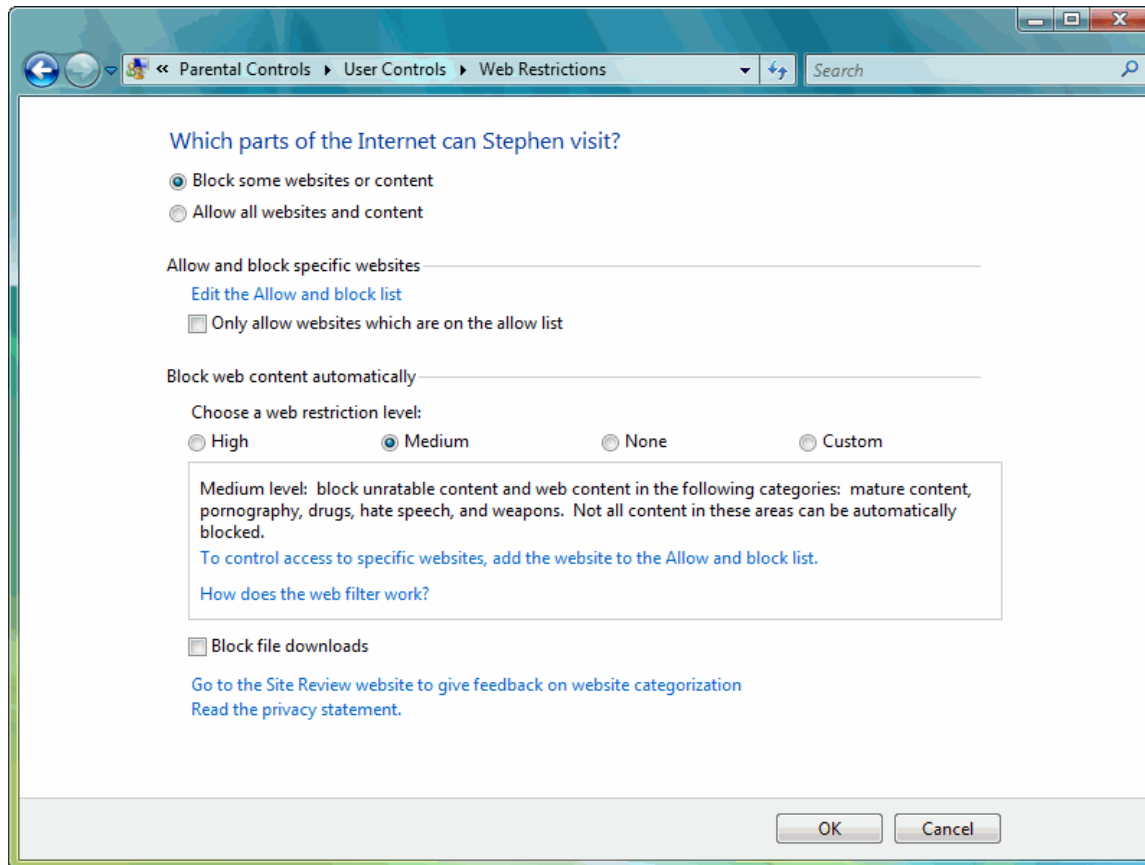
Select the **Parental Controls** options – **Set up parental controls for any user** would allow you to define those controls for each user. **View activity reports** allows you to view the activity of those

accounts that have been controlled. This later option is good to review to see where your kids are going on the internet and to help further restrict website access if necessary.

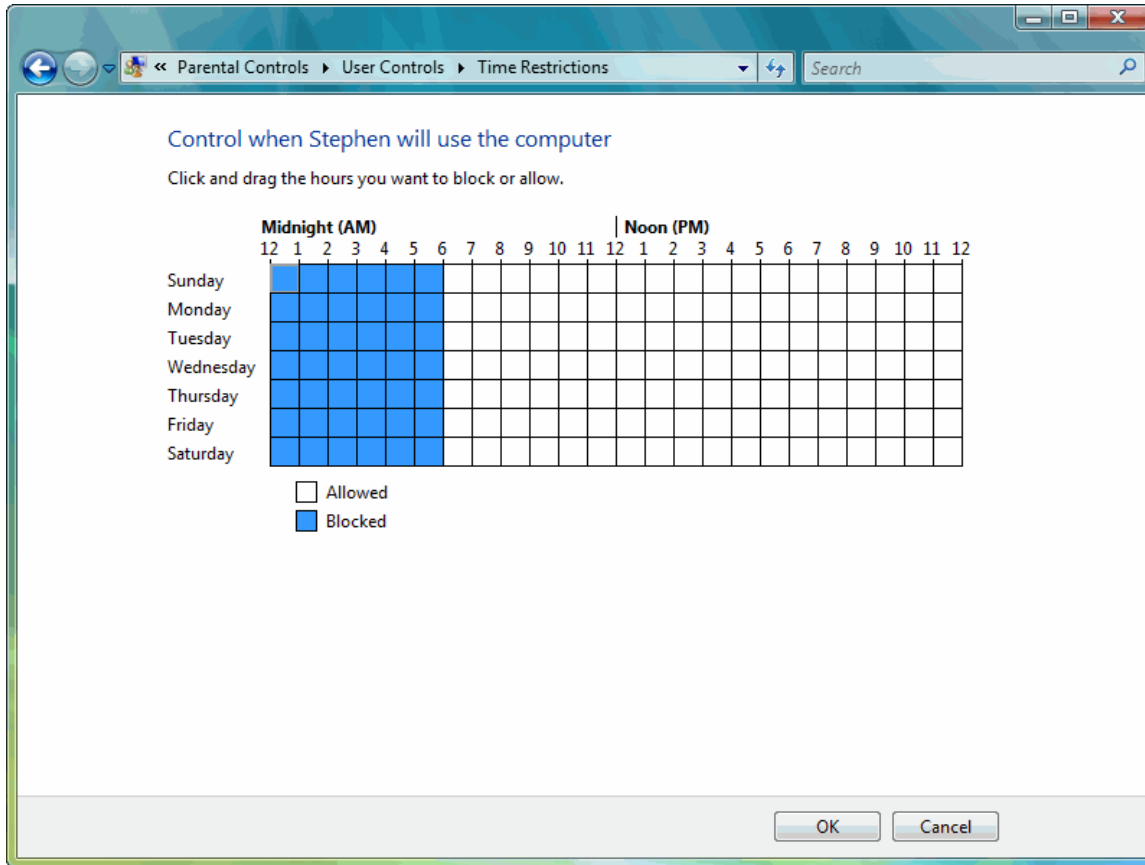
Once you select a user to setup controls for, you will find a list of options. The basic options that should be enabled are **Parental Controls** and **Activity Reporting**. Then you may further define the controls by enabling the **Windows Vista Web Filter** and **Time Limits**. Once you have Games or Applications installed on your computer, you can also restrict use of those programs if you desire.



For **Windows Vista Web Filter** we suggest blocking sites and starting at the **Medium** setting for teenage children. Review the activity reports regularly and further restrict specific websites by using the block list if desired. For very young children, start at the **High** setting.



Time restrictions can be important if you do not wish you children to be using the computer all day long – define the hours allows or blocked by highlighting the boxes on the grid. Here we’ve restricted access from 12:00am to 6:00am in the morning.



The Computer Activity Report should be reviewed periodically so you know how effective the controls have been. Remember, they are not perfect and you may need to block or allow specific websites as needed based on this information.

Also, be on the lookout for lack of activity – this could mean your child knows your account password and is not logging into their own account!

