

# Keep kids' Internet surfing safe

It's no secret, cyberspace can be a dangerous place for kids. The media is full of accounts detailing online predators who prey on kids in chat room. And at last count, there were something like 87,000 XXX-rated adult porn sites on the Net.

There's the news-groups, the alt.dot.sex.bestiality collections of perversion and other cyberspace smut that pander to the worst of the worst.

For many parents, the dilemma has been how to let the kids go online and stay safely.

Now, there's a new web browser just for kids. It's called "Surfin' Annette" and it does an admirable job in preventing curious youngsters from ranging too far afield of the many "kid-safe" sites on the World Wide Web.

"Surfin' Annette" is a fully-functional stand alone browser. That means it can be installed in place of Netscape or Internet Explorer.

It can be customized by adults to block access to Web sites that are deemed to have inappropriate content, be it pornography, bad language or violence. Adults can edit from a supplied list of questionable sites, adding and removing Internet addresses, words or phrases.

The browser itself is pretty fast and comes with some suggested sites like the kid-oriented site operated by the big search engine Yahoo called Yahoo!igans ([www.yahoo!igans.com](http://www.yahoo!igans.com)).

Extensive surfing, though, is limited by design, just to the Web. The browser keeps young surfers from being able to download programs or read Internet newsgroups without their parents permission.

"Surfin' Annette" is a shareware program. That means you can download it free from the net but, after using it for a month, you're asked to pay \$29.

That's a pretty small price to pay for peace of mind. You can get it from the manufacturer at [www.spycatcher.com/download.htm](http://www.spycatcher.com/download.htm), or look for a CD-ROM version in computer stores.

Let me share some other Net finds I've stumbled across this week.

SecureTax ([www.securetax.com](http://www.securetax.com)) - If you've put off doing your taxes, you're about out of time. April 15 is almost here. This site on the Net lets you do your taxes online.

The screenshot shows the SecureTax website with a navigation bar at the top. Below the bar, there are several sections: 'Look into the future with SecureTax', 'Web over 900 IRS Forms and Schedules', 'How easy can you get your refund? Click Here', and 'Select from one of the following choices and press Next'. There are also buttons for 'New User', 'Existing User', and 'Forgot Your Password?'. At the bottom, there is a 'TAX RETURN TYPE' section with options for '1041', '1042', '1043', '1044', '1045', '1046', '1047', '1048', '1049', '1050', '1051', '1052', '1053', '1054', '1055', '1056', '1057', '1058', '1059', '1060', '1061', '1062', '1063', '1064', '1065', '1066', '1067', '1068', '1069', '1070', '1071', '1072', '1073', '1074', '1075', '1076', '1077', '1078', '1079', '1080', '1081', '1082', '1083', '1084', '1085', '1086', '1087', '1088', '1089', '1090', '1091', '1092', '1093', '1094', '1095', '1096', '1097', '1098', '1099', '1100', '1101', '1102', '1103', '1104', '1105', '1106', '1107', '1108', '1109', '1110', '1111', '1112', '1113', '1114', '1115', '1116', '1117', '1118', '1119', '1120', '1121', '1122', '1123', '1124', '1125', '1126', '1127', '1128', '1129', '1130', '1131', '1132', '1133', '1134', '1135', '1136', '1137', '1138', '1139', '1140', '1141', '1142', '1143', '1144', '1145', '1146', '1147', '1148', '1149', '1150', '1151', '1152', '1153', '1154', '1155', '1156', 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