

Internet Safety

Checking Browsing History

While there is software available that will allow you to track your child's use of the internet through their web searches and apps usage, these need to be downloaded onto their mobile devices and they come at a cost.

It is important that our children understand that we are not invading their space but instead ensuring their safety.

One quick and easy way to see what websites your child has been visiting is to look at the Browsing History. There are shortcuts built into all the browsers that are simple to access.

Google Chrome: Press Ctrl + H to view browsing history. Scroll down to view entries, or look for a specific website in Search history box at the top.

Firefox: Press Ctrl + H and the browsing history appears on the left. Enter a website in the Search history bar. Or click the drop-down arrow next to 'View' to search by date, most visited, last visited and more.

Internet Explorer: Press Ctrl + H. Click the drop down box to search by date, site, most visited and visited today.

Microsoft Edge: Press Ctrl + H. Click the dates to expand the web history

One indication that there maybe an issue is if your child is regularly clearing their browsing history or none appears at all. This maybe because they have set their browser to not record their surfing behaviour (by searching in a non-record-keeping "private window" in Firefox and Safari, AKA an "incognito window" as it's known in Chrome, or in an "inPrivate" window in Internet Explorer).

Clearing History

There can be valid reasons for wanting to clear browsing history periodically, especially the cache to

- prevents you from using old forms
- protects personal information
- helps applications run better on your computer

When you visit a website, the browser stores:

- information (such as the location of the site you visited)
- files used to run an online application
- downloads (such as old versions of forms)

When you update an application, your browser may still use old files. If you don't clear your cache, you may see old forms or sites.

The **BT How To Guides** explain how to clean up your browsing history.

Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox

<https://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/internet/browsers/how-to-view-delete-web-history-11363940473012>

Window 10's Edge

<http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/internet/how-to-check-and-delete-your-web-browser-history-in-windows-10s-edge-11363996318373>

The Apple support links provided details for apple devices

Mac

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/guide/safari/sfri47acf5d6/mac>

iPhone, iPad or iPod touch

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201265>