iOS 18.1 to be released next week - Welcome Apple Intelligence

As AI makes large strides forward, it will become a natural part of our life. It is inevitable, and in a lot of cased it will make life faster and easier.

One of the first large strides to your daily life is Apple Intelligence, which will come with the iOS 18.1 update coming in the next week in the UK.

It will replace Siri, although you will still call it Siri, it will have a much larger and wider "engine" of learning where it will track so much more and make it's own decisions to set alarms for you, remind you of events, allow you to reply to messages without opening your phone, send location information without opening the phone and what you can ask Apple Intelligence to do is almost unlimited.

What's Coming Next?

Private Education Awards 2024

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WINNERS

C**all Of Duty Black Ops 6 will be released on 25th October 2024** here in the UK, but with a twist.

For the very first time, Xbox Game Pass users will be able to download and play the game for FREE. This has always been a paid for game in the past. But they're transitioning into paying for "seasonal battle passes" similar to Fortnite and Warzone.

The issue with this for those with kids is it's now downloadable without buying. If you don't have parental controls setup to approve these downloads, they can now play an 18+ game, without you knowing.
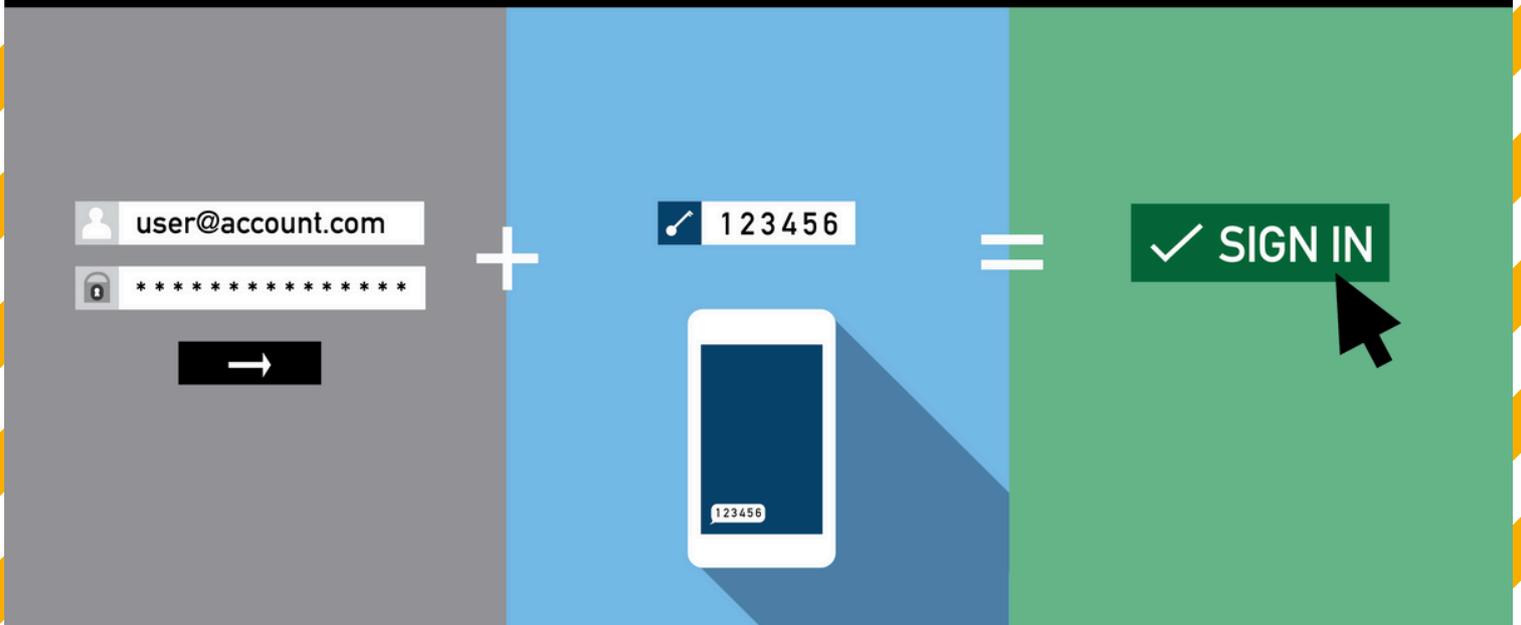

Fortnite has been struggling for users for the last 6 months, but a new announcement of a new chapter on **2nd December 2024, including OG Chapter 2,** and new links with Marvel / Disney have hyped the game up again. Expect many more kids to come back to Fortnite, as **YouTubers begin to play the game again and generate a large amount of interest.**

Squid Games Season 2, after several delays has finally been announced as **being released on 26th December 2024**, on Netflix. Once the season is released, we can expect to see new games, new themes and a lot of interest generated again through games like **Roblox, playground games, talk in the classroom. This series is full of gore, and would be considered inappropriate for most children under 15.** (Age Rating TBC).

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Now, more than ever, it has become extremely important to have Two Factor Authentication activated for your accounts.

- **What is it?** It prompts you when logging in to input a code sent to your device, to complete the sign in process. It takes 10 extra seconds, but it stops anyone logging into your account who is not you from being able to.
- **What places can I use it?** Email accounts, most gaming accounts, most business accounts and all social media account have the ability to have "2FA"
- **How do i do it?** You have to be already logged into the account you went to set it up on and then you need to check through the settings feature and you will find it. If you get stuck, Google or YouTube it to the specific account you're setting it up on and it'll be highlighted in a "how-to".
- **What if I don't use it?** With the rise in hacks in 2024, where major companies have had their (and your) data stolen, your account is the most at risk it ever has been from being hacked. Then we add AI tools into the mix, which is making it easier and faster to find your password, it's becoming a very regular problem.

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Family Link

9:41

< Settings

Family

Jake
Age 7 >

Jesse
Age 11 >

Marisa
Age 15 >

Elizabeth
Adult >

Fact Check things for yourself

Recently we've been made aware of a number of notifications coming from schools, councils and other bodies around concerns for an app, website or in particular large WhatsApp groups.

Whilst sharing information is really important. We've found on 3 of the 4 occasions since September, the information wasn't fact checked and through our own fact checking found to either be completely false, or very misleading.

The intentions are good, but the outcomes are often not what was intended. When we raise awareness of extremely dangerous websites, it often attracts more attention, rather than keeping people away.
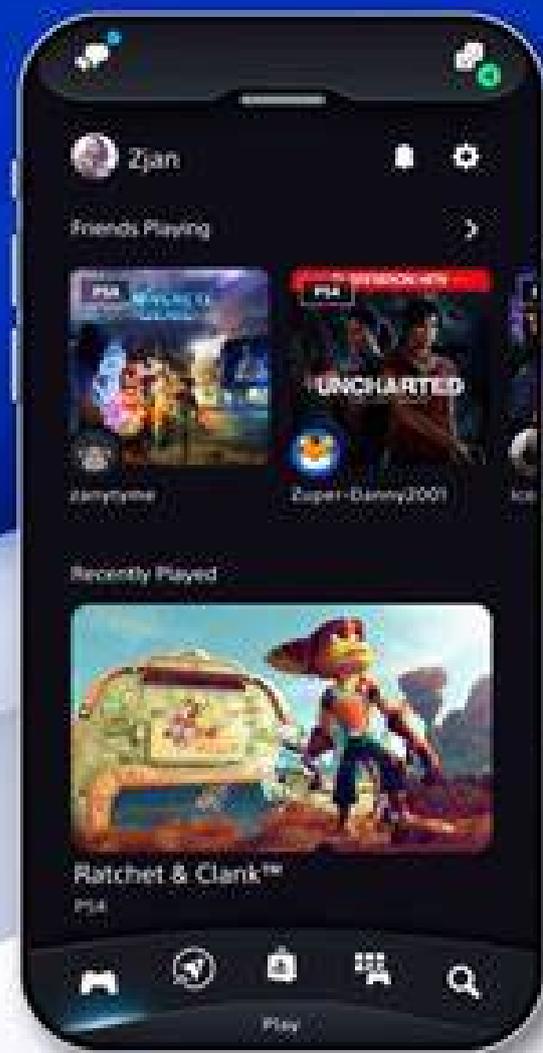
WhatsApp:
There are groups around that have hundreds of people within. We've had instances before of them too. But it was reported recently to have almost 10,000 people in a local WhatsApp group. The limit of a WhatsApp group is 1024 people, it was misleading and generated more interest in the group, rather than a warning away from it.
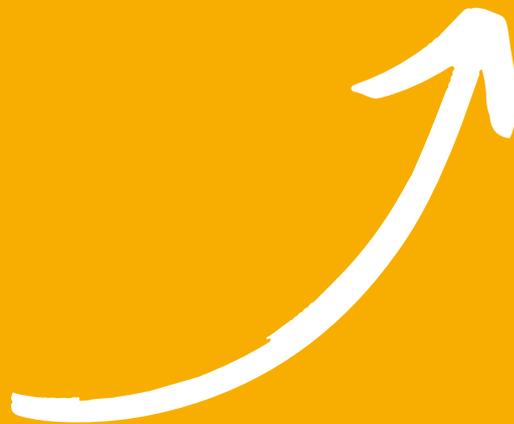
Websites:
When raising awareness about a dangerous / extreme / radical website, if it's named, it's found to often then be searched by parents. A very extreme, radical website was given in a message to some parents at the beginning of October. Anyone accessing this website would be subjected to traumatic videos immediately and this is something we want to avoid when the view count prior on the website was less from 400 globally per day, it then spikes to more than 15,000 per day for around a week before dropping again due to this announcement.

Parental Resources for FREE
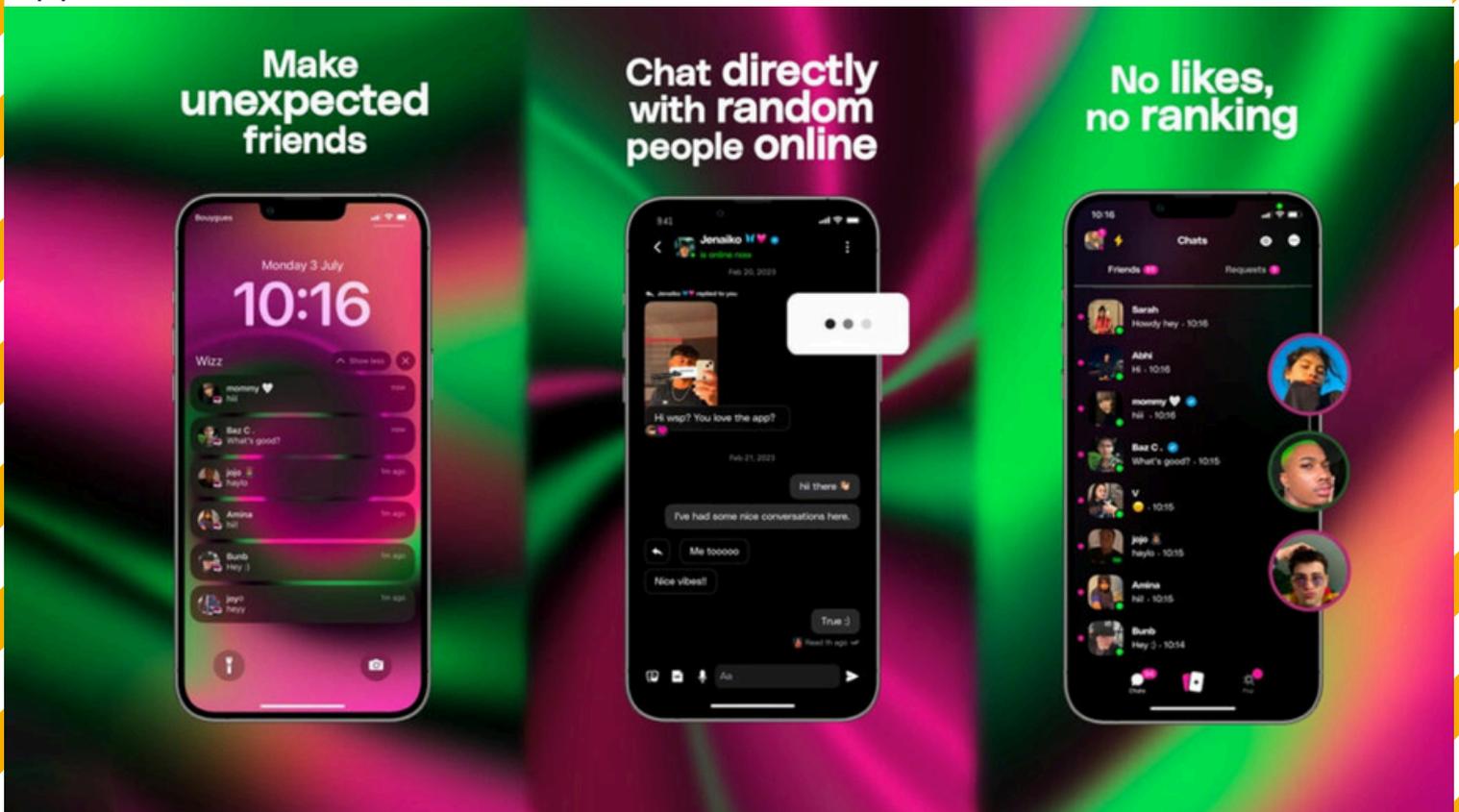
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Tap here for 100's of free parental resources

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The Wizz Chat App has been growing in popularity over the summer. It's a chat app, that connects you with "matches" of the type of person you'd like to be friends with. In our opinion, it is used more as a dating app with random strangers with very similar features to Tinder, Hinge, Bumble and other dating apps.
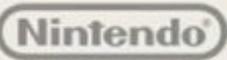

What is it & why is it popular

In the world that we live in now, children and teens find it often much easier to make friends through means online. This could be through gaming, Snapchat, Whatsapp and others.

The emergence of this app is cause for concern. With no identity verification, it can be misused by people and people pretend to be someone they aren't.

We've had increasing amount of talks with Years 6 / 7 / 8's around this app, who find it engaging, funny and it's a little risk taking which some find appealing.

Our recommendation would be to not allow this app, at all. The risks are greater than other apps.

Nintendo

NINTENDO SWITCH™
Parental Controls

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Switch #1

MARIOKART DELUXE

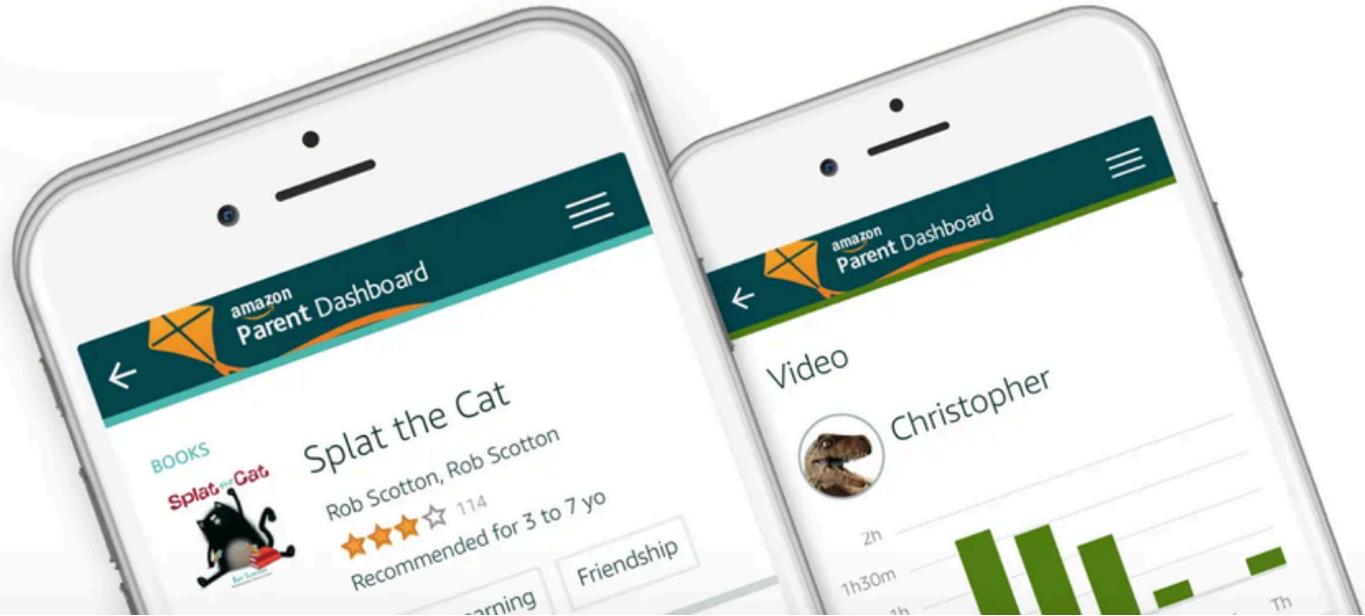| Su | 30 hr min |
| Sa | 1 hr 15 min |
| Fr | 0 hr 50 min |

amazon
Parent Dashboard

Discover & Connect

Amazon Parent Dashboard lets parents discover the books, videos, educational apps, and games their kids enjoy. Discussion Cards help parents start conversations and make connections with kids about these titles.

Get Started

amazon Parent Dashboard

BOOKS

Splat the Cat
Rob Scotton, Rob Scotton
★★★☆☆ 114
Recommended for 3 to 7 yo

Friendship

amazon Parent Dashboard

Video

Christopher

2h
1h30m

Roblox Age Rating Rise

Age Rating Rise & User Demographics Changes

Roblox player count is very high, 100's of thousands of regular players. But the age of the users is increasing, as players remain with the game for a number of years. There is now 52% of users that class themselves as 18 or over. This used to be a kids game, but this has changed as the years have gone on.

Games within Roblox are becoming more graphic.
There are a lot more jump scare games within Roblox than ever before, there are stricter measures in place around users talking to other users but this doesn't stop how the game they're playing could effect the child. Keep tabs on the games they're playing and how it's making them feel.

Age Rating 12
Roblox was recently moved to an Age Rating of 12, with games within Roblox handed an age rating of 18+ by the game themselves.

A lot of this is because the games are user generated, the players make the games.

The user base is now quite a bit older on the game, resulting in game types that are intended for an older audience.

Life360 is a US Parental Controls app that is growing in popularity in the UK.

It allows you to setup "circles" of locations where you usually go to. For example, School, Home, Grandparents or Friends home locations.

It then notifies you when the enter and exit those locations, shares with you their battery life and allows you to notify them directly through the app for a number of reasons.

There is a paid for version of the app, which allows you as a family to develop a more complex family centre. This includes Driving alerts, for example being stuck in traffic, having an accident. It also gives to ability to hit as SOS button which automatically calls the parent and alerts all parents the child needs you immediately, pinging their exact location.