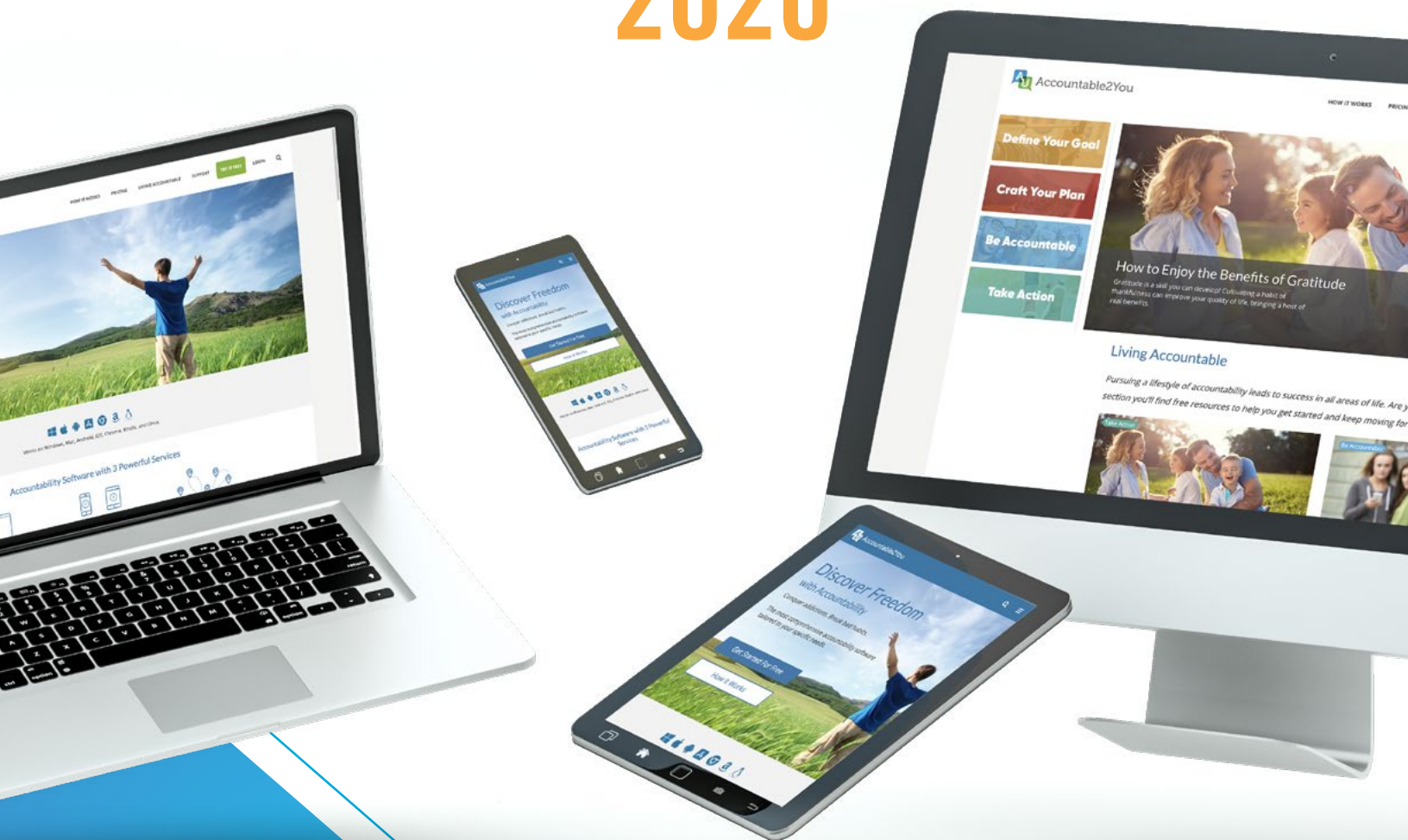


THE Best Devices FOR Accountability 2020



A Buyer's Guide from
Accountable2You

Getting Started

Are you looking to buy a new device? This guide will walk you through the best (and worst) devices for keeping you and your family accountable in 2020.

All devices are not created equal when it comes to staying accountable. Some provide excellent “out of the box” accountability features in one area (such as tracking screen time) while neglecting other aspects (like internet and app monitoring). Some devices offer very few options for accountability at all. It can be a lot to sort through!

That’s why the Accountable2You research team created this guide to help you make informed decisions about your tech purchases.

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Choosing the Right Device

When considering the purchase of a new device, only you know your needs and wants. The purpose of this guide is not to make a decision for you, but to make sure you are well informed.

Why Be Accountable?

Being alone on a phone or computer can easily lead to poor choices. Pornography, excessive social media, cyberbullying, gambling, phone addiction, anxiety, and depression—the list goes on.

How Accountability Software Can Help

[Accountable2You](#) sends detailed reports (and instant alerts) of your device activity to your chosen accountability partner, helping you make better decisions. This simple but powerful software has helped thousands of people escape the trap of isolation to find freedom, hope, and peace!



Accountability Score Sheet

See the table below for a side-by-side comparison of all device types. The ratings and overall score are a summary of the more detailed breakdown available later in this guide.

- 5** = Comprehensive
- 4** = Effective
- 3** = Adequate
- 2** = Limited
- 1** = Ineffective
- 0** = Unavailable
- = Not Applicable

"Out of the Box" Features

With Accountable2You

		Parental Controls	Screen Time	Internet Monitoring	App Monitoring	Location Tracking	Text/Call Monitoring	OVERALL SCORE	Parental Controls	Screen Time	Internet Monitoring	App Monitoring	Location Tracking	Text/Call Monitoring	OVERALL SCORE
Computers	Mac OS Catalina	5	4	2	0	—	—	55	5	5	5	4	—	—	95
	Windows 10	4	4	3	0	—	—	55	4	5	5	4	—	—	90
	Chromebook	4	4	4	0	—	—	60	0	4	5	2	—	—	55*
Phones & Tablets	Android 7+	4	4	0	0	3	0	37	4	5	5	5	4	4	90
	iOS 13+ (iPhone /iPad)	5	4	2	0	2	0	43	5	5	4	2	3	0	63
eReaders	Kindle Fire	4	4	3	3	0	—	56	4	5	5	5	0	—	76
	Nook	3	0	0	0	0	—	12							
	Kobo	0	0	0	—	0	—	0							
Gaming Systems	Xbox One	4	4	3	0	—	—	55							
	PlayStation 4	3	0	0	0	—	—	15							
Smart TVs	Roku TV	3	0	0	0	—	—	15							
	Philips TV	3	0	0	0	—	—	15							
	Samsung TV	3	0	0	0	—	—	15							

* Chromebook with Accountable2You provides comprehensive internet accountability with instant alerts, and some app monitoring as well. Unfortunately, Google's parental controls cannot be enabled at the same time, resulting in a lower overall score.

How to Read the Score Sheet

With or Without Accountability Software

The accountability score sheet is divided into two sections (left and right) for comparison.



1. “Out of the Box” Features

This section shows ratings and overall scores for devices with only the basic, integrated apps or services (no additional accountability software). This includes preinstalled apps such as Apple’s “Screen Time” as well as integrated services like Google’s “Family Link” for Android and Chromebook.

2. With Accountable2You Installed

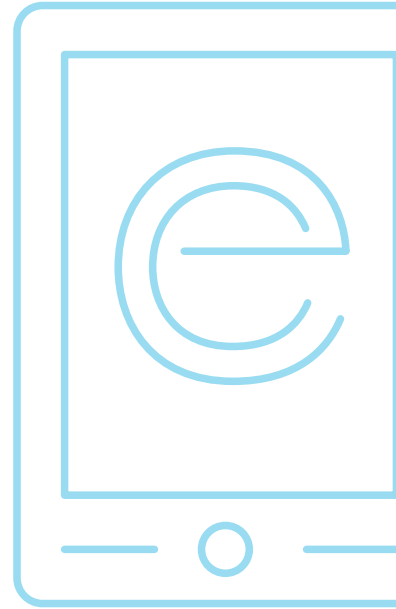
This section shows ratings and overall scores for devices that have the Accountable2You software installed and correctly set up. These scores are generally at least equal to those found in the first section because the features of Accountable2You are additive to any “out of the box” features.

💡 Some devices, such as TVs and gaming systems, have no ratings and overall score listed in the second section because they are not currently compatible with Accountable2You. But keep checking back as we are always exploring ways to provide better accountability for our users.

Feature Effectiveness Rating (0–5)

Ratings for each feature on a given device were determined by the Accountable2You research team based on analysis and testing. Here is what each number signifies:

- **Not Applicable**
Feature is unnecessary on this device.
- 0 **Unavailable**
Feature is not available on this device.
- 1 **Ineffective**
Feature exists but is severely limited or easily circumvented.
- 2 **Limited**
Feature exists but is minimally useful due to limited functionality or scope.
- 3 **Adequate**
Feature fulfills the basic purpose but is incomplete or can be circumvented.
- 4 **Effective**
Feature works well with a good feature set and is difficult to circumvent.
- 5 **Comprehensive**
Feature is robust, thorough, and difficult or impossible to circumvent.



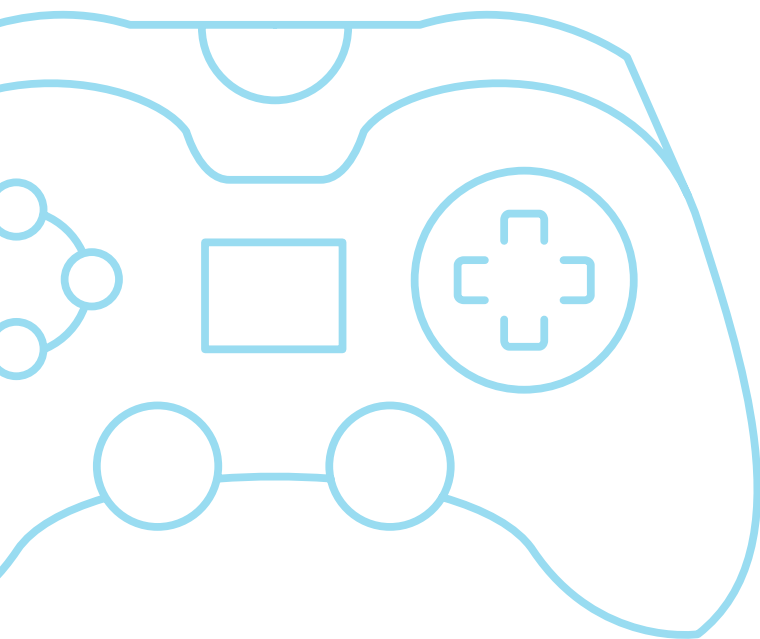


Overall Score (0–100)

Use the overall score to easily compare different devices for purposes of accountability. Overall scores are calculated from 0 to 100 based on the ratings of all accountability features applicable on a device (non-applicable features are not included in this score).

The overall score shows the best possible accountability score for a device when Accountable2You is installed and set up correctly.

💡 Please note: This guide is not intended to be comprehensive of all devices available. Our researchers selected the most popular devices from each category to keep the guide a manageable length while being helpful to most readers.



Computers

Both Mac and Windows boast a robust set of accountability features with Accountable2You installed. Chromebook falls far behind due to several limitations.

Without any accountability software, these three operating systems (Mac, Windows, and Chromebook) all score about the same. All offer good parental controls and screen-time tracking, with rudimentary internet monitoring as well. None support app monitoring out of the box.

Accountable2You fills in the gaps on Mac and Windows and adds numerous helpful features for individuals and families who want to stay accountable.

Chromebook with Accountable2You provides comprehensive internet accountability with instant alerts, and some app monitoring as well.

Unfortunately, Google's parental controls cannot be enabled at the same time, resulting in a lower overall score.



Mac OS Catalina

Overview

The addition of Apple's excellent Screen Time app on OS Catalina makes Mac your best option for comprehensive accountability on a laptop or desktop computer with Accountable2You.

💡 The Screen Time app now comes with OS Catalina, offering several helpful “out of the box” features described in this section. These options are available for all users, with parents having the additional option of managing settings for their children from a different device.

Parental Controls

- The “Content & Privacy” section of Screen Time offers the ability to block specific websites, block adult content in general, or only allow a specified list of websites.
- Time limits can be set on a per-app or per-website basis to determine the total time an app (or category of apps) can be used. You can also establish “downtime” to disallow the use of all but a few selected apps during a specified period of time.

Screen Time Monitoring

- Easy-to-use reporting shows the breakdown of the overall device and app usage.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- The family plan lets users enable time limit alerts for activity that takes place on a device within a set period of time.

Internet Monitoring

- Screen Time offers reporting that shows the domain of visited websites (e.g., msn.com), but it does not show the specific title or content that was accessed within a website. Only browsing in Safari appears on the Screen Time report.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- Email reports are sent daily or weekly to your chosen accountability partner(s), plus instant alerts for any questionable activity.
- All browsers are monitored. Specific web activity is shown in the reports (e.g., full web page titles).
- Alert sensitivity and objectionable words list can be customized to suit your needs.

App Monitoring

- No native monitoring of apps except that they were used (see Screen Time Monitoring).

★ Better with Accountable2You

- Monitor what apps are used, as well as the activity occurring within most apps (e.g., window titles, document subjects, etc.)

Location Tracking

- Not applicable. However, Mac OS Catalina does include the “Find My” app, which can show general whereabouts of a device. This service only shows the current location; it does not maintain or report any history.

Windows 10

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

Windows 10 comes in a close second in the computer lineup. PC users will be well equipped with comprehensive accountability when Accountable2You is installed.

💡 “Out of the box” features listed in this section are offered through Microsoft Family parental control features, which requires setting up a child account.

Parental Controls

- Websites and apps can be blocked as desired.
- Screen time can be limited to specific hours, or to a specific amount of time per day. This control does not apply to individual apps; the whole device is either locked or unlocked for a chosen period.

Screen Time Monitoring

- A daily and weekly breakdown of overall screen time is offered that “indicates when and for how long your child used their devices throughout the week.”
- Weekly reporting by email is offered.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- The family plan lets users enable time limit alerts for activity that takes place on a device within a set period of time.

Internet Monitoring

- Microsoft offers monitoring for all websites visited and terms searched for on search engines. Reports do not show the specific title or content that was accessed within a website.
- Weekly reporting by email is offered.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- Email reports are sent daily or weekly to your chosen accountability partner(s), plus instant alerts for any questionable activity.
- Specific web activity is shown in the reports (e.g., full web page titles).
- Alert sensitivity and objectionable words list can be customized to suit your needs.

App Monitoring

- No native monitoring of apps except that they were used (see Screen Time Monitoring).

★ Better with Accountable2You

- Monitor what apps are used, as well as the activity occurring within most apps (e.g., window titles, document subjects, etc.)

Location Tracking

- Windows 10 offers a “Find My Device” app that can show general whereabouts of a device. This service only shows the current location; it does not maintain or report any history.

Chromebook

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

Chromebook offers good parental controls via Family Link, but they are not compatible with Accountable2You. So users must choose between parental controls and better internet accountability.

💡 Google offers the Family Link service as the parental control feature for Chromebook. However, Family Link on Chromebook is not compatible with Accountable2You, since it does not allow any extensions to be installed on child accounts (as of Nov. 2019).

💡 *Chromebook with Accountable2You provides comprehensive internet accountability with instant alerts, and some app monitoring as well. Unfortunately, Google's parental controls cannot be enabled at the same time, resulting in a lower overall score.

Parental Controls

- Parents can restrict the downloading of apps unless approved by them (parents can approve from their device). Specific apps can also be hidden on a child's device.
- Time limits and bedtimes can be set to limit device usage.
- Parents can remotely lock their child's device at any time to prevent usage.
- Web content can be filtered, and specific websites can be allowed/blocked.

Screen Time Monitoring

- Parents can see a report showing which apps were used, and for how long, during a given period of time.

Internet Monitoring

- Parents can see browsing history for the child's account at any time by logging into the Family Link dashboard.

★ Better with Accountable2You

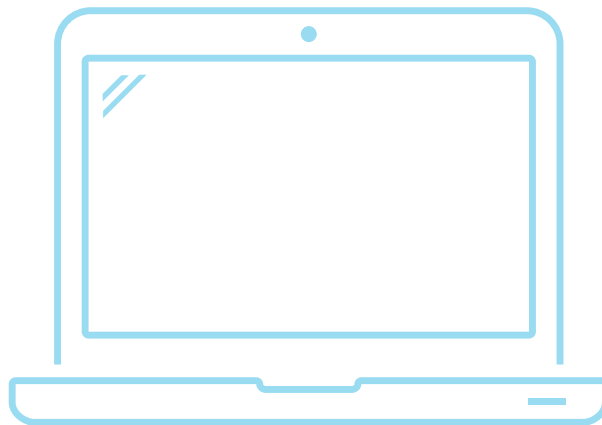
- Accountability partners receive daily or weekly email reports, plus instant alerts for questionable activity.
- Alert sensitivity and objectionable words list can be customized to suit your needs.

App Monitoring

- Only the fact that an app was used will be logged (see “Screen Time Monitoring”).

★ Better with Accountable2You

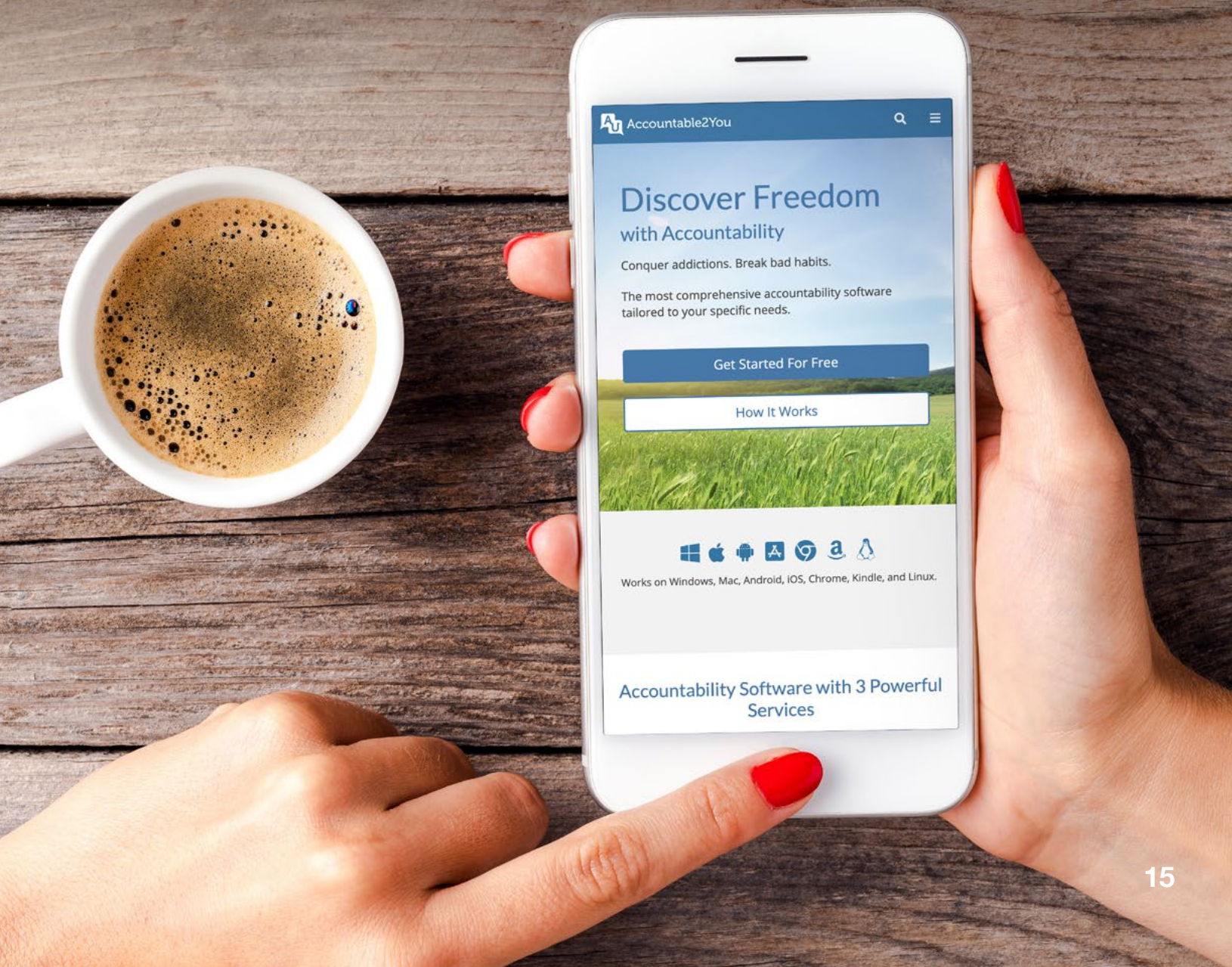
- Extensions that load within the browser are monitored and reported. Apps outside the browser are not able to be tracked.



Phones and Tablets

If staying accountable is an important factor in choosing your new phone or tablet, the verdict is clear: Android wins hands-down. However, iOS users will enjoy excellent built-in parental controls as well as comprehensive internet accountability with Accountable2You.

Before installing an accountability app, the iPhone manages to get a better score than Android due to a somewhat stronger set of built-in services. But with the addition of Accountable2You, the scores turn in Android's favor with an impressive set of features including text and call tracking.

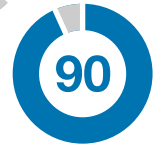


android 7+

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

With the addition of text and call monitoring* and GPS location tracking, your Android phone or tablet with Accountable2You supports a wide range of excellent accountability features.

💡 “Out of the box” services in this section are provided by Google Family Link, which is available for any Android device running version 5.0 or higher (Google recommends 7.0 or higher). All Android devices fall into this same category because the coverage is identical.

Parental Controls

- Parents can restrict the downloading of apps unless approved by them (parents can approve from their device). Specific apps can also be hidden.
- Time limits and bedtimes can be set to limit device usage.
- Parents can remotely lock their child’s device at any time to prevent usage.
- Web content can be filtered and specific websites can be allowed/blocked.

Screen Time Monitoring

- Parents can see a report showing what apps were used and for how long they were used during a given period of time.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- The family plan lets users enable time limit alerts for activity that takes place on a device within a set period of time.

Internet Monitoring

- No native monitoring of internet activity.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- All internet browsing is monitored on any browser.
- Email reports are sent daily or weekly to your chosen accountability partner(s), plus instant alerts for any questionable activity.
- Specific web activity is shown in the reports (e.g., full web page titles).
- Alert sensitivity and objectionable words list can be customized to suit your needs.

App Monitoring

- Only the fact that an app was used will be logged (see “Screen Time Monitoring”).

★ Better with Accountable2You

- All app usage is monitored and reported. Reports show varying levels of detail depending on the app, but most show activity sufficient to judge what a user is doing within the app.

Location Tracking

- “Family Link” offers location monitoring with some history of previous locations.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- While less accurate than Family Link in showing a device's live location, GPS accountability from Accountable2You tracks location history for a device in a way that can be viewed at a later time to see overall movement.

Text and Call Monitoring

- No native text and call monitoring.

★ Better with Accountable2You

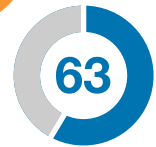
- On most Android devices, texts and calls are monitored. The level of detail varies depending on the particular device.
- Reports are sent by email daily or weekly to your chosen accountability partner(s), plus instant alerts for any questionable activity.
- *More detailed monitoring of texts and calls is available with a standalone version of the app from Accountable2You support.

iOS 13+ (iPhone, iPad)

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

iPhone and iPad allow for good internet accountability with VPN monitoring from Accountable2You. However, detailed app monitoring is quite limited, and call and text monitoring is not available.

💡 Most “out of the box” features described in this section are part of the Screen Time app that comes with iOS 12 or later. These options are available for all users, with parents having the additional option of managing settings for their children from a different device.

Parental Controls

- The “Content & Privacy” section of Screen Time offers the ability to block specific websites, block adult content in general, or only allow a specified list of websites to be accessed.
- Time limits can be set on a per-app or per-website basis to determine the total time an app (or category of apps) can be used, and can also establish “downtime” to disallow the use of all but only selected apps during a specified period of time.

Screen Time Monitoring

- Easy-to-use reporting shows the breakdown of the overall device and app usage.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- The family plan lets users enable time limit alerts for activity that takes place on a device within a set period of time.

Internet Monitoring

- Screen Time offers reporting that shows the domain of visited websites (e.g., msn.com), but it does not show the specific title or content that was accessed within a website. Only browsing in Safari appears on the Screen Time report.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- Safari, Chrome, and other web browsers are monitored with a VPN.
- Daily and weekly email reports are sent to your chosen accountability partner(s), plus instant alerts for any questionable activity.
- Specific web activity is shown in the reports (e.g., full web page titles).
- Alert sensitivity and objectionable words list can be customized to suit your needs.

App Monitoring

- No monitoring of applications except that they were used (see Screen Time Monitoring).

★ Better with Accountable2You

- Detailed usage is tracked for a few apps (e.g., YouTube and Hulu) but monitoring inside most apps is not available.

Location Tracking

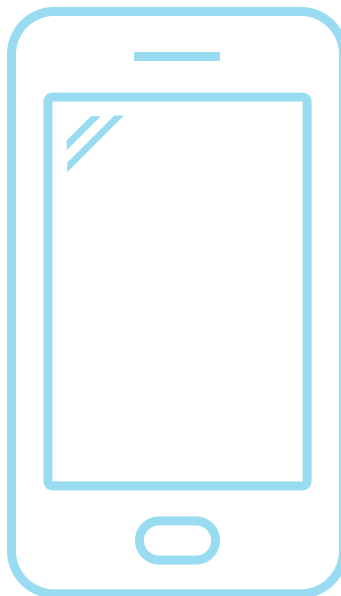
- The “Find My” app shows a very accurate location for the device. However, this service only shows the current location; it does not maintain or report any history.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- While less accurate in showing the live location than the Find My app, GPS accountability from Accountable2You will track location history for a device that can be viewed at a later time to see overall movement.

Text and Call Monitoring

- None



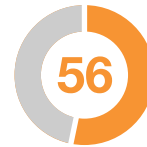
eReaders

Staying accountable likely isn't the first thing that comes to mind when you think of ebook readers. But these devices do allow access to online content, so it's good to have a plan for how to use them responsibly. Although most devices in this category do not support Accountable2You software, the good news is that most offer parental controls to lock down web browsing and downloading apps.

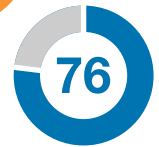
Standing above the crowd is Amazon's Kindle Fire. This powerful hybrid of tablet and e-reader works well with Accountable2You, making it a good option for maintaining integrity while reading, browsing, etc.

kindle fire

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

Something between an e-reader and a tablet, the Kindle Fire supports a good range of accountability features when Accountable2You is installed.

💡 Other Kindle versions such as Paperwhite and Oasis do offer web browsing capabilities, but the browser can be disabled under parental controls for these devices.

Parental Controls

- The Kindle Fire has a built-in Parental Controls feature that allows the blocking of apps and also password protection of specific device features.
- “Curfews” can be set to determine the times in which a device cannot be used.

Screen Time Monitoring

- The “Monitor this Profile” option will monitor the amount of time spent using apps on the device.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- The family plan lets users enable time limit alerts for activity that takes place on a device within a set period of time.

Internet Monitoring

- The “Monitor this Profile” option will monitor web browsing through the Silk browser.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- All internet browsing is monitored on any browser.
- Email reports are sent daily or weekly to your chosen accountability partner(s), plus instant alerts for any questionable activity.
- Specific web activity is shown in the reports (e.g., full web page titles).
- Alert sensitivity and objectionable words list can be customized to suit your needs.

App Monitoring

- The “Monitor this Profile” option will monitor the apps that are used as well as the general content accessed within them, such as videos watched, music, book titles, etc.

★ Better with Accountable2You

- All app usage is monitored and reported. Reports show varying levels of detail depending on the app, but most show activity sufficient to judge what a user is doing within the app.

Location Tracking

- None



Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

This device is designed for reading books, but it does allow access to download apps and browse the web. No monitoring exists, but web browsing and downloading apps can be restricted or disabled.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device.

Parental Controls

- Nook parental controls can restrict a user to only downloading kids apps, or restrict the downloading of all apps.
- Web browser can be disabled.
- Movies can be restricted by age (based on MPAA rating).

Screen Time Monitoring

- None

Internet Monitoring

- None

App Monitoring

- None

Location Tracking

- None



Out of the Box

0

With Accountable2You

N/A

Overview

It's not entirely fair to compare the Kobo side-by-side with a Kindle Fire, but readers should at least be aware that an unprotected, unmonitored web browser exists on this device.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device

Parental Controls

- None

Screen Time Monitoring

- None

Internet Monitoring

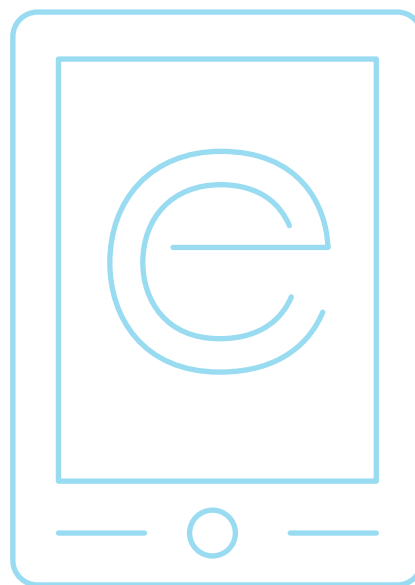
- None

App Monitoring

- None

Location Tracking

- None



Gaming Systems

For families and individuals wanting to be accountable on their devices, it's important to remember that modern gaming consoles can access online content and allow interaction with other players.

Although Accountable2You software is not currently available for gaming consoles, some systems do offer better built-in parental controls than others. In this regard, Xbox One boasts significantly better features than Playstation 4.

If staying accountable is a high priority, consider doing your gaming on a Windows 10 computer with Accountable2You installed, rather than using a dedicated game console. (See Windows 10 under Computers on page 11.)





Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

The Xbox One offers good parental controls and screen time tracking, as well as basic monitoring of web browsing—not bad for a gaming console.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device.

Parental Controls

- Websites and apps can be blocked as desired.
- Screen time can be limited to specific hours, or to a specific amount of time per day. This control does not apply to individual apps; the whole device is either locked or unlocked for a chosen period.

Screen Time Monitoring

- A daily and weekly breakdown of overall screen time is offered that “indicates when and for how long your child used their devices throughout the week”.
- Weekly reporting by email is offered.

Internet Monitoring

- Microsoft offers monitoring for all websites visited and terms searched for on search engines. Reports do not show the specific title or content that was accessed within a website.
- Weekly reporting by email is offered.

App Monitoring

- No native monitoring of apps except that they were used (see Screen Time Monitoring).

PlayStation 4

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

PS4 offers a few basic parental controls, but that's about it. Don't expect much accountability or transparency here.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device.

Parental Controls

- System-wide or per-user, parents can set age ranges for games and movies.
- System-wide, parents can (for an added fee) filter web browsing by age.
- Per user, parents can disable internet browsing, chat, and restrict the ability to see content created by other players.

Screen Time Monitoring

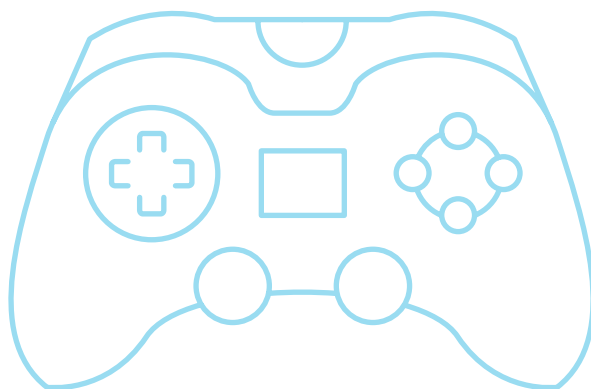
- None

Internet Monitoring

- None

App Monitoring

- None



Smart TVs

If you own a smart TV or are considering buying one, be aware that very little accountability exists on these devices. You can lock and unlock specific channels using a PIN, but once a channel is unlocked, there is no way to monitor what content is accessed. Some channels offer additional parental controls, including Netflix, Amazon, VUDU, Sling TV, and HBO GO.





Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

A parental control PIN is the only accountability-related feature available on this device. Some channels also offer additional controls.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device.

Parental Controls

- Parental control is limited to a PIN that can be set to prohibit downloading of channels. However, once a channel is downloaded, the PIN offers no protection for the content offered.
- Some channels may offer parental controls, and several do, but this varies per app and is not part of the Roku system. Examples of apps that have some version of parental controls are Netflix, Amazon, VUDU, Sling TV, HBO GO.
- Antenna TV channels can be set to restrict shows based on ratings.

Screen Time Monitoring

- None

Internet Monitoring

- None

App Monitoring

- None



PHILIPS

Out of the Box



With Accountable2You



Overview

While nearly identical to the other smart TVs, Philips TV does offer an additional parental control of a cutoff time, besides basic channel-blocking with a PIN.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device.

Parental Controls

- A cutoff time can be set to disable device usage (without the PIN) after a certain time.
- Besides the cutoff time, parental control is limited to a PIN that can be set to prohibit downloading of channels. However, once a channel is downloaded, the PIN offers no protection for the content offered.
- Some channels may offer parental controls, and several do, but this varies per app and is not part of the Roku system. Examples of apps that have some version of parental controls are Netflix, Amazon, VUDU, Sling TV, HBO GO.
- Antenna TV channels can be set to restrict shows based on ratings.

Screen Time Monitoring

- None

Internet Monitoring

- None

App Monitoring

- None



SAMSUNG

Out of the Box



15

With Accountable2You



N/A

Overview

A parental control PIN is the only accountability-related feature available on this device. Some channels also offer additional controls.

💡 Accountable2You is not currently available on this device.

Parental Controls

- Parental control is limited to a PIN that can be set to prohibit downloading of channels. However, once a channel is downloaded, the PIN offers no protection for the content offered.
- Some channels may offer their own parental controls, and several do, but this varies per app and is not part of the Roku system. Examples of apps that have some version of parental controls are Netflix, Amazon, VUDU, Sling TV, HBO GO.
- Antenna TV channels can be set to restrict shows based on ratings.

Screen Time Monitoring

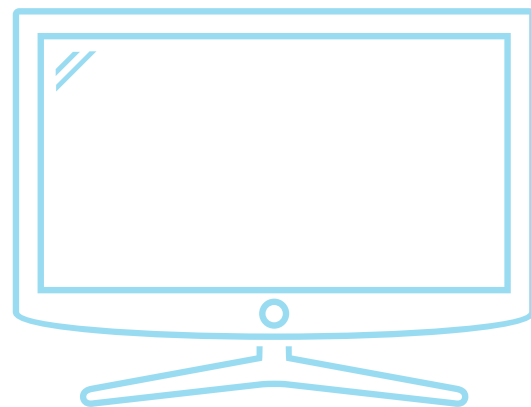
- None

Internet Monitoring

- None

App Monitoring

- None



Next Steps

Free Resources for Living Accountable

Being accountable can transform your life and bring lasting success! Find out how in the [Complete Guide to Accountability](#) and other free resources available at LivingAccountable.com.

Are You Accountable?

In a digital age, it's important to consider how technology affects your ability to make good choices and maintain integrity—and your family as well.

Accountability always starts and ends with you, but your self-control can get a significant major boost knowing your actions are reported to a trusted partner. That's the power of Accountable2You.

How to Get Accountable2You

Getting started with Accountable2You is easy and free. Visit Accountable2You.com to select your plan and begin your free 10-day trial. Then install the app, invite your partner, and live in the freedom of accountability!

Individual and family plans are available, starting at just \$6.99 per month after your free trial period. You can cancel online anytime if you're not completely satisfied.

People Love Accountable2You!

“ I CAN'T SAY ENOUGH great things about this app. It holds our entire family accountable and the customer service is incredible. I would never use another app. Being able to customize everything and set the strictness levels for everything is perfect.... It has never let me down and the alerts are instant and precise and tell you exactly what you need to know and the alert level. HIGHLY recommend!”

— Ainsley B.

“ I HAVE BEEN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT for over 38 years.... My case load would be lighter if parents were using your program. I've never seen a program so detailed and specific as yours for monitoring, tracking, and logging. A lot of issues parents are having with their kids who have cell phones would be eliminated by using Accountable 2 You.... I have been using your program personally for the last couple of years and it has kept me and my activity accountable.... I would recommend it for personal use and HIGHLY recommend it for parents to put on all of their kid's devices.”

— Randy D. (Detective, Portage Police)

“ THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST accountability software I have ever used. It streamlines all of my devices together it is incredibly detailed. Honestly to me this is how an accountability software should be. I have tried literally dozens of accountability softwares and some were better than others but this to me is by far the best one that I have tried yet.”

— Matthew W.

Spread the Word

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