

How to block a website from opening new tabs

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We made it through another work week, maybe successfully, maybe not, but if you're reading this then at least you're alive and I was alive when I wrote it, for whatever that's worth. I'm tired. How about we take it easy today?via FayeLet's revisit a couple things that happened this week. Tess Lynch posted a very thoughtful take on the whole Kathleen Hale fiasco: We're just trying to figure out how to be people. Nobody has the hang of it, and if they say they do, they're just pretending: there is always someone who has done worse, and better, than you. It's easy to deliver a hot take when someone puts themselves out there like that, a vulnerable chicken carcass that falls apart at the joints. Your argument is strong: you are right, the behavior was unflattering, maybe disgusting. It's harder to say, "Hello, I am the disgusting person." Lynch gets at my interest in that whole mess, which is not really in taking sides but in recognizing that people are messy and broken and require empathy. Awesomely Luvvie wrote about the response to Renée Zellweger's new look, and it's probably the only good thing anyone wrote about that: Does it make me a bad feminist to say "they, I liked your old face. I wish you kept it?" If it does, then oh well. If feminism means we cannot challenge the choices other women make, then I pretty much suck at it (because I judge everyone equally. You're welcome, world!). My form of feminism is the belief that woman can live on their own terms but I don't think it means we're above critique. Just as I don't think Renee getting a new face makes her any less of a feminist, neither do I think people questioning her makes THEM traitors to the Love Pocket Land. This is via Malloy, and I don't know why I have literally never encountered Awesomely Luvvie before but she's good. And how about Sarah Smarsh in Aeon Magazine about "poor teeth"? Poor teeth, I knew, beget not just shame but more poorness; people with bad teeth have a harder time getting jobs and other opportunities. People without jobs are poor. Poor people can't access dentistry – and so goes the cycle. And I know we're all sick of #g****g**, but here are two good cartoons making fun of it: Anonymous #gamergater goes to an art museum by Andy Dubbin, and Good Old Jim Hornets by Kris Staub.The Decembrists' Colin Meloy is going to be busking in Williamsburg today. Amazingly, Desus somehow predicted this last night: Ebola doing a secret show in Williamsburg tonight. Nothing big, just working on new material — Desus Nice (@desusnice) October 23, 2014 Chris Cillizza is bad at, among other things, tweeting.Today in Music: It's a big day for music! Last night El-P and Killer Mike released their second collaboration album Run the Jewels 2 a few days early. Grab it for free here! It is [six fire emoji] ice-cold. And in less up-front releases, the new Taylor Swift album, 1989, leaked a few days ahead of its Monday release. My "friend" listened to it, and he says it's really good, much better than John Caramanica's lukewarm review would lead you to believe. And I trust my "friend" because his taste in music is exactly identical to mine. Exactly identical. This is the last day this week that Bijan's prohibited from making it about.me! Until next week! I think he's grown a lot. TODAY'S INTERN TAB, by BIJAN STEPHEN This is a terrible paragraph about a thing that's maybe not okay, but pretty predictable: One would think such a bizarre proposal would prompt some level of debate, a modicum of sane opposition! After all, we're talking about mere teenagers eerily striking poses with weapons in their adolescent hands. Alas, the idea was met with a unanimous yes by all members of the Broken Bow school board. Please ignore the story it's attached to. Those rural Nebraskans mostly did nothing wrong. That was a solid Friday exercise in empathy for our damaged country-dwelling brothers and sisters, Bij. Now where's my coffee?Today in About.Me: @AnnaHolmes I have often thought that if a few things went differently, I'd be a nurse. — Alexis C. Madrigal (@alexismadrigal) October 24, 2014 Spooky! Creepy!: The 13 Scariest Music Videos of All Time. Check it out. Bijan! Closer came in at number 9!—Help me, I've got no tab to sell—Today in Tabs wishes you the very best possible pre-Halloween-week weekend. Find us at FastCoLabs and in your email four days a week. Find me on Twitter basically 24/7. Find me huddled in my celebratory Friday afternoon fetal position in 5... 4... 3... 2... Whether you're looking to protect your kids from sketchy websites or protect yourself from distracting sites while working, sometimes we all need to block a website for our best interests. Balancing privacy, freedom, and controls can be tricky to navigate. While many laptops come with some parental controls already installed, some are more user-friendly than others. We'll walk you through exactly how to use the settings and how to use host files and routers to do this. kmiragaya/123RF Method No. 1: Using parental controls Both Windows and MacOS have built-in parental controls that you can use, making it easy to block what you don't want to be accessible on your system. If you find that you want more features, we've outlined the best free parental control software. Parental Controls in Windows 10 Step 1: You must first set up a child account. To do so, go to the Windows 10 settings menu by searching for it or clicking the cog icon in the Start menu. Step 2: Click Accounts. Step 3: Click on the Family & Other Users tab and click the Add A Family Member button. screenshot Step 4: Click Create One for a Child and follow the on-screen prompts to set up your child's profile. Step 5: Go to your Microsoft account page. Under your child's account, click Overview. Then select the Content Filters tab on the right. Step 6: Under the Web and Search tab, and within the Filter Settings section, you have a few options when it comes to blocking websites: You can toggle on the Only Use Allowed Websites option, which means your child can only visit websites you've listed in the Allowed Sites section. If you choose to leave this option off, however, you can still create lists of allowed and blocked websites. To add websites to a list of allowed content, just navigate to the Allowed Sites section and enter in the websites you want to allow, then click the plus sign icon to add them. You can do the same with blocking websites too. Just navigate to the Blocked Sites section and enter in the URLs of the sites you want to block and click the plus sign icon. screenshot Using parental controls in MacOS Windows isn't the only operating system that allows you to monitor your child's activities online. As of MacOS Big Sur, Parental Controls has been replaced by Screen Time. Here, you can do a wide range of things, including setting limits on how long you are allowed to use certain apps or sites, blocking certain websites outright, and viewing analytics on your screen time habits. To block websites using Screen Time, follow these steps: Step 1: Open System Preferences and click the button labeled Screen Time. Step 2: If you haven't turned on Screen Time before, you will have to do so now to continue. Next, you will want to select the profile you will want to adjust. All the users on that Mac should show up if you're the admin, and any user connected to your Family Sharing account should appear here as well. Select which user you want from the drop-down menu in the top left corner. Step 3: Click the Content & Privacy button on the bottom left of the menu. Here, you can adjust a number of things, but look for the section labeled Web Content. There are three options here. Unrestricted Access is exactly what it sounds like, so you will want to select Limit Adult Websites. This will automatically filter out the most unseemly websites, but you can add any additional websites by clicking the plus sign that appears. Step 4: If you really want to control what the user sees, select the Allowed Websites Only option. That means the user will only be able to use sites you approve of. Click Customize and add all the sites you approve of, and the user will be blocked from anything else. Method No. 2: Altering hosts files Blocking specific websites in Windows is child's play — and usually child-proof. It's completely free, doesn't require any additional software, and takes a few quick alterations to the Windows hosts file on your computer. The hosts file, a plain text file your operating system utilizes for mapping IP addresses and hostnames, can be used to redirect a domain name back to the local computer, essentially blocking the desired website. It's a great way to restrict users from seeing content you don't want them to see, regardless of the browser and the time of day. However, keep in mind that you must have administrator privileges to change the file, and it can be a little technical. You can always undo the change if need be, but the process is a little more hands-on than the Windows and MacOS parental controls. Step 1: You'll first need to open Notepad as an administrator. To do so, type Notepad into the desktop search bar and then right-click the app that appears. Then select Run As Administrator and click Yes. Then navigate to the host file by choosing File > Open and locating the file through that window. Navigate through to the Hosts file by going through C:> Windows > System32 > Drivers > Etc. You may need to select All Files from the drop-down file format menu in that same File Explorer window. Step 2: Select Hosts. Step 3: In Notepad, you will see several lines of text used for mapping purposes. Underneath the last line of text — it should say something regarding a local host — enter 127.0.0.1 and press the spacebar. Next, type the web address of the website you want to block on the same line. For example, type 127.0.0.1 www.youtube.com to block all traffic from the popular video-sharing site. Step 4: Continue to add websites you wish to block in this manner, each beginning with 127.0.0.1. followed by a space and the appropriate website. Make sure only to use www and avoid adding http unless you want to render the entry invalid. Do not alter any other text in the hosts file. Step 5: Once you've added the sites you want to block, click the File option in the upper left corner, choose Save — do not change the name or save location — and ignore any warnings regarding editing the hosts file. Then close Notepad when finished. Step 6: Open your favorite browser and test the results! You should automatically get a blank page whenever you attempt to access any of the sites on your blocked list. You may have to restart your browser and wait several minutes for the changes to take effect. Using MacOS hosts file Blocking websites using MacOS works similarly to blocking them using Windows. The process is free, relatively quick, and requires altering your Mac's hosts file to redirect a specified domain name. It's a simple process that will prevent users from seeing content you deem block-worthy across browsers, but one that can be reversed if you want to grant access to the sites in the future. Step 1: Launch Terminal by accessing the main applications folder, clicking Utilities, and selecting the program from the resulting list. You can also do so by searching for the program in Spotlight. Step 2: Now it's time to make a copy of the hosts file just in case something goes awry. Type sudo bin/cp /etc/hosts /etc-hosts/original on the Terminal command line to make a backup of the file in question. Hit Enter and type in your administrative password when prompted. It may appear as though the keystrokes aren't being registered properly — i.e., your cursor won't move — but rest assured that they are. Step 3: Type sudo nano /etc/hosts and hit Enter on the Terminal command line to open up your hosts file in a nano box. Then, enter your administrative password when prompted. Step 4: Once the hosts file is opened, you will see several lines of text used for mapping purposes. Underneath the last line of text — it should say something regarding a local host — enter 127.0.0.1 and press the spacebar. Next, type the web address of the website you want to block on the same line. For example, type 127.0.0.1 www.youtube.com to block all traffic from the popular video-sharing site. Step 5: Continue to add websites you wish to block in this manner, each beginning with 127.0.0.1. followed by a space and the appropriate website. Ensure that you only use www and avoid adding http, unless you want to render the entry invalid, and do not alter any other text in the hosts file. Step 6: When finished, hold down the Control key and press O to save the changes. Then hold down the Control key and press X to exit the hosts file. Step 7: Next, type sudo dscacheutil -flushcache and press Enter again to flush your existing cache and put the changes into effect. Alternatively, you can restart your computer. Once you're back up and running, open your favorite browser and test the results! You should automatically get a blank page whenever you attempt to access any of the sites on your blocked list. Method No. 3: Using your router settings Blocking all users, at all times, on all browsers can take some time using the above methods. Fortunately, your router doesn't require any external software and is another fantastic tool that will grant you network-wide control over the blocking process. Although we cannot guarantee your router can block specified websites, most routers are equipped with some parental controls for restricting website access completely, during certain days of the week, or even during defined hours. Step 1: Open the web interface on your router. As a general rule, you can gain access to your router if you input 192.168.1.1 in your browser's address bar. Next, you'll need to enter a username and a password, but the defaults can vary based on the router. If you're not sure how to access your router, check the label on the device itself for the username and password. You can also check the instruction manual for that information, along with the default IP address. If the information is unavailable, try looking up the router's defaults at routerpasswords.com or cirt.net. Step 2: Find your router's security window that has options for blocking content. You'll have to do some snooping around to figure out the appropriate settings, but many manufacturers label security menu items as Access Restrictions or Content Filtering. Step 3: After you find the right window, you'll be able to type in or copy and paste all of the website addresses you want to block. You might be presented with extra options to restrict the website further through other means. Make sure to click save and apply before closing out the tab. Blocking a website isn't difficult, whether you're trying to prohibit inappropriate content or just trying to keep yourself focused on the task at hand. You can unite a triad of your router, host file alterations, and parental controls to effectively block hazardous websites or inappropriate content. Editors' Recommendations

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