Internet Safety & Digital Piracy
Understanding the risks for children

The Issue

If your child streams illegal content online, it can expose them to cyber threats, disturbing pop-ups and harmful content.

It’s no longer just dodgy websites that pose these dangers, these risks can also take place on streaming devices, mobile apps and connected TVs.

The Risks

1. Exposure to inappropriate material
   - Streaming pirated content puts your family devices at direct risk of malware infection
   - Criminals behind online piracy make money by installing spam ads and viruses
   - Malicious software on your devices puts you at risk of identity theft and fraud

2. Personal security & devices
   - Pirated content comes with no parental controls to protect your family
   - Explicit adverts can pop-up unsolicited
   - Fully-loaded streaming devices can come installed with porn apps

3. Legal risks
   - “I do worry about the pop ups and unsuitable content”
     - Mumsnet user
   - “Our laptop picked up so many viruses that it no longer works.”
     - Mumsnet user
   - “Many [children and parents] do not consider it illegal or dangerous.”
     - Mumsnet user

Three ways to keep your children safe

1. Set parental controls
   - Apply parental controls to any internet-connected device used to stream content
   - Like computers, your connected television should have the ability to restrict access to internet browsing

2. Understand streaming services
   - The risks to children when they stream content online can be minimised if done safely
   - Stick to legitimate services you trust on your TV and on the web and activate the required parental control

3. Set online boundaries
   - Find out what your child likes to do online and agree which websites and apps are best for them to use
   - Review these sites as they get older and let your child know they can talk to you if they come across anything that upsets them online

We worked with Mumsnet to explore the risk of digital piracy and asked parents about their experiences.

Find out even more tips to protect your child in our report ‘Internet safety and the dangers of digital piracy’.