Apps Parents Should Know About

Lock Photos Photo Secret Vault

App for iOS devices. Once launched, user must create a password which can't be reset. Used to hide photos and videos, audio files, and files like PDFs. Users can even use a decoy password and send false data.

AppLock

Fingerprint or password locking to secure Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat other apps, and even phone calls. Uses an invisible lock pattern. Can be disguised as an error message or blank screen.

Best Secret Folder

Captures photos of anyone who tries to access it. Discreet icon looks like a travel app. Can set fingerprint password. App can be shut down by setting the phone faceside-down.

Gallery Lock

Hides photos. After three failed password attempts, the app captures photo of the intruder. App icon can be disguised or hidden. Free with ads.

Keepsafe Photo Vault

Fingerprint passcode. App will lock if user sets the phone facedown. Hides photos, videos, credit card info, ID cards, and passports. Decoy pin. Can be disguised as a calculator. Android and iOS.

Vault App: An application used to conceal photos, videos and messages from others who may use your device. A vault app may appear to look like a harmless app.

Apple's built-in "hide photos" feature

On iPhone, at the bottom of the photos or albums tab go to "Hidden" and select the photo you want to unhide. On Mac go to "View" on the menu bar and select "Show Hidden Photo Album".

11 Popular "Vault Apps"

Vault Hide Pics & Videos (Android only)

Can secure internet browsing history, text messages, phone calls, photos, videos. Stealth mode hides the app. Can be doubled to seem like a regular photo app.

Archive Photos on Android

Built-in option on Android. To view archived photos, tap the hamburger menu (three horizontal lines) and select "Archives".

Secure Folder (Samsung Galaxy only)

Optional "Private Mode" for hiding photos, videos, files, apps, and data. Optional fingerprint lock, pattern, pin, or password. To view, go to Settings > Lock Screen and Security > Secure Folder.

Secret Photo Album

Hides internet browser history and photos. Can be locked with password, pin, pattern, and facial recognition. Decoy feature shows innocuous photos while hiding private photos.

Pic Safe - Private Photo Vault

Hides photos and videos. Password, pattern or pin lock. Decoy password option to fool others. Provides "reports" if someone tries to access photos, and takes their picture.

A SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE FOR PARENTS

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AGENT

North Dakota ICAC — Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

APPS

WHATSAPP –texting, video chatting app
- Allows users to text, send images/videos/ audio and video chat
  - Does not require cell service, on internet connection

KIK MESSENGER
- Users text in group chats and direct messages
- Certain features encourage chatting with strangers by searching for common interests

WIZZ –social discovery, chatting app
- Encourages meeting new people from around the world via video chatting
- App has been linked to sextortion scams

LIVEME –broadcasting/live streaming app
- Users can live stream or join other's live videos
- Users can give and receive virtual gifts (can require in app purchases)

ROBLOX
- Users play a variety of games and chat with others
- Be aware of in app purchases (Robux), "condo games", and individual chat features

BEREAL –photo sharing app
- Users post one photo a day of what they are doing
  - When enabled, the app shares the exact location the picture was taken

VAULT APPS –apps used to hide messages, photos, videos, browser history, etc.
- Calculator%
- Audio Manager
- App Lock
- Best Secret Folder

SNAPCHAT –photo and video sharing app
- Users send "disappearing content"
  - Content can still be saved or screenshot
- Story posts can be visible for up to 24 hours

TIKTOK –short video sharing app
- Users can create and view videos
- Limited privacy settings
- Leaves kids vulnerable to cyber bullying and explicit content

DISCORD –text and voice app/website
- Users can form groups or "servers" to share voice, video, and text messages
- Popular with classmates

TUMBLR –blogging app/website
- Users create their own sites to post text, images, audio, videos
- Popular for spread of drug use, offensive language, and pornography

ASK FM –anonymous app/website
- Users can post or ask anonymous questions to other profiles
- Frequently used to share rude, harassing, and even sexualized comments

OMEGLE –anonymous video chatting app/website
- Slogan is "talk to strangers"
- Randomly pairs users with other users to video chat

WHISPER –anonymous social posting app
- Randomly assigned usernames allow users to post anonymous content
- Geolocation services pinpoint where users are

DATING APPS

TINDER
- Adult dating and hookup app for users over the age of 18
- Can falsify ages to use app underage

HINGE
- Recommends other profiles to connect with
- "Your Turn" reminders encourage constant engagement

BUMBLE
- Automatically matches local profiles with similar interests
- Only allows female user to message the male user first

GRINDR
- Geared towards LGBTQ+ communities
- Profiles are sorted by geolocation, users are encouraged to share their precise locations

SPOTAFRIEND/MYLOL
- Teen dating app that targets users ages 13–19
- Users "swipe" through profiles to find people to chat with and meet up with

YUBO
- Targeted towards GenZ to make profiles, and connect with other users through similarities
- "Tinder for Teens"

MEETME
- Users are encouraged to connect with and meet with other people in the same area
- App allows for direct messaging and live streaming

SKOUT
- Users are matched by similarities in locations or personal preferences
- Provides opportunities to chat, share pictures, and send virtual gifts

MONKEY
- Advertised as "speed dating for teens"
- After users match, a video chat starts for users to talk "face to face" for 15 seconds

CHATOUS
- Randomly matches users for chat sessions
- Users can video/audio chat with matches
- No age verification required to join

BADOO
- Targets younger teen dating audience for casual dating
- Users can text, video call, and search the app for other users anywhere in the world

TAGGED
- Allows users to share photos, post videos, and form groups
- No age verification required to join app

CHAT AND DATE
- Users upload pictures of themselves to be evaluated and rated by others
- Potential for cyberbullying and inappropriate feedback

HOLLA
- Randomly matches people in live video chats
- Potential for exposure for sexually explicit content shared

SEEKING ARRANGEMENT
- Encourages younger users to seek out older individuals for financial assistance
- Enables engagement in prostitution and other sexual acts for payment

SUGAR DADDY MEET
- Older users seek out companionships with younger users
- Younger users are asked to chat or share sexually explicit photos in return for financial compensation