

VOL. 1  
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# PROJECT TRUST

TAKING RESPONSIBILITY  
USING SAFE TECHNOLOGY

# COMMONLY USED APPS

THE BENEFITS & DANGERS

[WWW.PROJECTTRUST.NET](http://WWW.PROJECTTRUST.NET)

לעילוי נשמת ר' שמואל צבי בן יעקב  
לרפואה שלימה שושנה טובה בת אסתר

# TAKING RESPONSIBILITY USING SAFE TECHNOLOGY



## OUR GOAL

Our goal is not to educate children and teenagers about the function of these apps, but rather to better inform you - the parent and educator - about what your children are doing. Our primary goal is to inform you regarding the most commonly used apps by adolescents in contemporary society. We will proceed by going through one app per newsletter. In these newsletters, we will explain the benefits and dangers of each app.



# WHATSAPP

## FEATURED APP OF THE MONTH

**WHATSAPP** is the world's most popular messaging application with over 2 billion users worldwide. WhatsApp is easy to use and offers several free methods for people to connect, even for those without a data plan.

### WHATSAPP OFFERS A FEW DIFFERENT CONNECTION METHODS, INCLUDING:

- Voice calls
- Video calls (up to eight concurrent people)
- Video messaging
- Voice messaging

### WHAT EXACTLY IS WHATSAPP?

WhatsApp can best be described as a free messaging app that can be used on both smartphones and desktop computers. WhatsApp users can send, receive, and make:

- Voice call
- Photo sharing
- Video sharing
- Document share
- Voice messaging

One of the key security features is that only the sender (you) and the recipient can read or listen to messages. No one else can read or hear the messages transmitted over this app. If you send anything to another person, you have no control over their ability to send that (document, voice message, photo, video) to others.

Also, WhatsApp can use the smartphone camera to take pictures and videos with it. As many as eight people can join in on a WhatsApp group video chat/voice call. WhatsApp leaves it to the users to decide who can be added to a group chat. This means strangers can be added.





## PARENTAL CONCERNS

- WhatsApp contains many areas of concern for parents and educators. For example, parents can't keep track of WhatsApp chats since adolescents can delete messages quickly without this showing up on phone bills. Due to this, some adolescents might think that they can engage in inappropriate behavior since the messages can be deleted.
- Another potential concern is that users can enforce a Touch ID to read messages and unlock the app, thus preventing parents from seeing what they are doing. WhatsApp is intended for users 13 and older, but anyone of any age can create an account.
- Group chats come with their own set of risks. By definition, these group chats involve multiple participants, thus leading to risks such as cyberbullying, which is a significant problem in contemporary society.
- Another concern with WhatsApp is that conversations and photos being downloaded or screenshots can be shared with other people. Besides, there is no filter of adult content in chats. Finally, strangers can easily be added to group chats.

# COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## QUESTION

**Is a 4G basic phone safe to give to a contemporary teen, or is it a dangerous idea?**

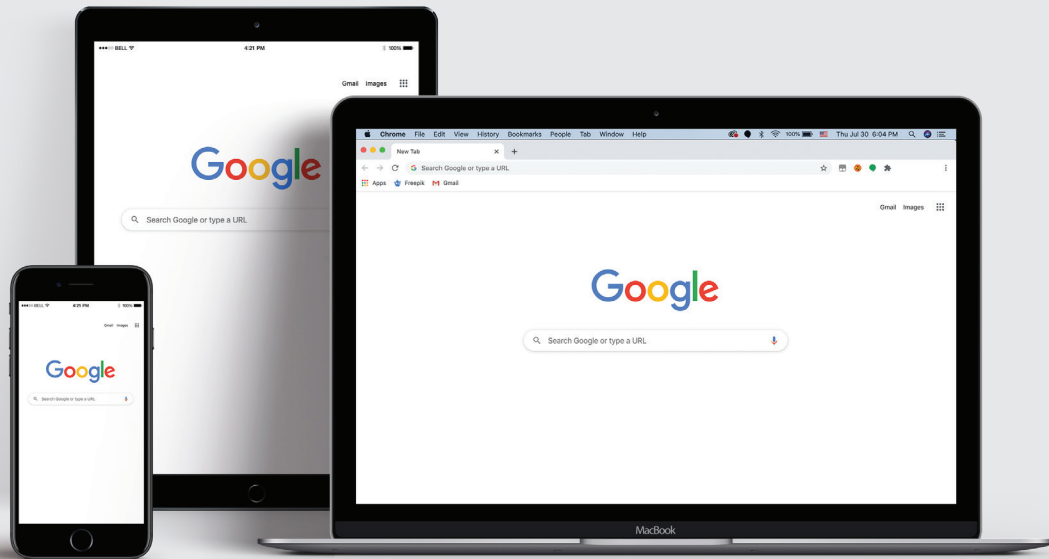
## ANSWER

Current 4G phones have data and Wi-Fi capability.

Also, the carrier's disabling services mean nothing, as teenagers are quite creative and technologically savvy and could still get on the internet via Wi-Fi. A teen could potentially copy movies onto these devices via a memory card, and that is unfilterable.



# PROJECT TRUST SERVICES



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## HOME VISITS

A home visit offers the ability to have all of your technology needs discussed in your home's privacy. A comprehensive plan of action will be developed for your family. This is a highly customized plan for your family based on your specific personal needs.

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## SCHOOLS AND YESHIVOS

Project Trust staff will meet with the necessary faculty during an initial discovery session to help create a customized technology plan for your student body. Once established, meetings with each student will be scheduled to protect their devices, educate them on the issues, and implement the school's technology policy.

