

Is This Download Legal?

What is a download?

Downloading is where a document, music, movie, application, or any other form of data is copied from one system to another using a device. This is generally done via an internet connection

Downloading has become common place with improvements in connection and access. It is no longer slow and cumbersome to download a movie or songs.

You are basically requesting another computer/system to send a copy to your computer/system. Obviously uploading is where the data goes the other way (from your computer to another).

Downloading or file sharing is completely legal – the issue changes when the user deals with copyrighted material outside the legal requirements.

As a general rule children may choose to illegally download, whether intentionally or not, music, television shows, movies and games.

Companies and websites such as itunes, the google play store and Netflix have the licence to offer these **copyrighted items for sale**.

Downloading vs Streaming

Downloading is where a copy of the file is created on our device. You can then use it as many times as you like or even upload and share it with others.

Streaming is where you view or listen to a file on your device from the internet and when we are finished it is gone, you have no more access. No copy is made on your device.

Both methods can be done in a legal or illegal way.

Risks of downloading

There are two main reasons why illegally downloading copyrighted material is not healthy for your family, your property or your devices

1. Copyright

Downloading data you have no legal right to is an offence. One that is starting to be enforced.

*If the song, movie, TV episode, or software you are about to download can be purchased – it is copyrighted. To not pay for it is **to illegally obtain** it from the person who created it.*

Are such downloads happening on your system.

2. Alternative agenda – hidden dangers

Quite often when your children download or stream **illegal material** they are obtaining it from another unknown individual's computer. These unknown sources can be offered through websites where it appears you are getting it from a website but in actual fact that website is only connecting you to another user's computer that has the files you are looking for. These programs are called peer to peer or bit torrent and are very dangerous for the security of your devices and the information on your devices. These sources or websites should never be trusted.

Sites that encourage free downloads frequently have an agenda – they silently install malware in the background. Some are linking to porn or installing spyware.

Excuses

- Everybody does it
- I'm not hurting anybody
- I only watched it once
- I'm not downloading, I'm streaming
- If I could get it another way I would

Considerations

- Remember, nothing is free, there is always a price
- When you illegally download there is always a victim (<http://www.internetsafefamilies.com/2015/04/how-much-will-your-dallas-buyers-club-membership-cost-you/>)
- There is always a risk when you illegally download (conviction, fine, viruses, stolen data, etc)
- Whether you download or stream the file, it is possible you are doing so illegally
- Contrary to popular belief most internet users 'DO NOT' illegally download or stream



Advice

How can you help your children understand?

- Educate them that it is wrong to download or upload copyrighted material without proper authority
- Talk to our children about what they are doing online
- Set a good example by not engaging in the practice
- Monitor the programs, apps and history on your children's devices
- Keep an eye on our data usage. If it's excessively high, investigate

Look for legal alternatives, these are generally of better quality anyway. (Stan, Presto and Netflixs are sites that contain thousands of movies and television series with unlimited views for around \$10 a month)

Common programs and websites used to download

NOT RECOMMENDED

Anything with the word 'Bit' or 'Torrent' contained in the title is generally not a program we want your children using.

Others not recommended:

- uTorrent
- Vuze
- Transmission
- Deluge
- Tixati
- Frostwire
- BitTorrent
- Tribler
- Shareaza
- PopcornTime

There are a multitude of sites that allows you and your family to download or **stream appropriate movies and shows legally**. Here's just a few:

- Stan, Small Monthly Fee
- Presto, Small Monthly Fee
- Netflix, Small Monthly Fee
- Quickflix, Small Monthly Fee
- Hulu (Kids version), Free
- PopcornFlix (Kids version), Free
- Viewster for Kids, Free
- Yidios Kids, Free
- Watch Documentary, Free
- Crackle, Free