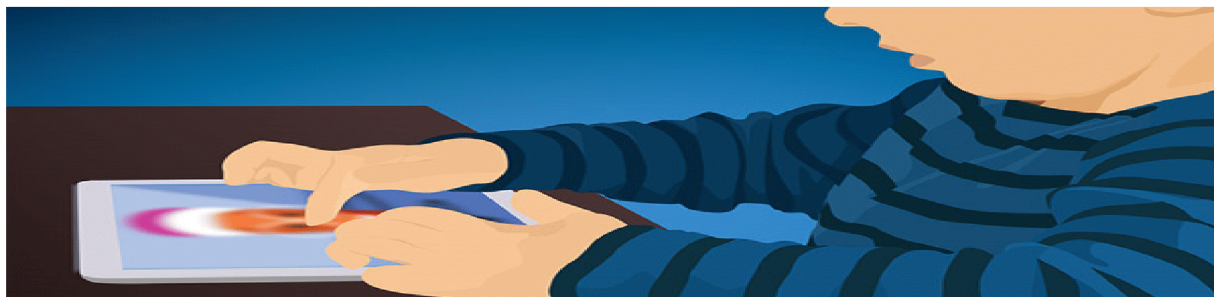




BWN COMPUTER
Repair/Service/Upgrade
940-282-0290

NEWSLETTER



Turn Your Tablet into a Child-Friendly Device

Tablets are convenient, light, and portable. Maybe you got a new one during the holiday, or your old one needs replacing. You can feel better about moving to the new device if you turn the old tablet into a child-friendly device. Here's how.

Before giving your tablet up, clear your browsing history, emails, and banking details. In Android Settings you can use the Clear Data feature, whereas on iOS, you go to General in Settings to Reset and choose Erase All Content and Settings.

Purchasing a new, sturdier case can help protect the tablet from the wear and tear of being a kid's go-to device. A waterproof case is a must for the juice-box-aged user. When selecting a protective case, keep in mind that you want sturdy but also lightweight. A screen protector is also a good idea. Little people have lots of sticky things in their hands after all.

You'll also want to set up a child safety lock. This allows you to lock the screen by setting a PIN in the settings. On Apple and Android products, you can choose the app your child can use and lock the screen. If they want to switch

apps or access anything else, they'll need you to enter the PIN to do so.

There are many special apps for kids you can download these days. Before gifting the device, download some educational and entertainment apps for them. Common Sense Media can be a useful resource to help you find appropriate apps for the right age. You might also visit Zerotothree.org. Their E-AIMS model helps you choose engaging, actively involved, meaningful, and social content.

When can kids turn on tablets?

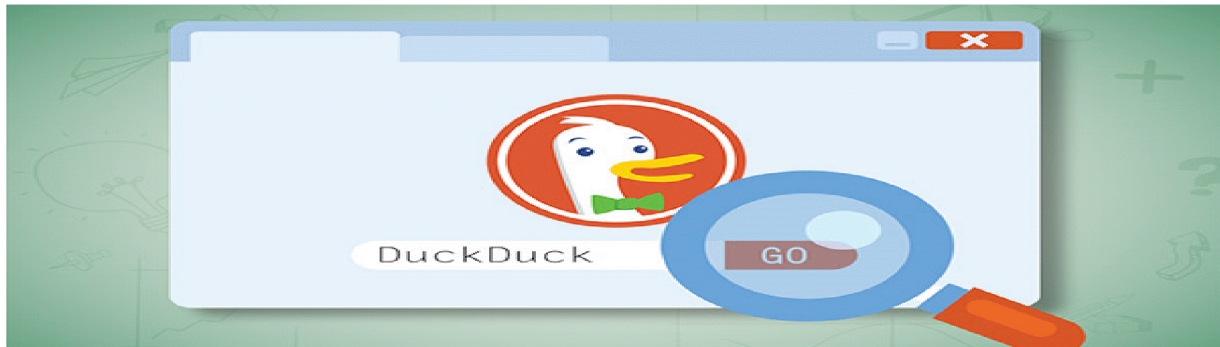
There's a lot of debate around what is an appropriate age for a child to use electronic devices. Typically, the recommendation is to wait until your child is at least preschool age. By age three, many children are "active media users" enjoying educational electronic content.

Between the ages of 4 and 11, the child will be able to engage more with the tablet, but they should be supervised. Adults need to monitor activity, co-view, and ask questions about the games or content to encourage digital literacy.

Regardless of the age of your tablet user, it's always best to start out by talking through the rules for the device. You'll want to help your little techie learn how to use this tool safely and responsibly.

Need help getting your tablet ready to gift to a young user? We can help. Our tech experts are also here to offer support to get you (or your child) up and running again on that tablet.

Call us today at 940-282-0290.



Don't Play Games with Privacy: What is DuckDuckGo?

You may remember playing Duck, Duck, Goose on the playground when you were young. But have you heard of DuckDuckGo? Many haven't. So, we thought we'd share an introduction to this privacy-focused search engine.

DuckDuckGo promises to let you "search the Web without being tracked." The search engine site touts a simple privacy policy: "We don't collect or share any of your personal information."

You can use DuckDuckGo on their iOS or Android app or extension by adding a private Web search to your favorite browser or by searching directly at DuckDuckGo.com. The site's privacy browser extension blocks trackers and offers encryption for every device.

Why use DuckDuckGo?

Google is the obvious heavy hitter in search. The problem? The company keeps your search history forever. Plus, they are tracking everywhere you go online. Their trackers are on millions of websites.

Think about it: Ever looked at a new sweatshirt and decided against it only to find it following you in digital ads for days to come? That's because of tracking. DuckDuckGo promises there

are no trackers on its search engine. It even blocks Google's and other company's trackers, as well.

You might think you are achieving anonymity in Incognito Mode. But this doesn't stop Google from saving your history. Companies, internet service providers, and governments can also continue to track you.

DuckDuckGo does not store IP addresses or other unique identifiers in its search logs. This means that they cannot create a search history or data profile on you or any other individual.

Does DuckDuckGo work?

The big question, of course, is how the private engine's search results compare to competitors. The company claims it provides "truly private search results without trade-offs in result quality." DuckDuckGo says it offers "everything you've come to expect in your online search experience" including:

- maps.
- weather forecasts.
- local search.
- news.
- images.
- videos.
- and shopping...to name a few.

Can DuckDuckGo compete?

Since its founding in 2008, DuckDuckGo has steadily gained users. On January 13, 2022, the search engine announced it had surpassed 100 billion all-time searches.

According to public traffic statistics in the same week, the highest daily number of search queries DuckDuckGo had seen was 110,439,133. Just a year ago, on January 11, 2021, the company announced hitting over 100 million searches daily.

Those numbers are impressive, yet as Search Engine Land puts it, "DuckDuckGo remains a very niche competitor." Google has a huge market share (as much as 87.57 of searches). Bing, the next biggest competitor, accounted for 6.31%, Yahoo 3.25%, and DuckDuckGo 2.5%, according to statcounter.com.

Protecting your privacy online

DuckDuckGo is an attractive and useful option for people who want a higher level of online privacy.

There are many other ways to protect your identity online and secure the data on your residential computers. To learn how...contact us today at 940-282-0290.