

Apps and Privacy

Welcome to this training lesson on **Apps and Privacy**. In this lesson, we'll look at the important information, hints, and techniques you'll need to know to protect both you and your device/computer.

Estimated Completion Time: 5 minutes.

Apps and Privacy

Introduction. In this lesson, we will be looking at protecting your safety when using apps, either from the Apple App Store, Google Play, Windows Marketplace, or other online app stores.



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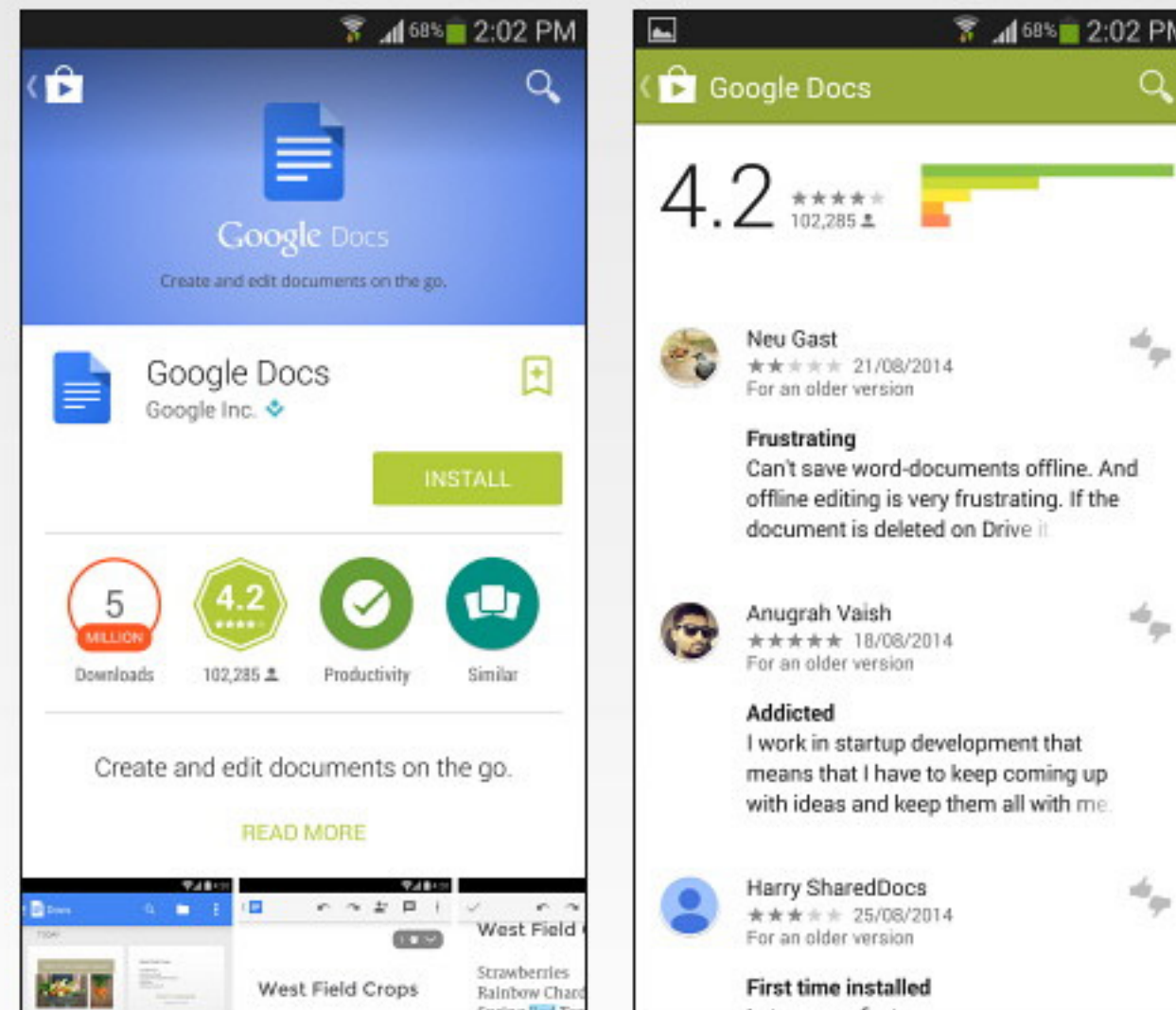
Commercial App Stores. Google Play, the Apple App Store, and Windows Marketplace are generally safe places to purchase and/or download apps to install to your device. Most apps are vetted to ensure that they are not dangerous, not malware, not a virus, and if they are found to be, are generally quickly removed from that app store.

But that is not necessarily the case. And there are a few things you can do to reduce your chances of being adversely affected.



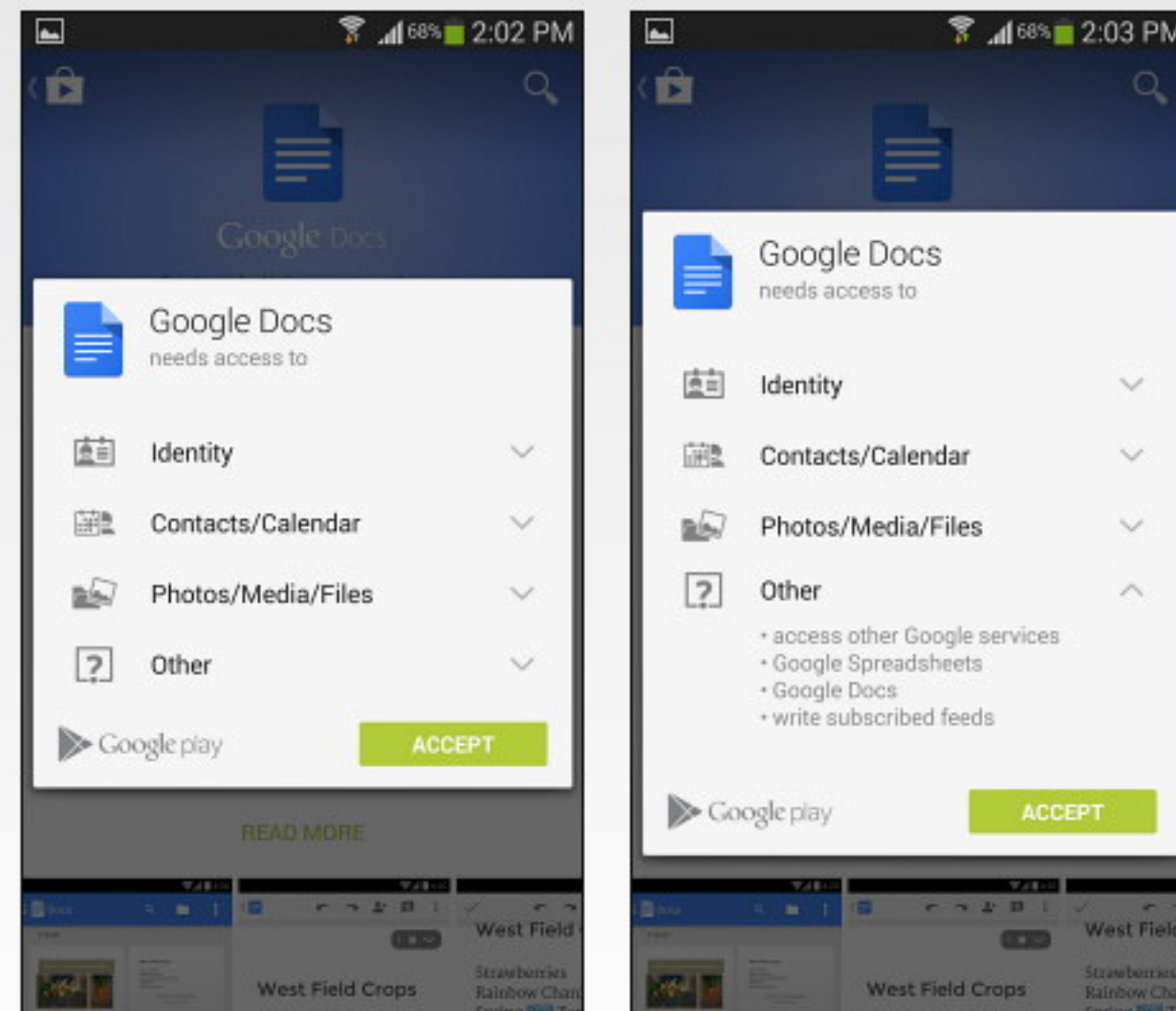
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Ratings and Reviews. All App Stores have a system of both ratings and reviews. You can check these ratings and reviews, posted by other users, before you install an app. This generally gives you a good idea about whether an app is safe, and does what it claims to do.



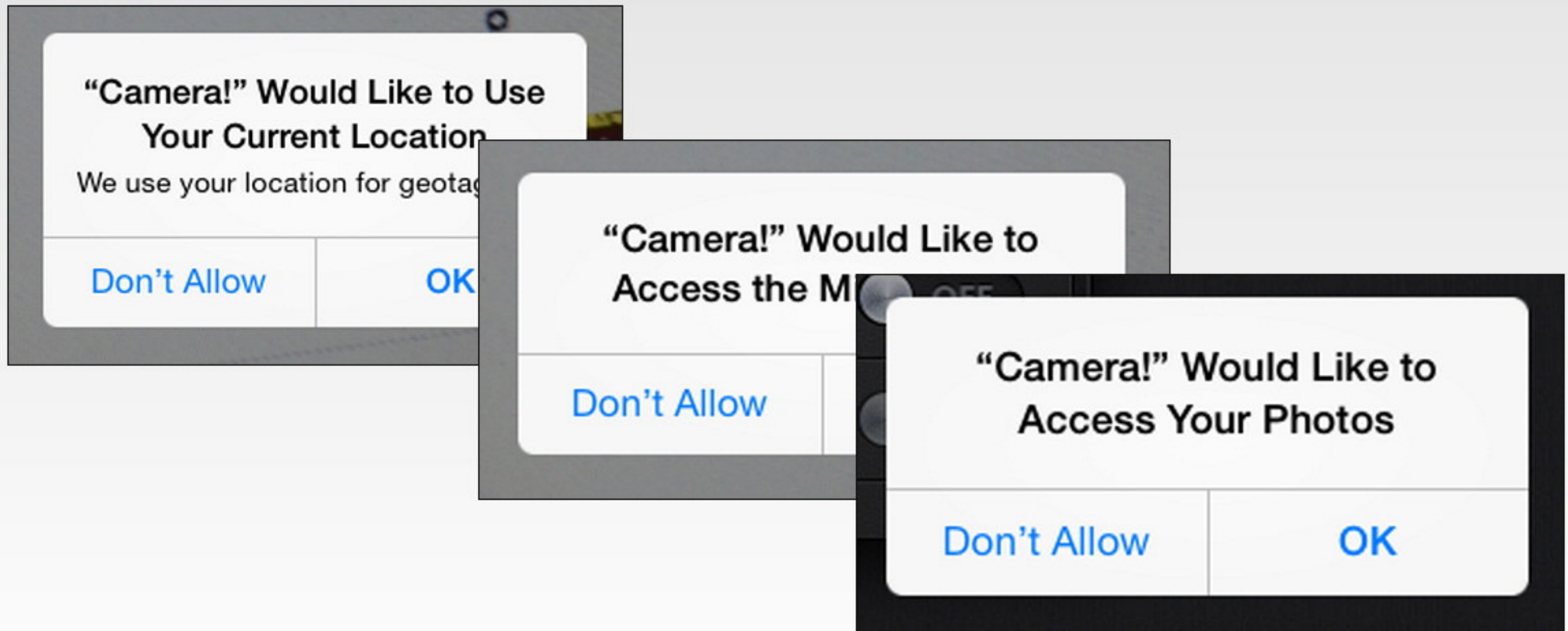
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Install Permissions. Before you install an app, a series of required permissions by that app will appear (this will differ from device to device). This essentially tells you what the app has access to on your device. It is of course up to you to determine whether you want to install the app after reading this list.



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Requested Permissions. As apps run, there are still some features of your device or computer that the app must ask you for permission to access:



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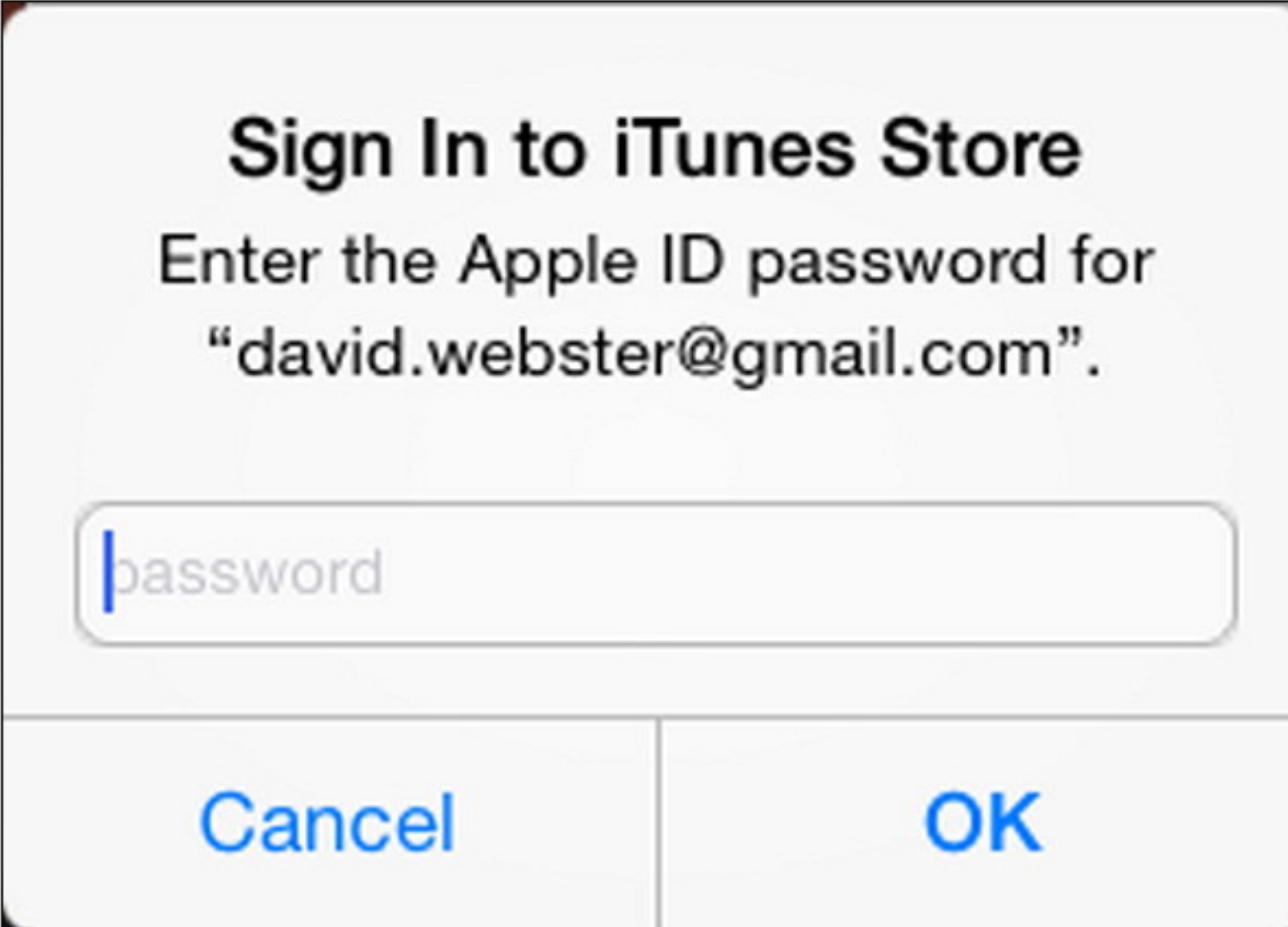
In App Purchases. Many apps, even though inexpensive or even free, offer in-app purchases. This is the ability to purchase more features, or unlock more content directly from within the app.

These are generally quite clearly labelled, and it is fairly obvious when you are making an extra purchase. Where this has been an issue in the past is where children have used a parent's, or other adult's device, and spent up to thousands of dollars in in-app purchases, without comprehending the cost.



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Never Let Anyone Know Your App Store Account Password. If you keep your app store account password a secret, it will be nearly impossible for anyone to make an in-app purchase without your permission.

A screenshot of an iOS system dialog box titled "Sign In to iTunes Store". The dialog box has a white background with rounded corners and a thin gray border. The title is in bold black text. Below the title, the instruction "Enter the Apple ID password for 'david.webster@gmail.com'." is displayed in black text. A text input field with rounded corners is positioned below the instruction; it contains the placeholder text "password" in a light gray font, with a blue vertical cursor line at the beginning. At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: "Cancel" on the left and "OK" on the right, both in blue text.

Sign In to iTunes Store
Enter the Apple ID password for
"david.webster@gmail.com".

password

Cancel OK

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Enable Parental Controls. Most devices (and it does differ from device to device) have *Parental Controls*, or *Restrictions*, or a similarly named feature.

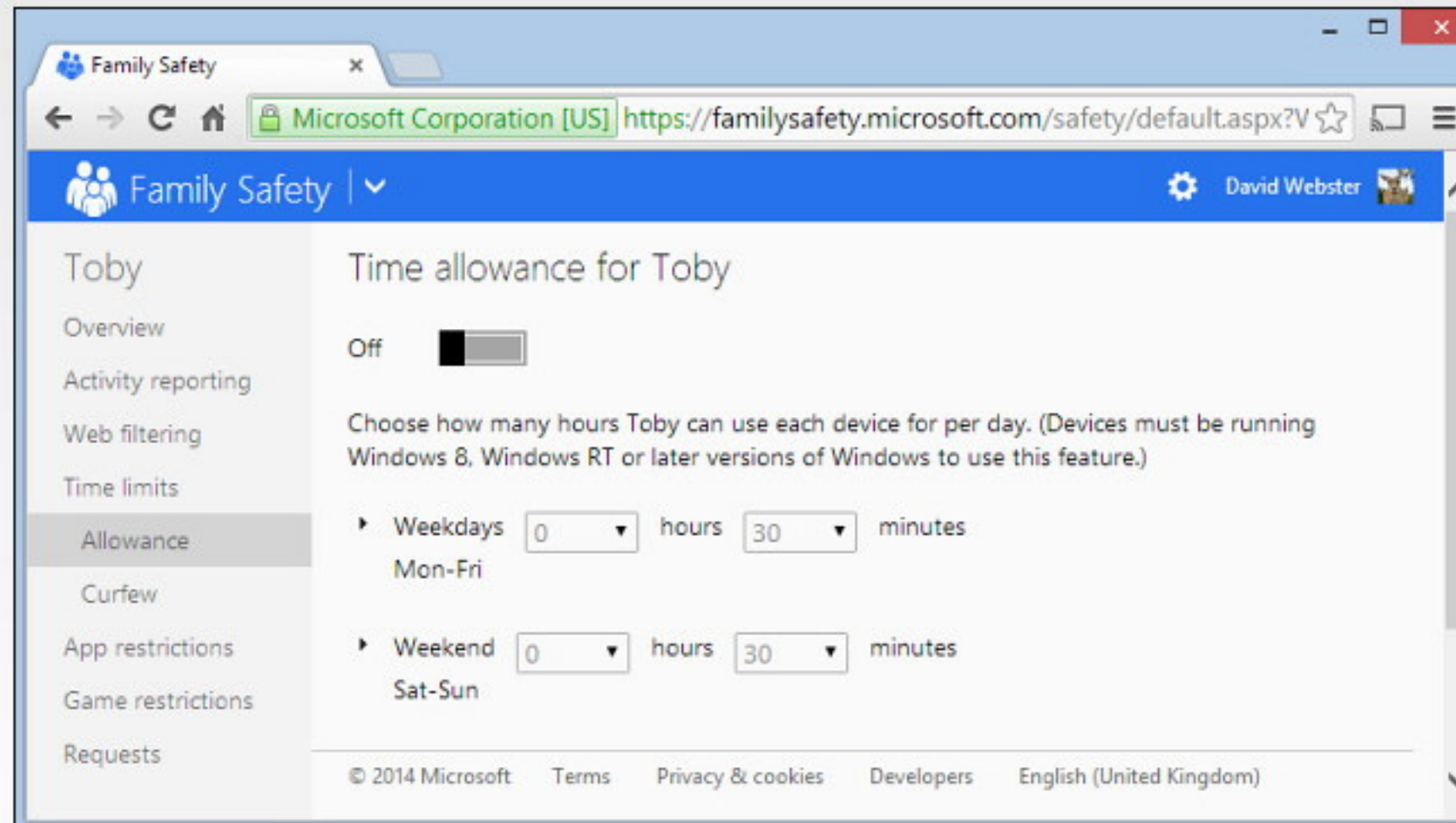
This feature, found in the **Settings**, allows you to restrict access to certain features of your device - to prevent children from making in app purchases, or browsing the web, for example.



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Parental Controls. Latest versions of Microsoft Windows and Macintosh computers allow you to set parental controls on accounts your children, siblings, or grandchildren may use.

We cover these in more detail, along with some other options for parental or family control, in the **Parental Controls** lesson.



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You've now completed this training lesson on **Apps and Privacy**. In this lesson, we looked at the important information, hints, and techniques you'll need to know to protect both you and your device/computer.