

Online Safety 4 Schools

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Chatroulette

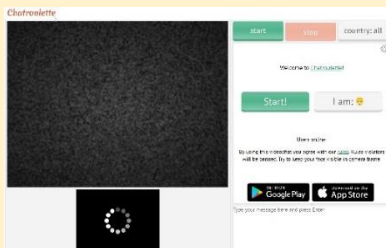
Apple App Store Rating: 17+ (Mini App)

Google Play Rating: 18+ (OmeTV App)

In the words of the creator of Chatroulette - Chatroulette successfully pairs random users for webcam-based conversations since 2009. With 2+ million monthly users, Chatroulette is not only the first but also the largest random online chat website worldwide. Chatroulette mission: *With an excellent team, we work on (re)building a world-class consumer entertainment product and brand. Being one of the world's biggest social media platforms, we are thrilled to face exciting challenges in 2020.*

What is Chatroulette

The platform operates by pairing people at random, and no details are given before using the service therefore it is completely anonymous – giving out only as much information as you choose to. While paired with someone, each user gets the option to end the call whenever they please. Whenever the 'end' button is selected, you will automatically be paired with someone new.



**Make friends, have fun, find love, and get famous.
Whatever you want.**

No sign up required.

ENABLE CAMERA

1. Chatroulette is a website that spontaneously connects you to a random stranger via a video chat
2. Once the website is open, the start button is pressed and 12 seconds later you are connected to another random Chatroulette user (young /old, male/female)
3. It is a bit like gambling (hence roulette) you cannot predict what you may see or who you might be linked up to.
4. The randomness of the site means that you just never know and cannot control who you are going to interact with next.
5. The site requires no registration or age verification.
6. If you do not allow your microphone and webcam to be activated, then you will not be paired up.
7. Immediately you are paired with another user you can click 'skip' (originally was 'next') that user and you will be re connected to another random Chatroulette user.
8. Many users present themselves with 'very little' clothes on or even naked, there is an extremely high likelihood that you will be paired with a 'naked' male user.
9. Most Chatroulette users use the website for sexual purposes and are males looking for young females.

10. This means that as soon as a user sees you are not a young female then you are 'skipped' – this is when a random stranger clicks the skip button immediately after seeing what you look like.

Research from Chatroulette 1st Version (online on a Thursday at 4pm)

1. 90 people were picked at random by Chatroulette and linked up to the user
2. 71% were male – 15% were female and 14% were barely clothed.
3. 83% appeared to be young people under 30 with 17% being over 30
4. Further research - 19 out of 20 random strangers 'skipped' a male researcher in 5 seconds.
5. When male researcher swapped with a female researcher- 9 out of 10 users spoke to her for an average of 3 minutes
6. When male researcher re-joined the female researcher, nobody spoke to her.

Although the site's numbers are now seeing a brief resurgence during lockdown, the overwhelming majority of Chatroulette users are still men.

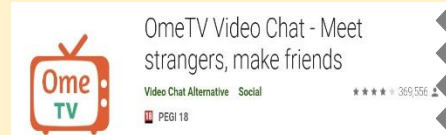
Chatroulette may not collect information like your name or email address, but it does let people discover your IP address if you are using the site. With this information, a hacker can attempt to connect directly to your home network and begin probing it for weaknesses he could exploit.

Chatroulette as an App (Android / Apple)



Minichat - video chat, texting (17+)
Strangers become friends
Crescentaxis Inc.
Designed for iPad
#12 in Social Networking
★★★★ 4.1 • 236 Ratings
Free • Offers In-App Purchases

Chatroulette does not have currently have a dedicated App named 'Chatroulette', however from the Chatroulette home page, users are shown these options – one for Android Users & one for Apple users.



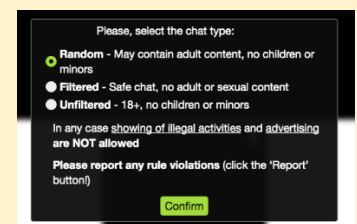
OmeTV Video Chat - Meet strangers, make friends
Video Chat Alternative Social
★★★★ 4.5 369,556
PEGI 18

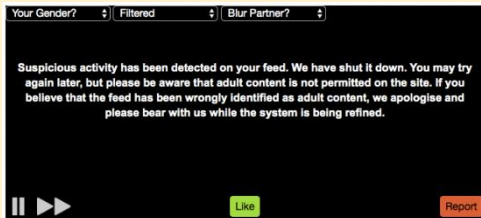
- Whilst the minimum age for 'Ome Tv' is 18+ and the minimum age for 'Minichat' is 17+, this is only an electronic verification, so anyone under these ages can simply verify (lie) that they are 17 or 18, there is no need to use a date of birth.
- Minichat can be simply downloaded to an Iphone, accurate or inaccurate details submitted and viewing of other users can be done (even as a 'Guest'). Messages can only be sent if you sign in with Facebook, however a 'skeleton' FB account takes 3 minutes.
- OmeTv can be simply downloaded to an Android device, accurate or inaccurate details submitted and viewing of other users can be done (even as a 'Guest'). Messages can only be sent if you sign in with Facebook, however a 'skeleton' FB account takes 3 minutes.
- OmeTv is from the Omegle Website & App family (See Omegle Advice document)

Chatroulette – Has the second version changed

Chatroulette has since revised several its policies and rules to make it easier to ban users and try and prevent abuse.

- Chats are now split into two categories:
- Filtered chats, where no sexual content whatsoever is allowed.
- Random/Unfiltered chats, where no children or minors are allowed.
- Chatroulette has since introduced a filtered setting, where participants are requested to keep it clean, but the setting again relies on the dubious good faith of its users.





According to previous statistics

- about one in eight spins on Chatroulette “yielded someone apparently naked, exposing themselves, or engaging in a sexual act”.
- Now in 2020, the number is closer to seven in eight spins.
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- The site now has three different options to choose from:
- Random (possibly sexual content),
- Filtered (theoretically no sexual content),
- Unfiltered (realistically sexual content).

Why should parents/carers care?

Although Chatroulette is advertised and promoted as a fun, safe way to meet new people from all around the world, it also comes with risks. The platform has evolved into a much more mature platform where many users of the site use it

- inappropriately to show sexually explicit content or target people for scams.
- Besides the sexually explicit behaviour and expectation, there is also the danger of impressionable , vulnerable, and lonely children meeting total strangers
- Besides these risks there is also the ease with which rejection occurs.
- Many users simply use the site to mock, insult and ridicule other users, and prey on the vulnerable.
- Chatroulette is used by Online Sexual Predators
- It is possible for a Chatroulette user to record your webcam. Scammers are known to do this and then blackmail a person with the footage.
- It is also possible for a person to use ‘fake webcam’ software to hide their true identity.
- Don’t do anything on webcam that can be used against you.”
- Minichat App & OmeTv App are designed for Adults & should not be used by anyone under 18
- Chatroulette has the propensity to be used by sexual deviants, by those who use the internet to ridicule, bully, and shame and by online predators

What can parents/carers do?

Chatroulette is not a website to be used by.

- Anyone under 18
- Anyone alone,
- Anyone with self-esteem issues or low self confidence should not use Chatroulette.
- Anyone deciding to use Chatroulette should always use with a friend present
- Talk with your child about Chatroulette & the corresponding Apps and make them aware of the possibilities of ‘stranger danger’ being recorded and damage to their digital tattoo.
- Encourage them to speak to you when something upsets, worries, or concerns them. Then ‘flag’ and report together.
- Covering up the webcam with tape or blu-tack will allow usage but other users will question this and most likely be very offensive.

Although Chatroulette is used by real, authentic people – I recommend extreme caution when using this platform. Chatroulette has the propensity to be used by sexual deviants, by those who use the internet to ridicule, bully, and shame and by online predators so extreme care must be taken by all.