

Dangerous Smaller Tech Companies & Apps (2026 List)

- **Telegram:** Known for its "secret mode" and self-destructing messages, it operates with a small, remote team, making it hard to police, and is considered highly dangerous for kids. It is a popular app for drug dealers to set up shop.
- **Kik Messenger:** Its focus on anonymity makes it a hotspot for adult predators posing as teens and for cyberbullying.
- **NGL: Ask Me Anything:** Co-Founders were fined by the FTC for sending harassing messages to users themselves.
- **Yik Yak:** An anonymous, location-based app that acts as a "perfect storm" of bullying, predation, and inappropriate content.
- **Clapper:** Marketed as "uncensored social media." Exposes children to mature content by design.
- **Hoop / Wink:** Apps designed to help users find new friends on Snapchat, which includes strangers and can result in predatory adults finding children even faster than Snapchat's dangerous Quick Add feature.
- **Poly Buzz:** AI app that allows users to chat and roleplay with AI companion bots, featuring highly explicit, sexual, and violent themes.

Trending Dangerous Apps

- **PovChat AI, Wsup.ai, and more:** AI companion bot apps and websites are all the rage. These products are for role-playing with AI characters that, more often than not, explore mature themes. Some even have "spicy" buttons. Please test these apps before saying yes to minors using them, as many engage with children in a manner that would result in arrest if a human and not a bot were on the other side.
- **UpScrolled:** A "censorship-free" social media platform.
- **C2 Live & Favorited:** New live-streaming apps with little to no moderation.
- **Deepfake Apps (Reface, FaceMagic):** These can be used to manipulate images of children, leading to potential grooming or bullying.

Why These Companies Are Dangerous

- **Digital Nicotine:** Some of these platforms use addictive design mechanisms, causing harm to young users that no amount of parental oversight or control can prevent.
- **AI Companions:** Chatbots are trained on adult internet data which increases the risk of inappropriate and over-sexualized conversations with minors.

- **Predatory Algorithms:** Even smaller platforms often use algorithms designed to maximize engagement, leading to addiction and the amplification of extreme content, i.e. violence, sex, hate, pro-suicide and self-harm.
- **Anonymity and Encryption:** Many of these platforms do not require any form of age or identity verification, and some encrypt or delete data, making it virtually impossible for predators to be identified and/or held accountable.
- **Live Streaming:** Live video features that are unregulated and have no built-in safety features (i.e. requiring verification to stream or built-in delays) risk exposing children to instant violent and/or sexual content.
- **Weak Parental Controls, or None At All:** Often lack proper age verification or parental monitoring or control tools. In some cases, the parental tools provided are designed to be ineffective, thereby providing parents with false assurances of safety.