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AUTOMATIC MANAGEMENT OF COMPUTER USAGE

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Automatic Management of Computer Usage

Abstract: A computer-implemented technique allows posture, screen time, and other restrictions on a child's use of a computer to be enforced without human supervision of the child's computer usage.
This disclosure relates to the field of computer usage.

Usage of computers, such as for example notebook and tables computers, by children is widespread. Children, if left on their own, may not adopt a proper posture when using in particular portable computers, or may use the computer for a longer time than parents wish them to. At present, parents (e.g. in the home) or educators (e.g. in school) must monitor computer usage and enforce established restrictions.

A technique is disclosed that allows posture, screen time, and other restrictions on a child's use of a computer to be enforced without requiring active monitoring of the child by a parent, educator, or other adult.

According to the present disclosure, when a child begins to use a computer for which such restrictions have been established, software will activate the computer's camera to observe the child using it. The software analyzes the captured image to determine whether the child's posture matches allowable postures.

If the child has not assumed an allowed posture while operating the computer, the monitor will turn off. If the child then corrects their posture, the monitor will turn back on. In this way, proper posture during computer usage can be enforced.

The software also ensures that the amount of time the child uses the computer does not exceed established limits. The limits can be established by period (e.g. per day), by event (e.g. per session), or according to other standards.

If the usage time limits have been exceeded, the monitor and/or the system will turn off and the computer will be unusable until a new period or event occurs.

The disclosed technique advantageously allows established restrictions of a child's computer usage to be enforced without human supervision.

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