

# Web Content-Filtering Solutions

## Restrict employee access to Internet content

**B**usinesses that want to limit employee Internet access to only business-related content and services have the luxury of choosing from a variety of Web content-filtering solutions. The techniques these products employ range from simple blocked-URL lists to network appliances that “learn” and can make dynamic policy changes. The appropriate Web content-filtering solution for your business depends on factors such as your company's size, type of business, resources, network infrastructure, and corporate culture. For example, in one company, downloading music files during business hours might be a necessary business-related activity, whereas in another company, the same action might result in an employee being asked to clean out his or her desk.

In many ways, the term *Web content-filtering solutions* is too narrow to describe this group of products. The solutions in this Buyer's Guide offer wide-ranging capabilities that you might or might not need. Compare your requirements with the product descriptions in the accompanying table and do the necessary research before you buy.

Some products, such as Deerfield.com's Cobian Orange Filter and LogiSense's EngageIP Content Filter, concentrate exclusively on HTTP-delivered content; other products can also filter and control content delivered by additional protocols. If you want to block access to services such as FTP, Instant Messaging (IM), Internet Relay Chat (IRC), and music downloading (e.g., Kazaa) or to protocols such as Network News Transfer Protocol (NNTP), make sure that the product you choose has this capability.

Rather than being standalone systems, some products, such as Secure Computing's SmartFilter and FilterLogix's Intelligent Content Manager, are add-ons to existing firewalls, proxy servers, or gateways. If you consider such products, make sure that they'll integrate with your existing infrastructure. Browse the company's technical support knowledge base for information about any compatibility problems with your specific hardware.

Pricing is also an important consideration, and the pricing models of Web content-filtering products vary widely. In general, you can expect to pay either a per-user fee or a flat fee for multiple users. In addition, some companies charge annual

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fees for licensing, support, and updates. For example, a four-server license for NetIQ's Web Marshall Enterprise Edition costs \$2000 plus \$750 for 100 users. St. Bernard Software's iPrism network appliance includes a 250-workstation license and 1-year subscription for \$5490. You can install Secure Computing's SmartFilter on an existing appliance, firewall, or proxy server for \$25 or less per user.

Before you purchase a product, evaluate its reporting capabilities, which can be an important feature if you become embroiled in a legal dispute with an employee. Also, consider the ease with which a product's configuration tools let you restrict content or make it accessible. Many products have Web interfaces that let you remotely manage content filtering. Evaluate the administration system's built-in security—does the product securely store passwords, support encryption, and maintain logs of policy changes?

## The ability to correctly classify URLs and the database's accuracy are paramount to a Web content-filtering system's effectiveness.

The most effective systems know which Web sites are objectionable or block restricted sites according to company-specified policies. Web content-filtering vendors often use marketing terms such as *artificial content recognition*, *artificial intelligence (AI)*, and *coaching* to describe how their content-blocking engines work. Cut through the marketing buzz by comparing the methods products use to make requests with continuously updated blocked-URL lists—databases that you don't have to manually maintain. Accurate lists and the ability to correctly classify URLs are paramount for an effective Web content-filtering system. Look at factors such as the frequency of updates, the database size, and the intelligence of the blocking engine. To facilitate these important tasks, some vendors maintain a support staff that categorizes and ranks database entries.

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### EDITOR'S NOTE

The Buyer's Guide summarizes vendor-submitted information. To find out about future Buyer's Guide topics or to learn how to include your product in an upcoming Buyer's Guide, go to <http://www.winnetmag.com/buyersguide>.

Contact Information	Product Name	Price	Description
<b>2Watch Network</b> 888-292-8242 <a href="http://www.2watch.com">http://www.2watch.com</a>	2Watch Internet Filter	\$1200 for 50 users	Monitors and blocks corporate-network access to restricted Web sites; lets management define which content is appropriate for employee access; ensures that Internet use is productive; protects corporations from employees' unproductive Internet activities that could result in corporate liability
<b>Allot Communications</b> 650-401-2266 800-204-1364 <a href="http://www.allot.com">http://www.allot.com</a>	NetPure	\$7000	Provides an Internet-filtering algorithm that's more effective than traditional Employee Internet Management (EIM) solutions based on lists of prohibited sites; features coverage of English and non-English Web sites and of proxy-server and cache-server content
<b>Blue Coat Systems</b> 408-220-2200 866-302-2628 <a href="http://www.bluecoat.com">http://www.bluecoat.com</a>	ProxySG 400	\$3500 to \$4500	Controls branch-office Web communications; offers integrated support for Secure Computing, SurfControl, and Websense products; provides Web-access policies according to user, group, time of day, location, network address, user agent, and other attributes; offers coaching through customized splash pages and integrated caching technology
	ProxySG 800	\$5995 to \$24,995	Supports the enterprise market; provides all the features of the Proxy-SG 400 but with more bandwidth and memory and hot-swappable components; offers optional Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) accelerator; supports failover to other ProxySG appliances
	ProxySG 6000	\$22,995 to \$89,995	Offers additional security features; strips malicious code out of Web content and multimedia protocols; incorporates Denial of Service (DoS) attack resistance as well as multiple authentication protocols
<b>Cerberian</b> 801-999-2900 800-789-5180 <a href="http://www.cerberian.com">http://www.cerberian.com</a>	Cerberian Web Manager	\$800 for 25 users; \$18,000 for 2000 users	Provides protection and Internet-policy enforcement for businesses, government agencies, homes, libraries, and schools; features a next-generation content-filtering architecture; combines a scalable, dynamic database with real-time site-rating technology to block objectionable and nonbusiness-related Web content
<b>Cobion</b> 781-229-5844 <a href="http://www.cobion.com">http://www.cobion.com</a>	OrangeBox Web	Pricing starts at \$1895	Enforces Internet-use policies by filtering inappropriate content; lets organizations define—by individual, group, or IP address—which 50-user license content is accessible at which time; passes or blocks requests according to a database that contains more than 20 million precategorized URLs
<b>Deerfield.com</b> 989-732-8856 800-599-8856 <a href="http://www.deerfield.com">http://www.deerfield.com</a>	Cobion Orange Filter	\$249 to \$8999	A content-filtering, server-based plug-in for Kerio Technologies' Kerio WinRoute Firewall; contains 58 filtering categories; automatically filters Web content against a database of millions of externally hosted Web sites (i.e., doesn't require internally hosted, updated lists)
<b>FilterLogix</b> 651-436-3888 800-436-4627 <a href="http://www.filterlogix.com">http://www.filterlogix.com</a>	Intelligent Content Manager	Contact vendor for pricing	A fully integrated filtering solution for comprehensive and accurate Web filtering; provides next-generation Web-content-filtering technology for controlling and managing Internet access
<b>LogiSense</b> 519-249-0508 <a href="http://www.logisense.com">http://www.logisense.com</a>	EngageIP Content Filter, Personal Edition	Starts at \$29 per user; volume discounts available	Runs on Windows XP, Windows NT 4.0, and Windows 9x; provides a plug-in for Cerberian Web Manager; offers optional summary or detailed graphical-reporting capabilities; includes password-protected policy-override capabilities; provides URL submission and customizable policy block pages that display blocked categories
	EngageIP Content Filter, Server Edition	\$1295 to \$1995 per license	Runs on Windows Server 2003, Windows 2000 Server, and Windows NT; offers an optional compression module; ships with a plug-in for Cerberian Web Manager

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<b>NetIQ</b> 408-856-3000 888-323-6768 <a href="http://www.netiq.com">http://www.netiq.com</a>	NetIQ Web Marshal 3.5	\$1295 for 75 users (Small Business Server license); \$2000 plus \$750 for 100 users (Enterprise Edition license)	Acts as a gateway between the Internet and the corporate network; allows or denies Internet access according to predefined company policies; supports virus scanning, quota management, URL blocking, and transparent real-time content analysis of Web pages
<b>PureSight</b> 949-361-3379 866-316-2149 <a href="http://www.puresight.com">http://www.puresight.com</a>	PureSight	\$1295 for 50 users	Uses artificial-content-recognition technology to analyze Internet traffic and categorize content; intelligent engine inspects requested Web pages for compliance with Internet acceptable-use policies that the PureSight Management Server defines
<b>Secure Computing</b> 408-979-6100 800-379-4944 <a href="http://www.securecomputing.com">http://www.securecomputing.com</a>	SmartFilter	\$25 or less per user	Lets organizations enforce Web-use policies; denies user access to specific Web sites; coaches user browser sessions for acceptable-use standards; uses an international control list to continuously categorize millions of Web sites into content groups; provides detailed analysis of Web-surfing activity
<b>St. Bernard Software</b> 858-676-2277 800-782-3762 <a href="http://www.stbernard.com">http://www.stbernard.com</a>	iPrism	\$5490 for a 250-workstation license	Provides a 1U (1.75") rack-mountable Internet-filtering appliance that monitors and blocks Internet access; lets organizations implement and enforce acceptable-use policies; offers self-contained filtering that's transparent to end users; installs on networks without workstation modifications or software installations
<b>SurfControl</b> 831-440-2500 800-368-3366 <a href="http://www.surfcontrol.com">http://www.surfcontrol.com</a>	SurfControl Web Filter	\$18 per user based on a 500-user installation	Protects against legal liability and threats to network resources, productivity, and security; provides comprehensive reporting and analysis, ease of use, and flexible deployment options; content database contains millions of URLs and a billion pages in 40 content categories; provides database monitoring and daily updating; offers optional "learning" module
<b>WatchGuard Technologies</b> 206-521-8340 800-734-9905 <a href="http://www.watchguard.com">http://www.watchguard.com</a>	WebBlocker	Contact vendor for pricing	Uses an optional software module that blocks users behind the WatchGuard Firebox security appliance from accessing undesirable Web sites; filters content according to content type, time of day, and URL
<b>Wavecrest Computing</b> 321-953-5351 877-442-9346 <a href="http://www.wavecrest.net">http://www.wavecrest.net</a>	CyBlock ISA 4.0	Contact vendor for tiered, per-user pricing	Optimized for Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server 2000; provides automated blocking and reporting for as many as 67 standard and custom content categories, XML-based report generation, browser-based administrative options including group and ID import, and Logfile Manager
<b>Websense</b> 858-320-8000 800-723-1166 <a href="http://www.websense.com">http://www.websense.com</a>	Websense Enterprise 5.1	Contact vendor for pricing	Combats threats arising from employee use of the Internet, networks, and PC desktop applications; provides an enterprise-class Internet-filtering platform that conserves IT resources, improves productivity and security, and mitigates legal liability
<b>Webwasher</b> 646-375-2338 800-305-4986 <a href="http://www.webwasher.com">http://www.webwasher.com</a>	WebWasher EE	\$50 per user	Provides enterprisewide content security management, including Internet-content filtering, Internet access management by using a comprehensive URL database, malicious code filtering, and intellectual property protection