

Re: Web Filtering

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Win2000/microsoft.public.win2000.networking/2007-05/msg00001.html>

- *From:* Kurt <kurtl@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 01 May 2007 13:41:43 -0700
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chad wrote:

I run a network of about 50 users. Ten of these users need access to the Internet for specific sites they have to go to for work. What program does everyone suggest for this? I don't want to completely block their access. I was thinking of using Websense. Any suggestions?

The central way to manage it is with a router that supports Access Control Lists (ACLs). Some routers even support ACLs using URLs. The trick is to look for a router that lets you specify "block all except those listed". You can't filter by exclusion, there are just too many to exclude. Some routers provide content filtering as a subscription, but it doesn't work well, and still doesn't let you directly specify allowed sites. With a Cisco (or similar) router you can just specify ACLs as

```
access-list 101 permit ip any 72.14.253.0 255.255.255.0
access-list 101 permit ip 72.14.253.0 255.255.255.0 any
```

This allows any IP address to connect to Google. Once you add a "permit", everything else is implicitly denied. So if you had only this ACL applied, the only website you could get to would be Google.

Another way, if you are running your own DNS, is to set up a root zone "." and do not specify forwarders. Then add the urls for allowed websites manually in your own DNS. Although this doesn't technically block anything, few users know the IP addresses of websites they may try to visit. If you don't currently do your own DNS, you can set up a DNS server on minimal hardware, install your favorite flavor of Linux (free), and run a BIND DNS server.

Then there are proxy servers with various levels of control. Google and look for one that suits your needs.

On an individual PC basis, there are a few choices, but of course you have to set up and maintain each PC one at a time.

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