

Medway Grid for Learning



Policies and Guidance

Local Control of Web Filtering

(Version 1.13 - 20/01/2009)

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Introduction

This document is intended to provide general information and guidance related to connecting school LANs to the broadband Grid for Learning network, and running school systems and servers effectively to deliver a reliable, high performance service. It also provides specific policies adherence to which is necessary for the smooth and effective running of the whole network.

1 Local Filtering

1.1 Introduction

Local filtering control allows an individual school to tailor the web filtering policy to the school's particular requirements rather than having to rely on a pre-built range of policies e.g. the current primary, secondary, filtpol3, secng and secning policies.

1.2 Security Issues

Taking the local control service allows designated school ICT contacts (identified separately from the general MGfL ICT contacts) to permit the use of websites in the school which would not otherwise be available, this does not present a technical security risk, but schools will probably wish to have internal policies in place to prevent exposure to adverse publicity.

1.3 Costs

The local filtering service is an optional component of the Medway Grid for Learning service but is provided at no additional charge.

1.4 Operation

A wide range of categories are available and almost all of these can be enabled or disabled at will. The full range of categories is included in appendix A of this documents. Following consultation a small number of categories have been identified which are not available for release. These categories are:

Adware, Spyware, Malware

Sites in this category have been identified as hosting of adware, spyware and malware.

Messaging

These are sites that support or have a role to play in the on-line messaging process. Sites that fall into this category may be sources for messaging programs themselves as well as offering sign-in facilities for specific services. Examples of this category of site would be MSN and skype.com

Proxy Anonymizer

Proxy Anonymizer sites allow the user to bypass filtering systems by offering facilities to display pages from other sites through the Proxy Anonymizer site.

Security Threat

Sites that host facilities deemed to pose a threat to the security of a WAN or LAN would be placed in this category.

Sex/Adult

Sites in this category contain materials of an adult sexual nature, ranging from extreme pornography to swimwear models in provocative poses.

Web-based Chat

These sites offer both web-based chat.

Web-Based Chat & Email

These sites offer both web-based chat and web-based e-mail facilities.

Web-based Email

These sites offer web-based e-mail facilities.

1.5 Arranging implementation

To arrange implementation please complete the form on the next page and send an original copy, signed in ink, to

Medway Grid for Learning
ICT Admin
Gun Wharf
Dock Road
Chatham
ME4 4TR

Medway Grid for Learning - Application for local control of web filtering

School name :

Staff contact name :

Contact email address :

Contact telephone number :

Accounts to be enabled to control the school's web filtering policy (max 3)

1.) @medway.org.uk

2.) @medway.org.uk

3.) @medway.org.uk

Declaration

I have read and understood the document "Medway Grid for Learning Policies and Guidance: Local Control of Web Filtering (Version 1.12 - 15/11/2007)". I am aware of and have assessed the implications of implementing this system and wish to proceed.

Signed _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Witness _____

Date _____

Print Name _____

Position _____

N.B. This must be signed by the Headteacher or Acting Headteacher of the school requesting the service.