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## Blueprint Data, Webfilter for schools/Kidsnet Light 2.1

Kidsnet from Blueprint provides web filtering. The web-based interface hosted on the Kidsnet website also provides options for blocking news, chat, instant messaging, FTP, email, etc. However, the latter options did not seem to function on the version we tested.

Its support of platforms and languages is summarised in the table below:

Type	Client	Server	Service						
Platforms	Win95	Win98	<b>WinME</b>	<b>Win2k</b>	Win03	<b>WinNT</b>	<b>WinXP</b>	<b>Linux</b>	<b>MacOS</b>
Protocols / Applications	<b>browser</b>	instant msg	chat	e-mail	news	file transfer	peer2peer	VoIP	Stream
Languages User Interface	Czech	Danish	Dutch	<b>English</b>	Estonian	Finnish	French	German	Greek
	Polish	Portuguese	Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swedish	Maltese		
Languages Filtering Criteria	Czech	Danish	Dutch	<b>English</b>	Estonian	Finnish	French	German	Greek
	Polish	Portuguese	Slovak	Slovenian	<b>Spanish</b>	Swedish	Maltese		

The feedback given by the User Reference Group is summarised as follows:

Test domain	Score	Actual score	Average all tools	Best tool
(Un)installing and updating the tool	●●○○	2,0	2,3	2,8
Tailoring and monitoring the filtering	●●○○	2,2	2,5	3,2

The scores of the Lab tests are summarised as follows:

Test domain	Score	Actual score	Average all tools	Best tool
Local language support	●●○○	2,0	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for kids	●○○○	1,0	2,0	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents	●○○○	1,0	1,8	2,5
Effectiveness for kids (porn only)	●●○○	2,0	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents (porn only)	●●○○	2,0	2,5	4,0
Speed of filtering	●●○○	2,0	3,2	4,0
Security Integrity	●●●○	3,0	2,7	4,0

Legal Compliance	●●○○	2,0	2,4	3,5
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## 1. Configurability

The tool can be installed (and removed) as one module. It can be configured via a web-based interface. The installation location can be freely selected.

The tool contains a useful default policy that can be fine-tuned in levels per type of content, very specifically to the user's wishes. However, during the configuration we noted that some configuration options did not work correctly, which makes it difficult to fully fine-tune a policy.

The User Reference Group judged the initial setup to be only moderately straightforward.

Several users can be defined and used. However, settings need to be set for each user, as group profiles have not been foreseen. Furthermore, child carers need to go through several screens before being able to change the settings.

Software upgrades can be downloaded. The tool does not allow automatic updates of the application.

## 2. Usability

The user interface is quite easy to understand and provides clear options for the users. We did experience that some options require a lot of clicks to arrive at the desired functionality.

Online help is easily accessible and provides detailed information.

The user interface is available in English only.

## 3. Filtering Algorithm & Effectiveness

The scores of the Lab tests for the individual effectiveness tests are:

Content Type	Score
<b>Web ICRA filtering</b>	4
<b>Instant Messaging</b>	N/A
<b>Chat</b>	Disable
<b>Email</b>	Disable
<b>Newsgroup</b>	Disable
<b>File Transfer Protocol</b>	Disable
<b>Voice over IP</b>	Disable
<b>Streaming media</b>	N/A
<b>Peer-to-peer</b>	Disable

### **Web filtering: URL based filtering**

Because Kidsnet uses white lists, non-harmful content on sites that have not been added to the lists yet are also blocked.

### **Web filtering: Content filtering**

Kidsnet uses URL-filtering to allow or block web pages. It does not filter based on the content of pages. It takes into account ICRA labels.

### **Instant messaging MSN**

Kidsnet allows child carers to choose whether to block or not to block MSN. At some point in time, this functionality worked in our test environment. At a later stage, the administrative interfaces did not seem to register our changed preferences correctly, as they were reset from "allow" to "disallow" after logging off and logging on again.

### **Chat IRC filtering**

Kidsnet allows child carers to choose whether to block or not to block IRC. At some point in time, this functionality worked in our test environment. At a later stage, the administrative interfaces did not seem to register our changed preferences correctly, as they were reset to disallow after logging off and logging on again. During our tests, chat traffic was blocked.

### **Email filtering**

The tool allows child carers to choose whether to block or not to block email traffic. However, this function does not seem to work in the web-interface. Consequently, email is supposed to be blocked, as this is the default setting.

When using Thunderbird as well as Outlook Express, all email traffic was blocked, as foreseen in the default setting.

### **Newsgroup filtering**

The tool allows child carers to choose whether to block or not to block newsgroup traffic. However, this function does not seem to work in the web-interface. During our tests, news traffic was blocked by Kidsnet.

### **File Transfer (FTP) filtering**

The tool allows child carers to choose whether to block or not to block FTP. However, this function does not seem to work in the web-interface. Consequently, FTP is supposed to be blocked, as this is the default setting.

When using standard FTP, we were indeed unable to download any files. When using Internet Explorer, we were able to download all the files. Therefore, the FTP blocking is not effective.

### **Voice over IP, streaming media, peer-to-peer blocking**

Kidsnet does not provide child carers the option of filtering or blocking Voice of IP, streaming media or peer-to-peer applications. We noted that peer-to-peer and voice over IP are blocked, and that streaming media are not blocked.

## **4. Performance**

Based on the values observed during our tests, we determined that the impact on memory consumption and CPU usage for the tool Kidsnet was very low.

Based on the HTTP loading tests for this tool, it scored a 2, meaning that there was a relevant delay that could be noticed by the user.

## 5. Transparency

When logging in as a child, a new window opens with links to sites specific for children. Even though the content currently does not appear to be commercial in nature, we would discourage BluePrint Data from using this pop-up screen.

When a user tries to access a restricted site, he or she gets a screen with a child-friendly picture and notification that this site is blocked.

The tool does not log the child's activity. Furthermore, there are no overviews or reports on the number of sites blocked over a period, thus safeguarding the user's privacy.

## 6. Security Integrity

### Network tests

The network security tests performed did not identify security issues caused by the tool.

### Local tests

During the filtering of web access, the tool is sending information to the vendor's website. The kind of information sent to the vendor was: URL accessed, blocking category, and a customer id number (e.g. [http://kidsnet.com/graphics/redirect.asp??url=BlockedSiteURL&rating=0&guide=0&kidid=USERID\\_CHILDID](http://kidsnet.com/graphics/redirect.asp??url=BlockedSiteURL&rating=0&guide=0&kidid=USERID_CHILDID))

The page shown when a page is blocked has been found vulnerable to cross-site scripting attacks. This way, the users can be subject of hackers stealing their cookies, phishing and executing malicious code on the user's PC.

## 7. Legal Compliance

The privacy policy explicitly mentions the types of data (personal or computer related) collected by the service provider. However, the purposes of collection of these data are worded in very generic terms (e.g. need of internal reviews of client-related information). This raises concerns as to whether the collection (and subsequent storage) of all this information, ranging from personal data strictly speaking (name, e-mails, etc.) to dates on which customers made purchases, is necessary and proportionate to the purposes sought. Additionally, the privacy policy does not inform users about whether data are transferred outside of Europe (which may be possible since the main provider's location is in the US) neither does it specify the location in which data are processed.

We noted that all user data are stored on the Kidsnet webserver. This includes the user names and passwords of the parent and the children, as well as the settings. Furthermore, if a page is blocked, a page on the Kidsnet website is displayed, including the blocked URL.

It is noteworthy that the data privacy statement expressly informs users that products for schools and educational institutions or libraries are pre-configured, but these settings can be easily changed in order to comply with the US privacy requirements (the Children's Internet Protection Act, US).