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SoftForYou, CyberSieve v1.2

CyberSieve provides filtering for websurfing, instant messaging, chat, email and news.

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

Type	Client	Server	Service						
Platforms	Win95	Win98	WinME	Win2k	Win03	WinNT	WinXP	Linux	MacOS
Protocols / Applications	browser	instant msg	chat	e-mail	news	file transfer	peer2peer	VoIP	Stream
Languages User Interface	Czech	Danish	Dutch	English	Estonian	Finnish	French	German	Greek
	Polish	Portuguese	Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swedish	Maltese		
Languages Filtering Criteria	Czech	Danish	Dutch	English	Estonian	Finnish	French	German	Greek
	Polish	Portuguese	Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	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	●●○○	2,1	2,3	2,8
Tailoring and monitoring the filtering	●●●○	2,7	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	●○○○	1,0	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for kids	●●●○	2,5	2,0	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents	●●●○	2,5	1,8	2,5
Effectiveness for kids (porn only)	●●●○	2,5	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents (porn only)	●●●○	2,5	2,5	4,0
Speed of filtering	●○○○	1,0	3,2	4,0
Security Integrity	●●●●	4,0	2,7	4,0
Legal Compliance	●●○○	2,0	2,4	3,5

1. Configurability

CyberSieve has a useful default filtering policy, with a few harmful content categories available. This default policy can easily be fine-tuned and new words and/or sentences can be added to the existing categories.

The child carer can use the Built-in Database with pre-selected websites, but can also maintain his/her own list of websites to allow or deny access to certain web pages.

New users can be created and added to user groups, which have their own filtering policy assigned.

CyberSieve can be updated both manually and automatically.

2. Usability

The user interface is not too technical, but could be made easier. The interface is not adaptable to the child carer's wishes, and cannot be used with only a keyboard.

Help Information is easily accessible and the manual is detailed, user friendly and to-the-point.

3. Filtering Algorithm & Effectiveness

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

Content Type	Score
Web ICRA filtering	N/A
Instant Messaging	N/A
Chat	N/A
Email	2
Newsgroup	2
File Transfer Protocol	N/A
Voice over IP	N/A
Streaming media	N/A
Peer-to-peer	N/A

Web filtering: URL based filtering

CyberSieve provides the ability to deny the use of IP addresses in the URL. When this option is checked, the website can only be accessed when giving in the domain name and not when giving in the IP address. This prevents the access to sites with objectionable content that change their IP address very often.

Furthermore, Cybersieve also provides the child carer the option to maintain a white list (allowed access) and a black list (denied access) for URLs.

Web filtering: Content filtering

CyberSieve provides the option to block websites based upon several content categories. It is also possible for the child carer to add word to these categories.

CyberSieve also provides the option to mask inappropriate words. This can be done for all programs, only email clients or only web browsers. We found out that using this option for web browsing was not always consistent: sometimes the word was filtered, other times, the word was viewable because it was part of another word or because capital letters were used.

Instant messaging MSN

CyberSieve does not provide instant messaging blocking or filtering. However, the IM application can be added to a list of blocked programs, so it cannot connect to the Internet.

Chat IRC filtering

CyberSieve does not provide IRC filtering or blocking. However, the IRC chat application can be added to a list of blocked programs, so it can not connect to the Internet.

We also noticed that, even when the masking option was enabled for "all programs", mIRC chatroom names and chatroom content were not masked.

Email filtering

CyberSieve does not contain any special policies for e-mail filtering. Some offensive words are masked and replaced by "*"

Newsgroup filtering

CyberSieve provides the option to block newsgroups based upon several content categories. It is also possible for the child carer to add word to these categories. Child carers can also maintain a black and a white list for newsgroups.

When the option to mask inappropriate words in e-mail clients has been enabled, some newsgroup names are masked when accessing the list of available newsgroups.

Trying to download messages from an objectionable newsgroup results in a warning message and the blocking of the newsgroup. Inappropriate words in messages from accessible newsgroups are masked.

We were not able to access browser based newsgroups with objectionable content, although their newsgroup names were not masked.

File Transfer (FTP) filtering

CyberSieve does not provide FTP filtering or blocking. However, the FTP application can be added to a list of blocked programs, so it can not connect to the Internet. It is also possible to block the FTP port.

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

CyberSieve does not provide VoIP, streaming media and peer-to-peer filtering or blocking. However, such applications can be added to a list of blocked programs, so they cannot connect to the Internet.

4. Performance

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

Based on the HTTP loading tests for this tool, it scored a 1, meaning that there was an important impact in terms of delays and therefore could degrade the surfing experience.

5. Transparency

The user is not notified of logging, monitoring or internet activities when logging in.

The child carer can choose what page the user should see if an attempt is made to open a blocked website. A subtle, standard "this page cannot be displayed" webpage can be shown to stealth, a more child-friendly warning message with a cartoon and the reason for blocking can be displayed, or CyberSieve can also show a small auto-hiding popup in the bottom right corner of the screen, with a short "access restricted" message and the reason for blocking.

CyberSieve has a detailed "Warnings log" that logs all violations with the date and time of the event, the used program, the user, the reason of the blocking (content category, inappropriate word, blocked list, ...), and the description of the website, word, newsgroup, ... (website URL, the word itself, the name of the newsgroup, ...).

The log can be configured to show all events or to show only system errors, inappropriate words, blocked web sites, blocked ports, blocked programs, etc.

In the "Online Activity" logs all visited websites can be viewed, all incoming connections, outgoing connections, the used ports and the visited newsgroups.

Furthermore, CyberSieve also logs all "Programs Activity". This log contains the time and date, the duration, the user information and the data received and sent for all programs that have accessed the internet.

CyberSieve reports its data by using charts and diagrams. The child carer can view charts and diagrams of blocked timelines, programs, words, web sites, news groups, ports and IP addresses in a URL. He can also see graphs of visited sites, applications activity, traffic limits and time limits. The child carer can choose to see this information for one day up to one year.

6. Security Integrity

Network tests

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

Local tests

The local security tests performed did not identify significant security issues.

7. Legal Compliance

The vendor provides a good level of information about its identity, product specifications and functionalities. We mostly appreciated the educational material posted on the website on the safe use of the internet by children, inter alia, the guidelines for parents on how protecting children online or from the use of instant messaging tools. The website links to informational material on child protection of other bodies and initiatives.

The privacy policy provides only some assurance that users' information is not shared with third parties and that computer-related data (IP addresses, etc.) are collected for specific purposes. There is no explicit information, however, as to whether any personal information is retained and

how is processed after collection. Yet, we noticed that personal data are communicated at least instantly to the provider through the on-line information request form or on-line purchase orders.

Sales terms & conditions are brief. Noteworthy is that the provider follows a refund (30 days) policy for dissatisfied customers after the product purchase.