

19

Telocator Ltd. Brightfilter 1.0

Telocator's Brightfilter solution provides content filtering for web surfing, and also provides the possibility to block instant messaging traffic.

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

Type	Client	Server	Service	other					
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	●○○○	1,8	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	●●○○	2,0	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for kids	●●○○	2,0	2,0	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents	●●○○	2,0	1,8	2,5
Effectiveness for kids (porn only)	●●●○	3,0	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents (porn only)	●●○○	2,5	2,5	4,0
Speed of filtering	●●●○	3,0	3,2	4,0
Security Integrity	●●○○	2,0	2,7	4,0
Legal Compliance	●●○○	2,5	2,4	3,5

1. Configurability

BrightFilter comes with a very useful default filtering policy with several pre-defined age categories, but the child carer can also create his/her own policy. The child carer can do this by choosing from several harmful content categories and maintaining a white list (allowed access) and black list (denied access) of websites.

New users can be created, with their own specified filtering policies, but it is not possible to create user groups.

The tool can be updated both manually and automatically.

2. Usability

The user interface is opened in a web browser, very easy to understand and can be controlled with only a keyboard. Because of the simplicity of the user interface and the limited options, the child carer is protected from making serious mistakes.

Help information is easily available. The manuals are 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	Disable
Chat	N/A
Email	N/A
Newsgroup	N/A
File Transfer Protocol	N/A
Voice over IP	N/A
Streaming media	N/A
Peer-to-peer	N/A

Web filtering: URL based filtering

Based on the tests performed, the URL filtering quality is "limited".

Web filtering: Content filtering

Brightfilter does not filter based on the content of pages. It does not take into account ICRA labels.

Instant messaging MSN

BrightFilter allows the child carer the option to block Instant Messaging applications. When active, the connection is blocked. We also could not connect to webmessenger.msn.com.

Chat IRC filtering

BrightFilter does not provide the option to block or filter IRC chat applications. However, webbased chat groups can be blocked.

Email filtering

BrightFilter does not provide the option to block or filter email client applications. During our tests, all emails were downloaded without any warning or changes. It does provide the option to block websites providing email services.

Newsgroup filtering

BrightFilter does not provide the option to block or filter newsgroup applications. During our tests, all newsgroups were accessible and all messages were downloaded without any filtering. It does allow the child carer to block websites providing access to usenet newsgroups.

File Transfer (FTP) filtering

BrightFilter does not provide the option to block or filter FTP applications.

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

BrightFilter does not block the use of VoIP applications. However, it does allow the child carer to block websites that enable users to make telephone calls via the Internet or obtain information or software for this purpose. When active, the access to these websites is prevented.

BrightFilter allows the child carer to block websites that provide streaming media, or contain software plug-ins that allow the displaying of audio and visual data before the entire file has been transmitted. Websites like YouTube were blocked, but websites like Radio Donna that provide a streaming webcam were still accessible.

BrightFilter allows the child carer to block the exchange of files between computers and users for business or personal use. However, although we have activated this option, we were still able to install and start eMule+, connect to a DonkeyServer and download files with objectionable content.

4. Performance

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

Based on the HTTP loading tests for this tool, it scored a 3, meaning that there was a low impact in terms of delays and therefore did not degrade the surfing experience significantly.

5. Transparency

When logging in, the user is not informed of any logging, filtering or monitoring activities done by BrightFilter.

When attempting to open a website with harmful content, the user is notified that access has been blocked with a link to a page with more information why the website has been blocked and the possibility to sign in as a different user.

No logs or reports are available.

6. Security Integrity

Network tests

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

Local tests

The filtering can be bypassed by using a non standard browser such as WGET. Outside of this we did not identify other security issues during our local tests.

7. Legal Compliance

The clear and customer-friendly information about the product provided on the vendor's front page is completed by technical information in the vendor's online Q&A. We appreciated the very visible link to some educational material – advice to parents on how protecting their children and themselves from on-line threats.

It is unfortunate that no specific legal information (about sales terms and conditions) is disclosed to interested visitors of the website at the pre-sales levels (thus, before they decide to proceed to an on-line order). The legal information present on the website limits to the terms of use of the website.

The privacy statement is quite in line with the EU and national data protection rules. It is worthy of positive comment the fact that the vendor informs users explicitly that their data will never be located to a server outside of Europe. Also, users are explicitly notified when changes to this privacy notice are made. Finally, the vendor informs users of the way they can have their data rectified, as required by law.