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Intego, Internet Security Barrier Platinum Edition X4

Intego's Internet Security Barrier Platinum provides an Internet content filtering for MacOS only.

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	Hungarian	Italian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Maltese		
	Polish	Portuguese	Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swedish			
Languages Filtering Criteria	Czech	Danish	Dutch	English	Estonian	Finnish	French		
	German	Greek	Hungarian	Italian	Latvian	Lithuanian	Maltese		
	Polish	Portuguese	Slovak	Slovenian	Spanish	Swedish			

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	●●●○	2,8	2,3	2,8
Tailoring and monitoring the filtering	●●●○	3,2	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	●●●○	3,0	2,6	4,0
Effectiveness for kids	●●○○	2,0	2,0	4,0
Effectiveness for adolescents	●○○○	1,5	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	●●●○	3,0	3,2	4,0
Security Integrity	●●●●	4,0	2,7	4,0

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

The tool can be easily installed on the computer. Additional modules, such as the Parent Control module, have to be installed separately.

The tool has a very useful default filtering policy that can be easily fine-tuned. There are also several harmful content categories available.

The child carer can create new users and assign them to a user group with its own filtering policy. The filtering can be tailored to the age of the users and the filtering settings can be copied from somebody else or from another PC.

The tool can be updated both manually and automatically.

2. Usability

The user interface guides the child carer through the different steps and configurations, and the terms used are easy to understand. The user interface is, however, not adaptable to the own wishes and cannot be accessed or managed from a remote location.

The tool can be used without a mouse and help information is available and easily accessible.

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	1
Newsgroup	N/A
File Transfer Protocol	N/A
Voice over IP	N/A
Streaming media	Disable
Peer-to-peer	N/A

Web filtering: URL based filtering

The child carer can maintain a white list of websites.

Web filtering: Content filtering

The tool does not support ICRA filtering.

Instant messaging MSN

The tool allows the child carer block chat sessions or filter their content. The tool uses a default list of common objectionable phrases like "are you alone", "can i see you", etc.

However, our test pointed out that instant messaging applications were not blocked nor filtered.

Chat IRC filtering

The tool allows the child carer block chat sessions or filter their content. The tool uses a default list of common objectionable phrases like "are you alone", "can i see you", etc.

However, our tests pointed out that chat applications like IRCLE were not blocked nor filtered.

Email filtering

The tool allows the child carer to block email traffic or filter email using the categories the child carer has specified in the web filter settings.

We found that if an email with harmful content is found, the connection is broken and it is impossible to download the following email messages.

Newsgroup filtering

The tool allows the child carer to block newsgroup traffic. However, although we enabled this option, we still were able to use a newsgroup application and download messages.

File Transfer (FTP) filtering

The tool does not provide an option to block or filter FTP traffic. However, the child carer can maintain a white list of applications and prevent other programs to connect to the internet.

Otherwise, FTP traffic is not filtered or blocked.

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

The tool does not provide an option to block or filter VoIP traffic. However, the child carer can maintain a white list of applications and prevent other programs to connect to the internet.

The tool allows the child carer to block or permit streaming media. When active, if a user tries to connect to a streaming media device, a warning message is given and the connection is denied.

The tool allows the child carer to block or permit peer-to-peer applications. When active, the peer-to-peer application is not allowed to make connection with the Internet.

4. Performance

Based on the HTTP loading tests for this tool, it scored a 4, meaning that there was a very low impact in terms of delays and therefore was almost not noticeable.

5. Transparency

When logging in, the user is not notified of any logging, monitoring and/or filtering activities.

When attempting to access a prohibited website, the default settings redirect the user to a "Content Barrier" webpage with the message that access to the website is blocked. The message

includes the reason for blocking (content category) with a score that shows how much of a certain content category is applicable to this site. If the content is deemed offensive, there is no option to overrule the blocked function. Otherwise it can be overruled with the administrator password.

The tool allows the child carer to view the log completely (containing all kind of information, e.g. violations, visited websites, start of the application, etc.), to view the log in a more simple format with only relevant information shown (website blocked, website partially blocked, website visited, etc.), or to view only the blocked accesses or the blocked applications.

When entering the tool, an overview is available, showing the current filtering policy settings, the last connection made and the number of blocked and visited web pages, chat sessions and blocked content types.

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 level of information provided to potential buyers about the product and the software license agreement is satisfactory. It is noteworthy that the website directs users to read/approve the license terms before downloading or buying the software. The legal notice posted on the website provides the necessary basic legal information. However, it contains a quite wide warranties' and liability disclaimer (actually, liability of the vendor is excluded also for indirect damages).

In the privacy notice, we appreciated that vendor makes a distinction between information about the user's data communicated through surfing on vendor's website and those collected while using the software application. While it is clearly mentioned that the no personal data are collected automatically when surfing on the website, there is a limitative description of the information collected when launching the software. These latter are: the version of the application, IP address, serial numbers and login/password entered by users. However, no precise information is conveyed about the purposes of data collection, whether transfers of personal information take place, the duration or place of storage, etc.