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## McAfee, McAfee Internet Security Suite 8.0

McAfee Internet Security Suite provides an integrated security suite of products including anti-virus and firewall functionality, which also contains parental control filtering covering a wide range of Internet content types.

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

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

## 1. Configurability

McAfee Internet Security Suite does not have any categories for harmful content available and it is rather hard to fine-tune the filtering policy. The child carer can additionally maintain a white list (allowed access) and black list (denied access) of websites and keywords.

The child carer can also create new users and assign an age level to them. However, it is not possible to assign specific filtering policies to the different users. Only in the list of keywords an age level can be specified.

The tool can be updated both manually and automatically.

## 2. Usability

McAfee Internet Security Suite is available in several languages. The user interface is easy to understand and the few options that it provides are clear for the child carers.

The tool is difficult to control with only a keyboard.

Help information is easily available 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	2
Chat	2
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

McAfee Internet Security Suite provides both a white list (allowed access) and a black list (denied access) of websites that can be maintained and tailored by the child carer.

### Web filtering: Content filtering

McAfee Internet Security Suite maintains a word list that is used to filter webpages, newsgroups, chatrooms, etc. Words can be added to or removed from this black list. An age level can be assigned to the words by the child carer. It does not support ICRA filtering.

### **Instant messaging MSN**

McAfee's Security Suite filters MSN messages for harmful content and blocks out these words using the hash sign ("#"). However, the filter does not always filter out these words. We have noted several occasions where the first occurrence of a word is filtered, but not the second occurrence in the same sentence.

The Instant Messaging application can also be added to a list of blocked programs, so they cannot connect to the Internet.

### **Chat IRC filtering**

McAfee Internet Security Suite does not provide any settings to control the blocking or filtering of IRC chat sessions.

However, when starting an mIRC session, some chat rooms with objectionable names cannot be accessed. Others can be accessed, but McAfee Internet Security Suite has masked their room names. The content of the chatting itself is not filtered.

Also, with McAfee Internet Security Suite IRC applications can be added to a list of blocked programs, to disable their connection to the Internet.

### **Email filtering**

McAfee Internet Security Suite provides the option to scan incoming email messages based on several customisable filters and block objectionable emails, quarantine them or tag them as spam.

However, our tests pointed out for the level of a "young child" neither spam emails nor other emails with potentially harmful content were blocked by McAfee Internet Security Suite. In Thunderbird, a popup with a warning came up sometimes when adult content was found. In Outlook Express no warnings were given.

### **Newsgroup filtering**

The newsgroup application can be added to a list of blocked programs, so they cannot connect to the Internet. Other than that, there is no option to change the settings for filtering or blocking newsgroup messages.

However, when searching for available newsgroups in newsgroup applications like Thunderbird and Outlook Express, some group names have been masked (using "#"). This filtering is not always consistent as some objectionable newsgroup names have been masked, but others are still viewable.

When trying to download the messages from our 8 test newsgroups, 5 newsgroups were blocked and unsubscribed by McAfee Internet Security Suite.

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

The McAfee Internet Security Suite does not filter or block FTP traffic. However, it is possible to block the typical FTP ports.

It is also possible to add the FTP application to the list of blocked programs, so they cannot connect to the Internet.

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

The VoIP application can be added to a list of blocked programs, so they cannot connect to the Internet. Other than that, McAfee Internet Security Suite does not provide any setting to block VoIP.

McAfee Internet Security Suite does not provide any option to block streaming media traffic.

The peer-to-peer application can be added to a list of blocked programs, so they cannot connect to the Internet. When the application is not in the list, McAfee Internet Security Suite asks approval to let the application connect with the internet, but access can be granted by the "child". Once approved, there is no further filtering nor blocking when using the application.

## 4. Performance

Based on the values observed during our tests, we determined that the impact on memory consumption and CPU usage for the tool McAfee Internet Security Suite was 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 that his activities are being logged.

When trying to access a prohibited website, McAfee Internet Security Suite shows a webpage with a warning message that the requested website has been blocked. No specific reason is given and the page does not provide the option to override the blocking with a password.

McAfee Internet Security Suite logs date, time and user information of several events: users signing in, web site requests, blocking of a URL, blocking of a website because of a keyword, etc., and some more detailed information about the keyword or the IP address of the blocked website.

No high-level reports are available. The detailed logs are accessible to the child carers.

## 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. However, we noted that some settings are accessible to the user, e.g. disabling the firewall and the anti-spam module.

The filtering works on Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox. If another browser is installed and is "allowed", the filtering may not work. However, using the application blocking functionality, other applications need to be allowed before they can be used.

## 7. Legal Compliance

We were unable to identify an explicit note on legal information (e.g. about vendor's liabilities, warranties, etc.) on the vendor's website. If such information exists it cannot be found easily through an obvious and direct hyperlink.

The privacy notice reflects best practices. The vendor's adherence to a privacy "trusted seal" (TRUSTe) provides additional warranties about vendor's effective compliance to basic data protection rules. Regarding transfers of data to the US, the notice explicitly mentions that the

vendor has applied for the safe harbour legal framework. Furthermore, the privacy notice specifies clearly the types of personal data that are collected and the purposes of the collection. There is finally the explicit statement that log files (consisting of IP addresses and browser types) are not linked to personally identifying information. The way in which the vendor brings to users' attention any amendments to the privacy statement is worth of a positive comment. Instead of asking users to actively seek for such updates, vendor posts a notice on its website informing users about changes. Also, for important changes, users are notified by e-mail.