Safe Internet Service Filtering Categories
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Category Definitions

1.1. Overview
Safe Internet Service offers a unique process for filtering content on the Internet. While others rely solely on human reviewers to detect and harvest Web content, NetSweeper's proprietary process uses a unique combination of human review, technology, and Artificial Intelligence (AI). This process minimizes "over blocking" associated with denied access to sites regarding breast cancer, sex education, religion, and health. Intelligent filtering is the only way to ensure accurate categorization of Web content.

1.2. Categories
Listed below are the current categories of content that Safe Internet service currently filters.

1.2.1. Adult
This category contains sites that offer arguments that are either in favour of or against abortions. This category includes information on abortion procedures as well as sites that offer assistance in obtaining abortions and those that advise against it.

1.2.2. Adult Image
This category contains URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography, pictures, videos, or sexually oriented material. This category includes soft and hard-core pornography, sadomasochism, bestiality, child porn, fetishes, stories, adult magazines, toys, or any sexual related purchase. This category is similar to Pornography category but is not the same. The difference between the two categories is that Adult Image is based on image scanning and Pornography is based on textual content.

1.2.3. Advertising
This category is for sites that provide information about online advertisements, advertising graphics, banner ads, ad content files and other marketing materials. If you choose to block this, many portal pages may appear broken because the advertisements are being blocked while the main content will still display.

1.2.4. Adware
Adware is software that automatically displays unwanted ads in order to generate revenue for the adware's authors. These ads display as banner ads or as an ad displayed during an installation. There are security concerns with adware since it can track personal information and this information can be sold to a third party.

1.2.5. Alcohol
This category contains information about alcoholic products and accessories. Websites that promote or support liquor sales, hangover cures and other side effects of alcohol are also included.

1.2.6. Alternative Lifestyles
Alternative Lifestyles are habits or behaviours related to social relations, dress, expressions, or recreation that are important enough to significantly influence the lives of a sector of the population. It can include the full range of non-traditional sexual practices, interests and orientations. Some sites may contain graphic images or sexual material with no pornographic intent.

1.2.7. Arts & Culture
These are sites that promote and provide information about human creativity and the creation of meaningful art that reflects different theories for understanding and valuing the creative process.

Websites whose purpose is to display art works and fine art are included as well as sites that provide a learning environment or cultural awareness. Art that includes the human body with an erotic intent is typically included in this as well as the 'Nudity' category.

1.2.8. Classifieds
This category includes sites that provide local classifieds to buy, sell or trade items such as cars, services, housing and jobs.

1.2.9. Criminal Skills
Criminal Skills includes instructions or methods that promote, encourage, or provide skills considered to be illegal, criminal, violent or harmful to the general public, and are forbidden by law. This can include questionable material and sites that promote nonviolent, unethical, or dishonest behaviour such as academic cheating, or software hacking/key breaking. This does not necessarily reflect the laws of any particular region or country.

1.2.10. Culinary
Culinary contains sites that list, review, discuss, advertise and promote food, restaurants, catering, dining services, cooking and recipes.

1.2.11. Database Error
This is used to indicate that the Policy Server was unable to load the current configuration from the Database. All pages will be denied until the Policy Server can load the database.

1.2.12. Directory
The Directory category contains URLs that produce a directory listing instead of a default html page. This page is generated by the remote web server if no default html page is available and directory browsing is enabled. These directory files can be images, movies, applications, or any other type of file. Each individual file within the listing will be assigned a category once requested. Generally, Directory site pages should not be blocked.

1.2.13. Education
The Education category includes sites that provide educational information and activities that impact knowledge or skills. It also includes sites that contain information on educational institutions, faculties, distance learning, trade schools and other educational programs.

1.2.14. Educational Games
An educational game is a game designed to teach people about a subject, concept, event, culture, or skill while also entertaining them. These games may be for adults, children, or both. The games may be used online as well as in a formal classroom environment or in casual play to reinforce classroom learning or skill development.

1.2.15. Email
Email allows you to send and receive text, HTML, images and other data files.

1.2.16. Entertainment
Entertainment contains all things pertaining to music, recreation, amusements, fan clubs, gossip, celebrities, movies, or any other form of casual diversion. This category also includes personal sites devoted to movies and television shows. Sites that are dedicated to criticizing an entertainer or group are categorized as 'Hate Speech'.

1.2.17. Environmental
This category includes sites that study or provide information on the relationships between living organisms and their natural habitat. This includes the impact of human activity on the natural

world. Environmental changes and issues such as weather, geography, and agriculture are included.

1.2.18. Extreme
Extreme web sites contain things that are far from the norm. These URLs are categorized as such for their degree of intensity. The content features or promotes intentional, direct, and deliberate violence and destruction or the alteration of the human body and other living creatures. These sites may depict or promote torture, self-inflicted harm, mutilation, or other dangerous activities. Images and information that advocate and glorify eating disorders, suicide, death, gore, injuries or sites that feature grotesque or frightening descriptions are also included.

1.2.19. File Sharing
The sharing and delivery of user specified files among groups of people who are logged on to a file sharing network.

1.2.20. Filter Bypass List
This is a system category indicating that the requested URL was found in the Filter Bypass List. Any requests logged as this number will always be allowed. By default, deny page and WebAdmin access will be categorized as this number. Clients can add their own URLs on the URL List Manager page.

1.2.21. Gambling
Gambling (or betting) includes any sites that encourage or provide information on the wagering or risking of money or any valuables on a game, contest, or other event in which the outcome is partially or completely dependent upon chance or on one's abilities. Sites that promote or facilitate gambling information, as well those that are purely factual and strategic sites that promote cheating are also included. This excludes sites that are clearly support sites for gambling addiction as well as travel destinations site that do not enable gambling.

1.2.22. Games
Gaming contains sites that provide information or promote electronic games, computer games, card games, board games, Internet games, etc. Sites that sell board games, journals, and magazines dedicated to game playing as well as strategies, cheats, and any sites that promote game makers or sellers are included. Some of the games may contain intense, blood and gore, sexual content or strong language.

1.2.23. General
This category contains URLs that do not belong to any other category. The majority of the Internet is assigned to this category. Do not block this category unless you are filtering in an 'allow list only' mode.

1.2.24. General News
These sites contains various forms of journalism and involves the reporting of current events by local, regional or mass media in the form of newspapers, television, radio programs, and news sites.

1.2.25. Hate Speech
Hate Speech is the portrayal (written, verbal, illustrated, etc) of views that are intentionally offensive to the general public. It is intended to degrade, intimidate, or incite violent or prejudicial actions against someone based on race, ethnic affiliation, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or profession. Advocacy or instructional sites that promote the harming of individuals or groups and encourage or promote peer abuse, videos of physical assaults, written harassment and threats are also included.

1.2.26. Host is an IP

Host is an IP identifies a request that it is in the form of an IP address. This means the DNS or host name was not used. It is possible that allowing this type of request could in some circumstances override normal content filtering settings. Generally, pages accessed by IP should be blocked.

1.2.27. Humour

Humour contains URLs that are intended to entertain or make people laugh and feel happy. It includes jokes, funny pictures, comic pages, comedy clubs etc. Some sites may display jokes or graphics of a mature nature.

1.2.28. Images

The Images category contains URLs for an image file, determined by file name extension (example: www.netsweeper.com/images/logo.jpg). Generally, Images should not be blocked.

1.2.29. Infected Hosts

Infected Hosts are sites that are known to contain Viruses, Adware, Malware, Phishing, Spam, Scams, or other known malicious software or content. This may cause overblocking but is recommended for security and safety.

1.2.30. Instant Messaging (IM)

Instant Messaging is a form of electronic communication that involves immediate correspondence between two or more users who are online simultaneously. This includes text based clients as well as voice and video capable IM clients.

1.2.31. Intimate Apparel

This contains sites that offer the sale, information or description of intimate apparel, swimsuits or other type of suggestive clothing. Sites selling undergarments, as a subsection of other products offered are not included.

1.2.32. Intranet Servers

The Intranet Servers category indicates the remote server is not located on the Internet. The service categorization servers will not be able to scan these sites for content. These are normally servers located behind firewalls and on your local area network as well as private IP Addresses or sites which are not top-level domain.

1.2.33. Invalid Serial

Invalid Serial means that the serial number of the Policy Server is invalid. All traffic will be denied except for deny pages and other items added to the System Filter Bypass List.

1.2.34. Investing

Investing includes Internet banking systems that allow users to invest online, view their equity portfolio, and make requests to buy shares or bonds on their behalf. These sites offer investment newsfeeds and money management or portfolio advice, stock and bond quotes, as well as online trading, credit cards, mutual funds, and insurance.

1.2.35. IWF

Sites in this category have been identified by the Internet Watch Foundation as containing potentially illegal child abuse images. URLs in this category are omitted from all reports. This list is not managed by the Safe Internet service. For more information, see IWF's website at http://www.iwf.org.uk/

1.2.36 Job Search
Job Search sites allow people to search and apply for employment positions. This category includes resume writing and interviewing skills, career information, classified advertising, job databases, and job application pages. Tools for locating prospective employers as well as sites that offer information about or support the seeking of employment or employees are also included.

1.2.37. Journals and Blogs
Journal and Blogs (or web logs) are electronic diaries or personal chronicles, intended for open communication and sharing of thoughts, knowledge, and opinion as well as sites containing personal, literary and culturally oriented publications. This category typically does not include electronic forms of mainstream magazines and newspapers.

1.2.38. Legal
The Legal category includes sites containing rules and guidelines that govern social institutions and behaviour that is enforced by a governmental body. Law firms, legal services, lawyers, adoption services, immigration information and services as well as discussions and analysis of legal issues are included.

1.2.39. Local List
Local Lists are a set of entries, for a specific policy. They are similar to the Shared Lists category, however these are created for a single policy within a group.

1.2.40. Malformed URL
Malformed URL is used when a URL is not valid (for example the following URL with a semicolon instead of a colon: http;\\www.google.ca). Generally, malformed URL pages should be blocked.

1.2.41. Match Making
Match Making is the process of introducing people for the purpose of dating, mating, and friendship. It includes topics related to dating services, dating advice and tips, relationships, listings or personal advertisements, and on-line dating services. This also includes pet matching sites, but does not include pet breeding sites.

1.2.42. Matrimonial
The Matrimonial category references websites promoting the institution of marriage or facilitate the search for a marriage partner. These sites promote relationship compatibility based on factors such as socioeconomic status, religion, education and profession.

1.2.43. Media Protocols
These are application protocols like Shoutcast, iTunes, RealPlayer, Winamp, etc.

1.2.44. Medication
These are sites that provide information or offer advice about medicinal substances intended to cure, mitigate, treat or prevent a disease. This includes sites that provide information about approved drugs and their impact, as well as, information about supplements and other unregulated compounds. These sites also provide information about, or promote the sale and use of chemicals or naturally occurring compounds that are not regulated.

1.2.45. Misc Protocols
These are other application protocols like FTP and Newsgroups (NNTP).

1.2.46. Network Timeout
The Network Timeout category indicates that the Policy Server could not obtain a category due to network latency or congestion. The New URL category is always assigned to the categorization request made when a Network Timeout occurs.

1.2.47. Network Unavailable
The Network Unavailable category indicates the Policy Server could not communicate with the Category Naming Service. This can be caused by Internet connectivity issues or other technical reasons. Categorization of new content will be unavailable until the problem has been corrected. The New URL category is always assigned to the categorization request made when the Network is unavailable.

1.2.48. New URL
New URL is a temporary category assigned to a URL that has not been categorized before or whose categorization has expired. Blocking the New URL blocks any URL that has not already been categorized or whose categorization has timed out. Normally, revisiting a URL immediately after being denied as New URL will return the appropriate category for the URL (it takes about one second to categorize a URL). If you block New URL you are failing closed (deny) on any new URL; if you do not block New URL you are failing open (allow) on any new URL.

1.2.49. No Text
No Text is used when the file extension of this page is not recognizable by the Categorization Engine. Blocking is entirely based on the file extension. Generally, No Text pages should not be blocked.

1.2.50. Nudity
The Nudity category includes sites containing nude or semi-nude depictions of the human body. These depictions are not necessarily sexual in intent or effect, but may include sites containing nude paintings or photo galleries of an artistic nature. Nudist or naturist sites that include pictures of nude individuals will fall under here as well as 'Alternative Lifestyles'.

1.2.51. Occult
Occult contain sites involving the study of secret or hidden knowledge and includes any URLs about cults, supernatural forces and events, occult lore, vampires, astrology, witchcraft, mysterious symbols, and other phenomena beyond ordinary understanding. It also includes information and instructions on astrology, spells, curses, magic powers, satanic or supernatural beings.

1.2.52. Overriding Filtering
Override Filtering is a system category indicating that filtering for this user/group is disabled and access is allowed to URLs that would otherwise be blocked. All requests are still logged and sent to the Reporting Server.

1.2.53. Parked
This contains domains that are expired, waiting for a new owner, or are known to display targeted links. Parked domains can be simple in design, and typically have little or no content.

1.2.54. Pay to Surf
This includes sites that reward users for Internet activities such as viewing, clicking on, or reading specific links, emails or web pages. Payments for these sites are made in the form of currency, website credits or prizes.

1.2.55. Peer to Peer

Peer-to-Peer (P2P) web sites that distribute software and facilitate the direct exchange of files between users over the internet are in this category. P2P includes software that enables file searching, sharing and transferring across a network independent of a central server as well as web based sites of this nature are included.

1.2.56. Phishing

This category contains URLs that are known or suspected phishing sites, typically financial fraud or identity theft. Blocking this category does not guarantee that ALL fraud or phishing sites will be blocked. Generally, phishing pages should be blocked.

1.2.57. Phone Cards

Phone cards are telephone cards that allow a user to make local a long distance telephone call by calling a toll free or local number. Web sites that allow a user to purchase, renew or access information about telephone cards are included in this category. Information about the rates, telephone numbers to dial or sites that provide users with PIN information are also included in this category. This category does not include pay as you go cellular or mobile pay-as-go information.

1.2.58. Political

This category contains sites with information on the process and methods of political decision making that includes the affairs of the state. Although it is generally applied to governments, it can also be applied to some corporate, academic, or religious group's interactions.

1.2.59. Pornography

This category contains URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography images, videos, or other sexually oriented material. This category includes soft and hard-core pornography, sadomasochism, bestiality, child porn, fetishes, stories, adult magazines, toys, or any sexual related purchase.

1.2.60. Portals

This contains web sites that provide a single starting point to retrieve a broad set of information from multiple sources. Portals provide a consistent look and could include web searching, news feeds, free-email, discussion groups, online shopping, references, and other services.

1.2.61. Profanity

This category contains words that are generally considered obscene, vulgar, or derogatory. This includes the use of so-called "four letter words", racist or sexist terms, and objectionable sexual references.

1.2.62. Real Estate

This category contains sites that provide information on renting, buying, selling or financing real estate properties. These properties can be advertised by the owner, or with the help of a sales agent.

1.2.63. Redirector Page

This category indicates a URL that redirects the user to another page. URL shortening sites are also included. Do not block this category unless you are filtering in an 'allow list only' mode.

1.2.64. Religion

This includes sites that provide information about or promote traditional religions as well as their systems of belief, worship, or conduct and prescribe certain responses to the existence of a God

or Gods. URLs related to or dealing with religious beliefs, practices, faith, churches, and worship are also included.

1.2.65. Remote Access Tools
These sites provide users with authorized remote access to another desktop or private network through a variety of tools, such as screen/camera capture, file management, shell control, registry management, etc.

1.2.66. Safe Search
Safe Search is a mechanism to force the safe search mode on a number of common search engines. The service Safe Search works with the following search engines: Google, Yahoo, MetaCrawler, Live Search, Excite, Lycos, AOL Search, Dog Pile, Hot Bot, Bing, Ask, YouTube. Note that if the Search Engine category is blocked, no search engines are allowed, whether Safe Search is turned on or not. Generally, safe search should be turned on.

1.2.67. Sales
The Sales category includes any site or page offering consumers the ability to purchase products or services online. In some cases, it may include sites that provide a catalogue of products that are offered for sale off-line. Online auction sites are included. Classified advertisements belong to the 'Classifieds' category.

1.2.68. Search Engine
A Search Engine is a tool that helps web users to search the Internet using keywords. Many Internet pages offer some form of search function. Blocking Search Engines blocks only sites or pages whose sole purpose is Internet search.

1.2.69. Search Keywords
Search Keyword is a System Category on the Policy Server. Administrators have the ability to define a list of words or phrases as keywords. When the Search Keywords category is turned on, any URL detected as a Search Engine is parsed looking for a match with the keywords. If there is a match, the URL is denied. When this category is turned on, any URL returned with New URL is also automatically scanned for keyword matches and denied if there is a match.

1.2.70. Self Help
Self Help pages provide information, advice or support for an individual or a group to better themselves economically, intellectually, physically, or emotionally. This category ranges from therapy methods to support groups.

1.2.71. Sex Education
This includes sites that are about the study of human reproduction, sexual intercourse, and other aspects of human sexuality including the various stages of reproduction and conception. Sites can also contain sex advice and information on sexually transmitted diseases, contraception, and abstinence. Although these sites contain information with no pornographic intent, some sites may contain graphic images or sexual material.

1.2.72. Shared List
Shared Lists can be shared across multiple policies. These policies can exist in the same or different groups. This is similar to the Local List category, however, Local Lists can only be attached to a single policy in a single group.

1.2.73. Social Networking
Social Networking sites are virtual web communities that allow members to connect and communicate with friends, family, business contacts, and individuals who share similar interests.

Social networking sites are also used to post messages, share photos and videos, plan events, schedule meetings, and share information. Much of the content contained within these sites is harmless in nature, however social networking sites can be venues for cyber bullying.

1.2.74. Sports
This category includes sites that provide information about or promote any physical activity in which an individual or team competes against another for the recreational purpose of competition or self enjoyment. Sports typically involve team competition and a scoring system.

1.2.75. Streaming Media
The Streaming Media category contains sites that allow the user to stream media content such as radio, movies, television shows or other content through web syndication or streaming sites to a computer or mobile device.

1.2.76. Substance Abuse
These sites provide information about or promote the use of prohibited, illegal, controlled, or regulated substances for recreational rather than medicinal use. It can include sites that sell, encourage or advocate the use of any substance that produces hallucinations, as well as the cultivation, manufacture, and distribution of any intoxicant and related paraphernalia. Informational sites that are clearly intended to provide descriptions of drugs and substances, their negative effects, and addiction potential are not included.

1.2.77. System List
System List is a list that indicates the requested URL was found in the processing step System-Wide List. This is a list of system wide entries that have been added by the administrator. The system lists are set on the Policy Server and are applied for all filters using that Policy Server.

1.2.78. Technology
Technology is the development and application of tools, machines, materials, and processes that help to solve human problems. Sites sponsored by or providing information about computers, downloads, software, the Internet, and related business firms, including sites supporting the sale or free trial of hardware, software, peripherals, services, and any sites that pertain to technology related content are included.

1.2.79. Tobacco
Tobacco contains sites that offer, support, promote and advocate the sale and use of tobacco or related products. All information on cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco and associated paraphernalia will fall under here.

1.2.80. Travel
Travel includes sites that promote and provide information about travel-related services and the transport of people to any destination for business or pleasure. Discussions of favourite travel destinations, discounts, special events, travel guides, vacations, accommodations, transportation, regulations, and bookings, as well as sites directed toward business travel are included.

1.2.81. Unauthorised Access
Unauthorized Access is a system category used when the Policy Server can not assign the user to a group policy and there is no default group defined. It is also known as Unknown IP since the request cannot be associated with a filtering group.

1.2.82. Under Construction

This category indicates a site that has been identified by the owner as being incomplete and under construction. Generally, Under Construction pages pose little threat and need not be blocked.

1.2.83. Unknown Category
Any categories that the Reporter does not recognize are reassigned to 'Unknown Category'. If this category starts to appear in your reports, Safe Internet has changed some of its categories or has made some new categories available. If this occurs, we recommended that you contact Safe Internet to upgrade the categories on your Policy Server.

1.2.84. Viruses
This category contains known or suspected URLs associated with computer viruses. Selecting this as a category to block does NOT guarantee that all viruses' sites will be blocked. Selecting this category does NOT inspect email attachments or files copies or downloaded to the computer. You should take additional precautions to avoid viruses.

1.2.85. Voice Over IP (VOIP)
Voice Over IP allows one to conduct telephone conversations over an Internet connection. Calls to other VOIP users are often free while tolls are charged for calls to regular telephone and mobile telephone numbers.

1.2.86. Weapons
This category contains information related to the promotion, sale, or discussion of weapons and any related device used in combat that can injure or kill, such as guns, knives, or swords. Information on how to build weapons or bombs is included in Criminal Skills.

1.6.87. Web Chat
This contains sites that enable two-way communication between users within an active browser window. Any site that supports or provides information about chats, instant messaging, answering engines, and forums discussing or debating current events, and the sharing of common interests are included. This category does not block instant messaging applications that are run outside a browser, such as Skype, AIM, or Yahoo Messenger.

1.2.88. Web E-mail
The Web E-mail category includes web pages that provide email services open to general use, and permits users to send and receive text, HTML, images, and other data files to each other. This does not block email client applications that run outside a browser, such as Outlook, Thunderbird, or Eudora.

1.2.89. Web Proxy
Web Proxies are URLs that allow a user to mask their online identity in order to bypass filtering or monitoring methods to potentially gain unauthorized access. Sites that provide information on how to gain access to a URL in a way that bypasses the proxy server, as well as proxy server features and web-based URL translator sites that circumvent filtering will fall under this. Generally, Web Proxy pages should be blocked.

1.2.90. Web Storage
The Web Storage category includes sites that offer a secure, encrypted, off-site service to share, exchange or backup personal files, documents, music, pictures and other data on Internet servers. These sites are often combined with user definable access rights essentially acting as your personal hard drive on the Internet. Content within these files may contain nudity, violence, graphic images, or adult material.
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