



Web Filtering

Policy



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1. Introduction

Web filtering technologies prevent access from a computer to particular types of internet content. The Department actively uses filtering technologies to prevent the downloading of software that is malicious and disruptive or that can damage the network or degrade performance significantly. Web filtering technologies may also be used to restrict access to material which is considered inappropriate based on its subject matter, for example, depictions of violence and pornography.

The Department provides access to the internet for students, library patrons, Online Access Centre (OAC) users and employees.

2. School and College Students

Schools have a duty of care to ensure the safety of their students. This involves providing a safe physical and emotional environment for students. Risks to students that involve use of the internet can generally be considered foreseeable risks of harm or injury, which schools have a duty of care to take steps to prevent. Therefore, all schools are required to utilise the Networking Tasmania provided service, WebGateway.

Schools are reminded that web filtering alone is not a web safety solution. Schools are also required to implement ICT Acceptable Use Agreements for students, ensure appropriate supervision of students using the internet and educate students to participate safely in a global information environment. These requirements are contained in the Web Safety Policy.

3. Libraries, Online Access Centres and Adult Education

The State Library of Tasmania and LINC Tasmania also utilise the Networking Tasmania provided service, WebGateway, to filter access to the internet as a measure to protect patrons from exposure to inappropriate material, and to ensure that such material is not displayed in a public place. Filtering is also used to protect the network from security risks posed by malicious software. Clients are also required to abide by the 'Conditions of Use'. Where a library or online access centre is co-located with a school, filtering is applied at the same level as that which applies in the school.

Student access to the internet as part of Adult Education classes is provided for purposes relating to their course of study. Adult Education sites are filtered according to the filtering arrangements of the course location.

4. Employees

Use of the internet by employees is filtered also by the Networking Tasmania provided service, WebGateway. Use of the internet by employees is governed by the departmental policy '[Conditions of Use Policy for All Users of Information and Communication Technology](#)'.

5. Associated Documents and Materials

Include any associated internal or external policies, procedures, guidelines including whole of government documents. [Text should be in 'Paragraph' Style]

The following documents are available from www.education.tas.gov.au (Search for the Doc ID)

- Conditions of Use Policy for All Users of Information and Communication Technology (Doc ID: TASED-4-1778)

Authorised by:	Trevor Hill
Position of authorising person:	Director Information Technology
Date authorised:	October 2012
Developed by:	Information Technology Services
Date of last review:	October 2012
Date for next review:	October 2013
This document replaces:	n/a
