

Chapter Twelve (i): Testing URL-Filtering for Netsweeper

Summary of Chapter:

- Overview of Netsweeper.
- How to read the information given when using the Test URL-filtering feature on the Pilot.

What you need:

- Knowledge of Admin user account and valid password for your Pilot.
- A UTM PoP code. NetPilot users can purchase this from the following address: <http://www.equinet.com/ordering/default.asp>, CachePilot users please contact Equinet for a quote.

Software Revision Required:

- Applicable to software revision 5.2.0 > Net/CachePilots

(Net/CachePilot will be referred to as 'Pilot'. All image examples are of a NetPilot.)

Netsweeper:



Alongside our simple text / URL Site Lists you can use Netsweeper. Netsweeper also has a large database of many millions of URLs. In addition, it attempts to categorise URLs in real-time if they are not present in its database. Equinet customers can run their own servers offering the URL category checking service or check against Netsweeper hosted CNS servers. The administrator of the local Equinet unit defines which users may view which categories. Therefore, local flexible controls are available, which is often a key requirement. This technology is Becta approved for education users.

- To check whether a particular site is categorised by Netsweeper and to which category it falls into. Please see: <http://www.netsweeper.com/Support/Test+A+Site>

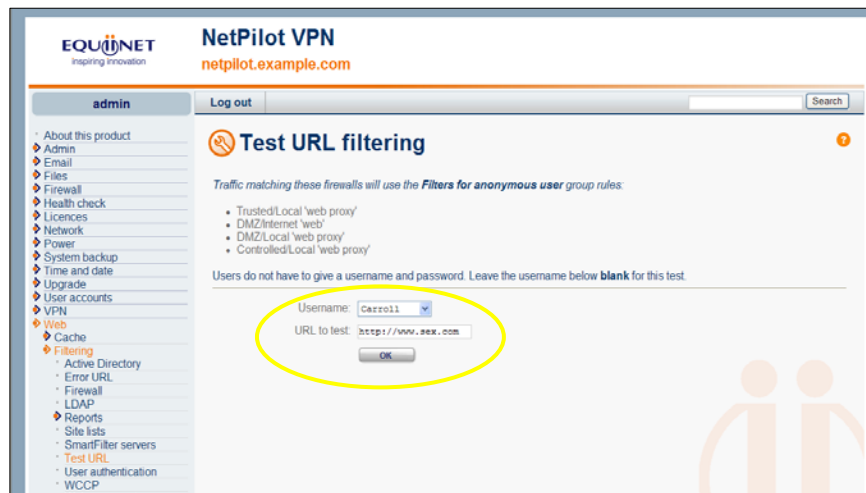


For further information on Netsweeper please see Chapter 13.



Test URL-Filtering:

🔑 From the left-hand side of the screen, select 'Web', then 'Filtering' and then 'Test URL'. (All links are highlighted below).



🔑 In the drop down list select a User you wish to test.

🔑 In the text box enter a URL you wish to test. You must manually enter the syntax 'http://' or 'https://' or 'ftp://' etc before the 'www.sitename.com'.

🔑 Select 'OK'.

🔑 The Pilot will then display the filter results after going through a process of checking the following:

- 🔑 Timeband controls
- 🔑 Global filtering controls
- 🔑 Blacklist/Whitelist controls depending on the User Group (which contains the filtering controls) that is assigned to the User.

🔑 In the below example, the user is 'lee', who does not have any specific groups against their username, so the Global Site Lists will be applied.

Username:

URL to test:

Filter results

Starting filter check for user 'lee'

URL: 'http://www.sex.com'
 HOST: 'www.sex.com'
 PATH: ''

- Look up group succeeded: open
 Check Special Circumstances: PASSED.
 Check User Limit: PASSED

Apply global rules:
 - Apply rules for group 'Global rules'
 - Apply filter: global permitted sites (WHITE)
 -- Timeband: At all times.
 -- REGEXP-List: No Match. PASS
 -- netsweeper query: netsweeper got category list for URLNo Match. PASS
 -- smartfilter support is not enabled. - Apply filter: global manipulated sites (BLACK)
 -- Timeband: At all times.
 -- PASSED
 - Apply filter: Allowing Facebook at lunchtime (WHITE)
 -- Timeband 'Lunchtime': Out of timeband.
 -- PASSED
 - Apply filter: global forbidden sites (BLACK)
 -- Timeband: At all times.
 -- REGEXP-List: No Match. PASS
 -- netsweeper query: netsweeper got category list for URLMatches Blacklist. BLOCK

Final Decision was: BLOCK
 Message: You are not allowed to access that page because it is in the blacklist.

🔑 The Pilot will check 'Special Circumstances' this is to constantly allow Admin to Bypass Site Lists and always allow Equinet websites.

🔑 The User Group 'Global rules' is applied first.

🔑 In any default User Group, Whitelists are applied before Blacklists.

🔑 In the 'Global permitted sites' and the 'Allowing Facebook at lunchtime' Site lists the URL was not matched.

🔑 In the 'Global forbidden sites' the URL was not matched in the text box provided. However it was matched in the list of Netsweeper categories.

🔑 The final decision was 'BLOCK'.

 In the below example;

Username:

URL to test:

Filter results

Starting filter check for user 'lee'


URL: 'http://www.facebook.com'
HOST: 'www.facebook.com'
PATH: ''

- Look up group succeeded: open
Check Special Circumstances: PASSED.
Check User Limit: PASSED

Apply global rules:
- Apply rules for group 'Global rules'
- Apply filter: global permitted sites (WHITE)
-- Timeband: At all times.
-- REGEXP-List: No Match. PASS
-- netsweeper query: netsweeper got category list for URLNo Match. PASS
-- smartfilter support is not enabled. - Apply filter: global manipulated sites (BLACK)
-- Timeband: At all times.
-- PASSED
- Apply filter: Allowing Facebook at lunchtime (WHITE)
-- Timeband 'Lunchtime': Out of timeband.
-- PASSED
- Apply filter: global forbidden sites (BLACK)
-- Timeband: At all times.
-- REGEXP-List: No Match. PASS
-- netsweeper query: netsweeper got category list for URLNo Match. PASS
-- smartfilter support is not enabled. - Global rules all PASSED.


Apply rules for user 'lee'
- Apply rules for group 'open':
- Default action is ALLOW


Final Decision was: ALLOW

 The Pilot will check 'Special Circumstances' this is to constantly allow Admin to Bypass Site Lists and always allow Equinet websites.

 The User Group 'Global rules' is applied first.

 In any default User Group, Whitelists are applied before Blacklists.

 In the 'Global permitted sites', 'Allowing Facebook at lunchtime' and 'Global forbidden sites' Site lists the URL was not matched.

 It also wasn't matched in the list of Netsweeper categories.

 The final decision was 'ALLOW'.



Tip! When URL filtering is applied to Users' browsing, 'Global rules' are always implemented first. If users are accessing the Internet anonymously, without having to authenticate with the unit, 'Filters for anonymous user' will be applied after the Global Groups.



Tip! For more information on Sites Lists please see the other sections of Chapter 12.