

## Chapter Thirteen (b): Netsweeper Recommendations

### Summary of Chapter:

📖 Netsweeper URL filtering categories listed with Equinet's recommendation for category blocking, a short description of each category.

### What you need:

📖 Knowledge of Admin user account and valid password for your Pilot.

📖 A PoP code. You can purchase your PoP from the following address:

<http://www.equinet.com/ordering/default.asp>

### 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 categories:



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>



**Caution:** certain users may find the material on the below example pages to be offensive.



📖 The table below identifies and describes Netsweeper categories that are visible to the user/administrator. There are also a number of internal categories that are generally not visible to the user/Administrator that are used to manage error conditioned or internal processing.



It is possible for a URL to belong to more than one category.



### Adult

The adult category encompasses categories that are not appropriate for children. They are the most extreme categories that usually are filtered for schools. These categories are often filtered for businesses as well, since some of the categories could have legal ramifications to businesses.

Netsweeper Category	Brief Summary
Adult Image	This category includes URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography, pictures, videos, or sexually oriented material. This category includes nudity, soft and hard-core pornography, sadomasochism, bestiality, child porn, fetishes, stories, adult magazines, toys, or any sexual related purchase. This category is similar to the category Pornography but not the same. The difference between the two categories is that the Adult Image category is based on image scanning and the Pornography category is based on textual content.
Alcohol	This category includes URLs that reference information related to alcohol, including wine, spirits, beer, cocktail recipes, homemade alcohol, or any other alcoholic drink. It also includes information about bars, pubs, nightclubs, bartending, liquor sales, as well as hangovers and other side effects of alcohol.
Alternative Lifestyles	This category includes URLs that reference habits or behaviours related to social relations, dress, or recreation. These behaviours are typically important enough to significantly influence the lives of a sector of the population and hence can be used as a basis of social classification. Websites assigned to this category are not pornographic, but may deal with lifestyle choices that are sexual in nature.

Criminal Skills	This category includes URLs that reference instructions or methods that promote, encourage, or provide the skills to do anything that is generally considered to be illegal, criminal, harmful to the general public, and/or that are forbidden by laws. This category does not necessarily reflect the laws of any particular region or country. This category includes websites that promote academic cheating or software hacking/key breaking. It typically excludes any website that deals with the prevention of criminal activity.
Extreme	Extreme websites contain things that are considered far from normal. These URLs are categorized as such for their degree of intensity. The pages are usually violent and may depict or promote torture, mutilation, eating disorders, or other dangerous or disturbing activities. This category does not include pornographic fetishes or widely accepted "extreme sports", such as rock climbing, skiing, or other achievements.
Gambling	This category includes websites that directly provide the ability to place a bet or to determine the outcome of a bet, as well as websites that promote or facilitate gambling. It also includes websites that range from purely factual to strategic to cheating, websites related to lotteries or looking up winning numbers, bingo websites, and sports betting. This category excludes websites that are clearly support websites for gambling addiction.
Hate Speech	Hate Speech is the portrayal (written, verbal, illustrated, etc) of views that are intentionally overwhelmingly critical or offensive to a person. 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. Any description of one of these groups or group members that uses strong or crude language, explicit sexual references, or obscene gestures is considered Hate Speech.
Match Making	Match Making is the process of introducing people for the purpose of dating, mating, and friendship. The URLs in this category include topics related to dating services, dating advice and tips, relationships, listings or personal advertisements, and on-line dating services.
Occult	This category includes websites involving the study of secret or hidden knowledge such as: cults, supernatural forces and events, occult lore, vampires, astrology, witchcraft, mysterious symbols, and other phenomena beyond ordinary understanding. It includes websites about these topics that are historical or factual in nature and/or promote such practices.
Pornography	This category includes URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography, pictures, videos, or sexually oriented material. This category includes nudity, soft and hard-core pornography, sadomasochism, bestiality, child porn, fetishes, stories, adult magazines, toys, or any sexual related purchase. This category excludes sex education websites.
Profanity	This category includes websites with words that are generally considered obscene, vulgar, or derogatory. This includes use of so-called "four letter words", racist or sexist terms, and objectionable sexual references.
Substance Abuse	This category includes URLs that provide information on illegal drugs used for recreational rather than medical purposes, or URLs that promote the abuse of legal drugs. This category includes websites that promote the use of any substance that produces a hallucinated effect on self or others. It excludes informational websites that are clearly intended to provide description of drugs and substances, their negative effects, and addiction potential.
Weapons	This category includes websites with information related to the promotion, sale, or discussion of weapons. Weapons are any form of device used in combat that can injure or kill, such as guns, knives, or swords. Websites with information on how to build weapons or bombs are included in Criminal Skills.

### **Advanced**

The advanced categories include advanced Internet functions such as file sharing and instant messaging, as well as categories that are specific to Netsweeper.

<b>Netsweeper Category</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
Email	Email is a protocol that allows you to send and receive text, HTML, images, and other data files.
File Sharing	File sharing is the sharing and delivery of user specified files among groups of people who are logged on to a file sharing network. Napster was the first mainstream peer to peer software that enabled large-scale file sharing.
General	This category includes 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.
Global List	Global List is a list category that indicates the requested URL was found in a global allow or deny list. This is a list of systemwide URLs that have been deemed by the administrator of the Policy Server as appropriate/inappropriate. The global lists are set on the Policy Server and applied for all users using that Policy Server.
Images	The Images category includes URLs for an image file, determined by file name extension (example: <a href="http://www.netsweeper.com/images/logo.jpg">www.netsweeper.com/images/logo.jpg</a> ). Generally, Images should not be blocked.
Instant Messaging	Instant Messaging is a form of electronic communication that involves immediate correspondence between two or more users who are online simultaneously. This includes textbased clients, as well as voice and video capable Instant Messaging clients.

Invalid Serial	The Netsweeper Distribution Server returns the Invalid Serial category when it detects the serial number of the Policy Server is invalid. (The Policy Server sends its serial number to the NDS with each categorization request.) The Policy Server then displays an Invalid Serial Number deny page to the user. All pages will be denied until the Policy Server serial number is corrected or properly registered with the Distribution Server network.
IWF	Websites 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 Netsweeper. For more information, see IWF's website at <a href="http://www.iwf.org.uk/">http://www.iwf.org.uk/</a>
Local List	Local List is a list category that indicates the requested URL was found in a local allow or deny list. (For the Client Filter Personal Edition, this is the allow/deny list for the account as set in the Profile Manager. For the Enterprise Filter and Client Filter Professional Edition, it is the allow/deny list set for each specific Group.)
Misc Protocols	These are other application protocols like FTP and Newsgroups (NNTP).
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.
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.
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.
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.
Override 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.
Redirector Page	This category indicates a URL that redirects the user to another page. Do not block this category unless you are filtering in an 'allow list only' mode.
Streaming Media	These are application protocols like Shoutcat, iTunes, RealPlayer, Winamp, etc.
System List	System List is a list category that indicates the requested URL was found in a system allow or system deny list. This is a list of system wide URLs that have been deemed by the administrator of the Policy Server as appropriate or inappropriate. The system lists are set on the Policy Server and are applied for all filters using that Policy Server. The System List overrides the Global and Local Lists.
Unauthorized 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.
Unknown Category	Any categories that the Reporter does not recognize are reassigned to 'Unknown Category'. If this category starts to appear in your reports, Netsweeper has changed some of its categories or has made some new categories available. If this occurs, we recommended that you contact Netsweeper to upgrade the categories on your Policy Server.
Voice Over IP (VOIP)	VOIP 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.
Webadmin Access	Webadmin Access is a system category indicating that the Webadmin was accessed. This can indicate the deny page was displayed to the user.

### Entertainment

The entertainment categories are the categories that are harmless entertainment, such as sports, and games.

<b>Netsweeper Category</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
Arts & Culture	Art is a product of human creativity. It is the creation of meaningful things; yet it does not need to be innovative to be good. Culture refers to human activity. Varying definitions of culture reflects the different theories for understanding and valuing human activity. Art that includes the human body with an erotic intent is typically included in this category and the pornography category.

Entertainment	Entertainment includes all things pertaining to music, recreation, amusements, fan clubs, gossip, celebrities, movies, or any other form of casual diversion. This category also includes personal websites devoted to movies and television shows. Websites overwhelmingly critical of an entertainer or group are categorized as Hate Speech.
Games	This category includes websites that have games or information about games, electronic games, computer games, card games, board games, Internet games, and so on. This category also includes strategies, cheats, and any websites that promote game makers, websites, or sellers.
Humour	This category includes URLs that are intended to entertain or make people laugh and feel happy. It includes jokes, funny pictures, comic pages, comedy clubs etc. This category could include some profane humour.
Sports	This category includes any physical activity for the recreational purpose of competition or self enjoyment. Sports typically involve side by side competition and a scoring system. This category includes athletics, racing, hunting, baseball, football, basketball, soccer, hockey, and so on.

### Hidden

These are not categories, but instead are used when a user tries to search for something, to get around the filtering. The results of a search for any of the Search Keywords will be blocked, as long as the search engine used uses the safe search function.

<b>Netsweeper Category</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
Safe Search	Safe Search is a mechanism to force the safe search mode on a number of common search engines. Netsweeper Safe Search works with the following search engines: Yahoo, Google, MetaCrawler, Excite, Lycos, AOL, dogpile, hotbot, alltheweb. Although Alta Vista offers a safe search function, we do not recommend relying on it. 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.
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 in URL 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.

### Information

These categories include websites that are informative, such as news sites.

<b>Netsweeper Category</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
General News	This category includes websites which involve the reporting of current events by local, regional, or mass media in the form of newspapers, television, radio programs, and websites on the World Wide Web. Most news is investigated and written or broadcast by journalists (or reporters) and often distributed via news agencies. This category includes any mainstream newspaper, television stations, and radio station website.
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. This category includes websites that range from personal and medical to literary and culturally-oriented publications. This category typically does not include electronic forms of mainstream magazines and newspapers. Also does not include personal/family web pages unless there is a diary or blog component.
Political	Politics is the process and method of decision making for groups of human beings. Although it is generally applied to governments and politics, it is also observed in all human group interactions including corporate, academic, and religious. This category includes websites related to the structure or affairs of government, politics, or the state.
Portals	Portals are web-based applications that provide a single starting point to retrieve information from multiple sources. For example, the content of a portal could include web searching, news, free-email, discussion groups, online shopping, references, and other services.
Religion	Religion is any specific system of belief, worship, or conduct that prescribes certain responses to the existence of a God or Gods. This category includes URLs related to or dealing with religious beliefs, practices, faith, churches, worship, and so on.
Self Help	This category includes websites which provide the information 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.

Sex Education	Sex Education is the study of human reproduction, sexual intercourse, and other aspects of human sexual behaviour. Websites in this category usually describe the various stages of reproduction including the conception, the embryo, the fetus, and the birth of the baby. It also includes topics such as sexually transmitted diseases, abortions, contraception, abstinence and sex advice.
Technology	Technology is the development and application of tools, machines, materials, and processes that help to solve human problems. This category includes websites that pertain to technology related content. It also includes websites that offer a software download, either for free as a trial or for purchase.
Travel	Travel is the transport of people on a trip or journey, primarily for vacation, tourism, or family outings. This category includes websites that have discussions of favourite travel destinations, discounts for travellers, special events in different cities, travel guides, vacations, accommodation, transportation, regulations, maps, weather, and bookings. It also includes websites directed toward business travel.

### Miscellaneous

These categories do not fit in to one of the other larger groupings of categories.

<b>Netsweeper Category</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
Investing	This category includes websites for Internet banking systems that allow users to invest online, view their equity portfolio, and ask the bank to buy shares or bonds on their behalf. It also includes URLs about stocks and quotes, money management, online publications, banks, discount brokerage services, mutual funds, and portfolio management.
Job Search	Job Search websites allow people to search and apply for employment positions. This category also includes URLs which include resume writing and interviewing skills, career information, classified advertising, job databases, and job application pages.
Sales	This category includes any website offering consumers the ability to purchase products or services online. In some cases, it may include websites that provide a catalogue of products that are offered for sale offline.
Search Engine	A Search Engine is a tool that helps web users to search the Internet using keywords. Some Search Engines work by automatically searching the contents of other systems and creating a database of the results, and other Search Engines include only material manually approved for inclusion in a database. Some combine the two approaches. Many Internet pages offer some form of search function. Blocking Search Engines blocks only websites whose sole purpose is Internet search.
Web Chat	This category includes websites that contain computer programs that enable two-way communication between users within an active browser window. This category includes any type of instant messaging and forums that talk about current events, debate, and share common interests. This category does not block instant messaging applications that are run outside a browser, such as MSN, AIM, or Yahoo Messenger.
Web E-mail	The Web Email category includes websites that permit users to send and receive text, HTML, images, and other data files to each other. This category does not block email client applications that run outside a browser, such as Outlook, Thunderbird, or Eudora.

### Security

The security categories are the categories that pose threats to your computer, or websites that could potentially help the user get around the filtering.

<b>Netsweeper Category</b>	<b>Brief Summary</b>
Adware	Adware, while not necessarily malware or spyware, is advertising that goes beyond what one would reasonably expect while surfing the Internet. Banner ads and pop-up ads in this category can be used to track your activity and display ads based on your surfing patterns. Ads and other marketing materials are typically drawn from an ad server at a different website. This category includes URLs that are advertisements. If you block the adware category, many portal pages may appear broken - what is actually happening is that the advertisements are being blocked while the main content is still displayed. Most frequently visited web pages are actually composed dynamically, drawing data from several sources at once. Each portion of a page drawn in from a unique location is categorized and filtered separately.
Directory	This category includes 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 websites should not be blocked.

Host is an IP	This category identifies a request that 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.
Intranet Servers	Intranet Servers are remote servers which are not located on the Internet. The Netsweeper categorization servers will not be able to scan these websites for content. These are normally servers located behind firewalls and on your local area network.
Malformed URLs	This category 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.
Phishing	This category includes URLs that are known or suspected phishing websites. These are typically financial fraud or identity theft websites. Blocking this category does not guarantee that ALL fraud or phishing websites will be blocked. Generally, phishing pages should be blocked.
Proxy Anonymizer	This category includes URLs that allow a user to mask their identity online. These websites can be used to bypass the filtering. Therefore, anonymizer pages should be blocked.
Under Construction	This category indicates a website that has been identified by the owner as being incomplete or under construction. Generally, Under Construction pages pose little threat and need not be blocked.
Viruses	This category includes known or suspected URLs associated with computer viruses. Selecting this as a category to block does NOT guarantee that all viruses websites 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.



For more information on where to select the above Netsweeper options, please see any of the sub-sections of Chapter 12. These sub-sections discuss the different types of Site Lists you can create on the Pilot.