Web Filtering Policy
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1. Purpose

The Department of Education (DoE) provides learners and employees with access to online information, software and content via the Internet. Web filtering technologies prevent access from a computer to particular types of information, software and content. DoE actively uses filtering technologies to prevent the downloading of software that is potentially malicious, disruptive or that can damage the network or degrade its performance significantly. Web filtering technologies may also be used to restrict access to information and content which is considered inappropriate based on its subject matter, for example, depictions of violence and pornography.

The purpose of this policy is to outline DoE’s implementation and requirements for web filtering.

2. Policy Statement

DoE is committed to providing access to online resources in a safe and productive environment. All users are required to conform with the requirements of this policy and the supporting policies, procedures and guidelines.

3. Requirements

3.1 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 called 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.

3.2 Libraries, Online Access Centres and Adult Education

The State Library of Tasmania and Libraries 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.

3.3 Employees

Use of the internet by employees is also filtered by the Networking Tasmania provided service, WebGateway. Use of the internet by employees is governed by the departmental policy ‘Conditions of Use Policy for Information and Communication Technology’.

4. Related policies

- ICT Security Policy (New policy)
- Social Media Policy (TASED-4-4792)
5. Related procedures
   • Nil

6. Supporting information/tools
   • Cyber Safety Resources
   • [ICT Security Guidelines] (in draft)
   • ICT User Agreement - Conditions of Use of The Internet [KB0015350]
   • ICT User Agreement - Guideline for Employees [KB0020862]
   • ICT User Agreement - Primary School Students [KB0015348]
   • ICT User Agreement - Responsible Use Letter to Parents for Primary Students [KB0015369]

7. Definitions
   Malicious software
   Software intentionally designed to cause damage to a computer, server, client, or computer network. Also referred to as malware.

   Networking Tasmania
   A collection of service agreements/arrangements between the Tasmanian Government and Telstra for the provision of data and telecommunications services to government agencies.

   Web filtering
   Technology that prevents users from viewing certain content or websites.

8. Legislation
   • Employment Direction No. 12 (ED No. 12): Internet and Email Use