

Avoid the legal liabilities and productivity losses associated with inappropriate web surfing

[Astaro Firewall](#)

Internet access is vital to the operation of most businesses, providing low cost connectivity to customers, suppliers and information. However, numerous studies have also shown that the web is a resource that needs to be proactively managed, to avoid productivity losses and legal liability.

Astaro Security Linux is a complete, integrated suite of security software. Installed on standard PC hardware, and placed at the point where the Internet connects to your organization's network, it provides protection against liabilities inherent in connecting to the Internet. Astaro Security Linux monitors web usage and blocks inappropriate access, capabilities vital to establishing and enforcing an effective Internet usage policy.

Web Management Issues

Since the introduction of widespread employee Internet access, two major management issues have arisen:

1. **Inappropriate Web Surfing:** Without URL content filtering tools, employees can easily access offensive content (pornography, hate material, etc.) and copy it onto their PC or printer. Many organizations are concerned about the potential for lawsuits for failing to curb worker-hostile activities. Some organizations are also concerned that failing to curb such activities will implicitly create an atmosphere that undermines important core values.
2. **Productivity Loss:** Statistics show the 78% of employees use their workplace Internet access to carry out personal activities. Although organizations' attitudes toward this usage vary, managers universally agree that some form of control is necessary. Most managers would not want an employee conducting substantial personal business during work hours. Reading the newspaper, watching the ball game, or chatting with family and friends would normally be objectionable. However this behavior is challenging to monitor when conducted over the web, as it is concealed by the veil of an unseen monitor and silent keystrokes.

Astaro's Surf Protection Option

Surf Protection is simple-to-use, but provides powerful monitoring, web categorization and blocking capability. All web related traffic is recorded in a log file. Custom reports may be generated from these logs, showing almost any view of your traffic. Information such as most frequently visited sites, sites visited by employee, or total traffic volume can be displayed.

One of the fastest and most accurate web page blocking technologies in the industry, Astaro's Surf Protection uses over 1,000 computers to constantly classify all web pages. Using a powerful combination of techniques, including keyword analysis, image recognition and intelligent text classification, each web URL is assigned to one of the 58 categories. Examples of these categories include shopping, news, religion, pornography and sports.

Your organization can decide which of these categories to block, based upon your Internet policy. If a web page from a prohibited category is requested, the request is blocked, the employee is notified that it is a blocked site, and the incident is logged for reporting purposes. Reports can be generated to show different views of the logs, including denied requests by employee, total number of denials and denials by sites requested. This approach to web blocking is very fast, accurate, traceable, and easily implemented.

Astaro's Surf Protection provides an easy-to-use, affordable and effective means of deploying the software tools needed to establish and enforce an effective Internet usage policy. It provides powerful logging and reporting capability to understand Internet usage. Web page classification and blocking provides a proactive means of enforcing policies. Denial logging and reporting allows monitoring of policy violations. Astaro Surf Protection can help you improve productivity and reduce your legal liability by implementing effective Internet policies.