QSD Web Filtering Frequently Asked Questions

Question: **What does web filtering mean?**

Answer: It is a term for software or hardware designed and optimized for controlling what content is permitted to a reader, especially when it is used to restrict material delivered over the Web. Content-control software determines what content will be available on a particular machine or network; the motive is often to prevent persons from viewing content which the computer's owner(s) or other authorities may consider objectionable.

Question: **Why do we filter the Internet?**

Answer: Schools and libraries that receive E-rate discounts on Internet access and/or internal connection services after July 1, 2002, need to be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act ("CIPA"). CIPA compliance means that schools and libraries are filtering their Internet services and have implemented formal Internet Safety Policies (also frequently known as Acceptable Use Policies).

Basic Requirement: CIPA requires the implementation of a "technology protection measure" – generally referred to as an Internet filter – to block access to visual depictions deemed "obscene," "child pornography," or "harmful to minors." Filtering is required for all Internet-enabled computers whether used by minors or adults.

Question: **Why do some websites get blocked that are legitimate instructional websites?**

Answer: Linewize - QSD's content filter - works hard to categorize the websites correctly; however, with the billions of websites that are out on the Internet, sometimes websites get categorized incorrectly. The websites are reviewed by humans and the categories can be misjudged and placed on the websites incorrectly. If you find this to be the case, please submit an email with the message header "Blocked Internet Site Request" to technology@qsdk12.org so that it may be reviewed and categorized correctly.

Question: **Why are certain websites unblocked for teacher computers and not students?**

Answer: At this time the QSD network operates using Active Directory. Depending on how the user is logging into a workstation (student vs teacher), Active Directory, in conjunction with Linewize, applies a content policy to that user. This policy dictates which websites are available/unavailable.

Question: **How do I get a website unblocked?**

Answer: In order to get a website unblocked, please submit an email with the message header "Blocked Internet Site Request" to technology@qsdk12.org so that it may be reviewed and categorized correctly.

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