

Internet Content Filter

About the Children's Internet Protection Act

The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements, such as internet content filtering, on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access through the E-rate program. More information on CIPA can be found on the [FCC website \(https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act%20\)](https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act%20).

HCPSS Policy and Procedures

In order to comply with CIPA and [HCPSS Board of Education Policy 8080, Responsible Use of Technology \(http://www.hcpss.org/f/board/policies/8080.pdf%20\)](http://www.hcpss.org/f/board/policies/8080.pdf%20), HCPSS attempts to filter abusive, libelous, obscene, offensive, profane, threatening, sexually explicit, pornographic, illegal, or other inappropriate material that is harmful to minors.

The HCPSS internet content filter works by categorization sites, and blocking categories considered inappropriate for student viewing, such as, alcohol-and-tobacco and gambling. However, due to the vast number of sites on the Internet, sites may occasionally be categorized incorrectly. When attempting to view sites that are blocked, computer users will receive a message similar to the one below.



Submitting Request to Block or Unblock Websites

Staff members may request sites be re-categorized using the below procedures. If the site is re-categorized by the content filtering company, it may become blocked or available depending on its new category.

To submit an internet content filtering request

1. On the [Palo Alto Networks URL Filtering site \(https://urlfiltering.paloaltonetworks.com/\)](https://urlfiltering.paloaltonetworks.com/), enter the web address of the site you wish to have re-categorized, and fill out the required Captcha code.

2. Review the information about the site that the company currently has on file. If you believe the information is incorrect, select the **Request Change** link.

3. Fill out the web form, and add a comment if necessary.

Note: The content filtering company uses your email address to communicate the results of your request.

4. You will receive a submission confirmation email from Palo Alto Networks similar to the one below:

From: Palo Alto Networks URL Filtering [mailto:no-reply-url-feedback@paloaltonetworks.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 11:25 AM
To: Recipient
Subject: Change request submitted for: fitnessfinder.org

Thank you for submitting a URL re-categorization request for "fitnessfinder.org". We will review the request and notify you via email of our decision usually within one business day. To prevent notifications from going to your spam folder, please add no-reply-url-feedback@paloaltonetworks.com to your email whitelist.

Url's and hostnames contained in this communication may have been modified for the purposes of security and to ensure delivery to recipients behind mail gateways actively filtering potential malware and phishing attacks.

Note: This is an unmonitored mailbox. Please do not reply to this email, as your response may not be received. If follow-up is required, please contact Palo Alto Networks support.

Regards,
Palo Alto Networks

5. Once a decision has been made by Palo Alto Networks, they will communicate via e-mail similar to the one below:

From: Palo Alto Networks URL Filtering [mailto:no-reply-url-feedback@paloaltonetworks.com]
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 10:01 PM
To: Help Desk
Subject: Change request processed for: fitnessfinder.org

Thanks again for your URL re-categorization request. After evaluation of the information provided, we have determined that the original categorization is the most appropriate, based on our URL category definitions. At this time, no change has been made to the category for this URL.

URL: fitnessfinder.org
Current category: parked
You suggested: recreation-and-hobbies

Please keep in mind throughout this process that our URL categories serve customers in many industries and locations around the world, each with sometimes unique perspectives or criteria concerning URL browsing policy. We take into consideration the stability and accuracy of the URL categorization database, along with the needs of the broader customer community, when reviewing URLs for proper categorization.

If you feel we have made an error in reviewing this re-categorization request, and you'd like to resubmit this request along with additional information that will help with accurate categorization, please visit: <http://urlfiltering.paloaltonetworks.com>. In the meantime, Palo Alto Networks URL Filtering allows you to create custom URL categories that best suit your unique business needs. Please feel free to create a custom URL category for this site. You can learn how to do this here: <https://live.paloaltonetworks.com/docs/DOC-1500> (<https://live.paloaltonetworks.com/docs/DOC-1500>).

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Regards,
Palo Alto Networks

To submit an urgent request

1. Call Technology Support at x7004.

Note: Before the request is processed the change must be approved by the Executive Director of Technology or designee.

Blocked Website Categories

Category	Description
abortion	Sites that pertain to information or groups in favor of or against abortion, details regarding abortion procedures, help or support forums for or against abortion, or sites that provide information regarding the consequences/effects of pursuing (or not) an abortion.
adulthood-used-drugs	Sites that promote the abuse of both legal and illegal drugs, use and sale of drug related paraphernalia, manufacturing and/or selling of drugs.

Category	Description
adult	Sexually explicit material, media (including language), art, and/or products, online groups or forums that are sexually explicit in nature. Sites that promote adult services such as video/telephone conferencing, escort services, strip clubs, etc...Anything containing adult content (even if it's games or comics) will be categorized as adult.
alcohol-and-tobacco	Sites that pertain to the sale, manufacturing, or use of alcohol and/or tobacco products and related paraphernalia. Includes sites related to electronic cigarettes.
copyright infringement	Websites and services that are dedicated to illegally serving videos, movies or other media for download, explicitly infringing copyright holders. The default policy action for this category is "Block".
custurl_hcpss_blocklist	Sites deemed potentially harmful to students, and not already blocked through one of the other blocked categories.
dating	Websites offering online dating services, advice, and other personal ads.
extremism	Websites promoting terrorism, racism, fascism or other extremist views discriminating people or groups of different ethnic backgrounds, religions or other beliefs.
gambling	Lottery or gambling websites that facilitate the exchange of real and/or virtual money. Related websites that provide information, tutorials or advice regarding gambling, including betting odds and pools. Corporate websites for hotels and casinos that do not enable gambling are categorized under Travel
hacking	Sites relating to the illegal or questionable access to or the use of communications equipment/software. Development and distribution of programs, how-to-advice and/or tips that may result in the compromise of networks and systems. Also includes sites that facilitate the bypass of licensing and digital rights systems.
malware	Sites containing malicious content, executables, scripts, viruses, trojans, and code.
nudity	Sites that contain nude or seminude depictions of the human body, regardless of context or intent, such as artwork. Includes nudist or naturist sites containing images of participants.
parked	URLs which host limited content or click-through ads which may generate revenue for the host entity but generally do not contain content that is useful to the end user.
phishing	Seemingly reputable sites that harvest personal information from its users via phishing or pharming.
proxy-avoidance-and-anonymizers	Proxy servers and other methods that bypass URL filtering or monitoring.
questionable	Sites containing tasteless humor, offensive content targeting specific demographics of individuals or groups of people, criminal activity, illegal activity, and get rich quick sites.
sex-education	Information on reproduction, sexual development, safe sex practices, sexually transmitted diseases, birth control, tips for better sex, as well as any related products or related paraphernalia. Includes websites for related groups, forums or organizations.

Category	Description
swimsuits-and-intimate-apparel	Sites that include information or images concerning swimsuits, intimate apparel or other suggestive clothing.
weapons	Sales, reviews, descriptions of or instructions regarding weapons and their use.

If you have technical questions or an issue to report call 410-313-7004

Feedback (https://hcpss.instructure.com/courses/32959/pages/resources-feedback?module_item_id=825260)