HR insights

Are Your Monitoring the Internet?

Protecting your organization from the dangers of the Internet was once a fairly easy feat, simply by blocking network access to sites that were not acceptable for use on company time. With the state of the Internet now, however, this is simply not good enough due to the fact that web filtering has gotten far too complicated.

Accordingly, many organizations are now looking to an array of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and third-party applicators to monitor and regulate how workers use the Internet on the company network. While a certain amount of personal Web surfing is expected, the need to block online threats is a real concern. This may include accidental or intentional distribution of proprietary information or the infestation of viruses into the network.

The need to limit employee access to inappropriate sites comes at a time when ISPs are under tremendous pressure from the federal government to report illicit activities, specifically the trafficking of child pornography. It is estimated that as much as 70 percent of all Internet pornography activity occurs during the workday.

To combat this and other illicit abuse of child pornography, the Safe Act was signed into law in December of 2006, making ISPs required to report child

pornography on their networks. The ISP may be fined $300,000 per site for failing to report it. Regardless of this law, some ISPs are less than thrilled to act as a filter due to First Amendment concerns and freedom-of-speech lawsuits.

Ultimately, though, the responsibility for monitoring Internet activity at your company falls on your shoulders, not the ISP. Therefore, IT professionals

There are a multitude of choices for companies to thoroughly protect themselves. These options will provide a nice balance between online freedom for employees so they remain productive and network security for the company.

For more information on Internet security options, contact Brown & Brown Consulting at 215-561-0510.

Protecting your organization from the dangers of the Internet is no longer as simple as blocking certain unacceptable websites. Monitoring Internet activity at your company is a responsibility you should take seriously, to protect your organization from serious threats.

have several options:

- Choose to purchase one of the security and Web-monitoring tools available on the market and create a multivendor program that works for your organization.

- Work through your ISP to filter Internet traffic.

- Rely on built-in software from the equipment vendor or from a security provider.

- Do nothing – not an option!

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