



Overview

Netintelligence Parental Control is a system to customise and filter web access for home computers. It also allows monitoring of time spent on computers along with the activities that are completed online.



The system can record all instant messaging conversations, filter web access by site or time, record all web sites visited and monitor applications used (both on- and off-line). It also includes Anti Virus and Firewall protection and the software can be installed on up to three separate machines.

The product involves the installation of an application on each of the home computers. When the machine has been re-started, the system will be monitored. Access to the control panel for customising the system is accessible through the internet and can be accessed from any computer, even if they have not had the software installed. This can be useful for monitoring home computers from other locations such as work.



The user interface has tabs for each computer on which the software is installed. When looking at the details of each computer, it can be viewed as a whole or for individual users. Each part of the system can be viewed by selecting the appropriate item in the menu. The results

are displayed in graphical form. Clicking on the graph will show the details.

This system does an impressive job of monitoring access to computers and filtering inappropriate web access. It is extremely easy to set up and use. Having the three-computer licence makes sense for homes with multiple computers.



Context

The software was installed on three home computers, two of these being laptops on a wireless network. The software was run over a period of two months by a number of members of the family. The system is fantastic for monitoring and filtering computer use. There is plenty of control and flexibility in using the system to cater for all levels of ability. The monitoring of instant messaging is also very useful but I found that children, especially teenagers, thought of this as spying! This software is a must for multi-computer homes to protect and monitor children.

Labour saving aspects

Once the software has been installed on the machines and the settings have been updated, there are no further tasks to be undertaken. The system can be logged in from any computer with the internet and all the machines can be monitored from this point. It is as straight forward as that.

Student Response

At first, no-one using the machines knew that the monitoring software was installed. There was no indication on each of the machines that the software was running nor was there any deterioration in speed. When all parties were informed about the software, they were pleased with the protection it provided but were hesitant about the tracking of messenger conversations as well as websites.

Content and design

Design and navigation

The Netintelligence website opens to a simple log-in screen. Each machine on which you have installed the software appears as a tab on the top of the page. Clicking on each of these tabs gives a summary of the internet use for that machine. This includes number of websites visited, number of messenger conversations, number of blocked sites tried to access, minutes of computer use and software that has been used. Clicking on each of these items will allow you to see these details for each user of that computer. There is also a menu down the left-hand side of the page that allows you to go straight to the section you require. The system then lists, in detail, what each of the users has done. This can include transcripts of instant messenger conversations, software that has been used, websites visited and how long they were accessed for. Additional features, such as time control settings and managed internet settings, can be accessed through the menu on the left hand side of the screen. The process of applying settings is straight forward and logical. There is also online support available which can be accessed once logged into the system. I would like to see the licence increased from 3 machines to 5 machines as there are many homes with more than 3 computers.

Curriculum Coverage

The system does not contain any content and so does not relate to any curriculum. What it does do is to enable parents to monitor what their children are doing online and consequently make them more geared to working on appropriate material for their studies.

Ease of installation

The software is very easy to use. A small file is downloaded to each of the machines you wish to install it on (there is a maximum of 3 machines for home use). When you run this file it scans the machine for users. This is then represented on the Netintelligence website. All the management features of the system are then administered on the website.

Suitable for ages
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Andrew Parry
Head of e-Learning and ICT
Kemnal Technology College



Netintelligence Parental Control



FAST



For further details: Netintelligence

telephone: +44 (0)870 050 0121

email: info@netintelligence.com / web: www.netintelligence.com

Lister Pavilion, Kelvin Campus, West of Scotland Science Park,
Glasgow G20 0SP, United Kingdom

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