

Security and Exchange Commission Justifies the Need for URL Filtering and Reporting

"Seventeen of the offenders were senior SEC officers with salaries ranging from \$100,000 to \$222,000 per year." - ABC report by Jonathan Karl on April 22, 2010

"One senior attorney at SEC headquarters in Washington spent up to eight hours a day accessing Internet porn." - ABC report by Jonathan Karl on April 22, 2010

Many companies exclude their executives or managers from filtering because there is an unsaid rule that different standards apply. The recent events at the SEC are perfect examples of why all employees in an organization are accountable. In this case, the potential loss in production alone would be between \$1.6 and \$3.8 million per year.

The article continues - **"An SEC accountant attempted to access porn websites 1,800 times in a two-week period and had 600 pornographic images on her computer hard drive."** - ABC report by Jonathan Karl on April 22, 2010

"Another SEC accountant attempted to access porn sites 16,000 times in a single month." - ABC report by Jonathan Karl on April 22, 2010

Porn is the extreme scenario. If these accountants looked at this much porn, how many times do you think they accessed more innocuous sites like Facebook, Weather and Shopping? This is why reporting is necessary along with URL filtering. It may not be necessary to block sites like this, but they can just as easily be time and productivity killers. A comprehensive reporting package will turn megabytes of raw log data into the information you need to identify web surfing trends that may not be so offensive, but just as costly to an organization.

"In one case, the report said, an employee tried hundreds of times to access pornographic sites and was denied access. When he used a flash drive, he successfully bypassed the filter to visit a "significant number" of porn sites. The employee also said he deliberately disabled a filter in Google to access inappropriate sites." - ABC report by Jonathan Karl on April 22, 2010

Remember, even the most expensive security system will fail if you leave your valuables outside or your doors unlocked; the same can be said for content filtering. As this employee demonstrates, a \$4 device is all it takes to get by the wrong or incomplete security solution, no matter how much it costs.

Do not be misled into thinking that a single application or device will address all your security needs. Questions companies should be asking are: How vulnerable are you? Are you experiencing a decline in productivity? Is your network congested causing mission critical application performance to degrade? Will your company be the next headline?