



ComSifter®

protect web users now!

PRODUCT DATASHEET | CS-8D

What Is Your Network Doing?

If you don't know, then...

- Allowing users to visit social networking sites or use proxy sites allows them to waste time and potentially make you liable for the ability to access inappropriate content.
ComSifter stops social networking and proxy sites before it reaches users.
- Allowing your users to spend time on gambling sites, in chat rooms, or looking for the latest hot deals will reduce productivity.
ComSifter can block those items that are unproductive—whether it is gambling sites, chat rooms, pornography or on-line purchasing.
- Allowing probes by external hackers opens vulnerabilities so your computers and data can be compromised.
ComSifter's port blocker can block all ports internally or externally except for those ports you want available.
- Allowing computers to be flooded with third-party advertising wastes valuable bandwidth and distracts users.
ComSifter can block third-party advertising—removing thousands of images from being cached on computers and keeps advertisers from tracking users.
- Allowing un-monitored Internet use allows all of the above.
ComSifter's Top Sites Report (and other logs) lists the most accessed websites on the network, which provides data to determine if those sites should be the most accessed (or blocked).

With ComSifter, you will know what your network is doing—and if you don't like what you see—you can change it.



ACCURACY: ComSifter uses a multi-tiered filtering system that stops more than 98% of inappropriate content.

Additionally, the ComSifter staff constantly monitors the Internet for new sites and adds them to the blacklist. ComSifter updates the blacklist either on a daily or weekly basis (depending on the purchased Download Plan), ensuring that these sites are added to the filtering system.

SIMPLICITY: ComSifter can be installed in your network in minutes using ComSifter's Network Wizard. Windows™ Active Directory integration and filter templates simplify user administration.

INEXPENSIVE: ComSifter is competitively priced, putting it within the reach of businesses, schools, and libraries.

How it Works

ComSifter is a high-performance appliance that protects your network, both internally and externally. You define what content your users are able to access. You also define what external sources can access your network. ComSifter is your gateway to the Internet and may not be bypassed—unless you say so. ComSifter is able to filter Microsoft® and Apple® desktop clients and mobile devices such as iPhone™, iPad™, Android™, and Windows™ 7 Phone.

With eight (8) configurable filters, ComSifter allows individual users to be directed through a specific filter, based on their username.

- First, ComSifter queries the requesting computer for the username of the user logged into the client computer.
- ComSifter then looks up the username and assigned filter in the ComSifter database. ComSifter then retrieves the requested page and applies the rules for the assigned filter.
- Finally, ComSifter scans every word on the web page, using CSphrase Filter™ technology, looking for words and phrases that indicate inappropriate content. The context of these words is then analyzed to determine if the page should be blocked—greatly reducing the number of false positives while blocking those pages that are offensive. This feature accounts for ComSifter's remarkable accuracy.

If the content passes through all filters, ComSifter allows the page to be loaded on the user's computer. If the content fails to pass through any of the filters, an "Access Denied" page is sent to the user's computer. All this is done in a fraction of a second, with no delay seen by the user.

Specifications

NETWORK

Bridge

- Operates in Layer 2 Bridge Mode

Throughput

- Raw 450 Mbps with minimal PortBlocker rule set
- Tested with current generation 105 Mbps connection

Interfaces

- Gigabit Ethernet WAN interface connects to network router
- Gigabit Ethernet LAN interface connects to internal local area network

Number of Computers

Limited only by the following factors:

- Open requests: 20,000 (each request is typically open for less than one (1) second)
- Content Filtering added latency: 3ms (average)
- Speed of Internet connection

Caching Proxy

ComSifter incorporates a caching proxy (optional authenticating proxy) that caches web pages that have been accessed. Subsequent accesses to these pages are served from the caching proxy—not from the Internet. Access time from the cache is near instantaneous and, depending on network usage patterns, this may result in a substantial reduction in Internet network traffic. A high-performance SSD further improves access time

- Cache size: 15 GB
- Largest object: 4 GB

DHCP Server

- Highly configurable

DNS Forwarding

- The LAN IP address of the ComSifter will forward all DNS requests to the configured DNS server

PORT BLOCKER

Patent-pending port blocker

- Inbound/outbound rules
- One-step wizard expedites configuration process

MECHANICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL

- Dimensions: 2.3" H x 7.5" W x 8.5" D
- Weight: 4 pounds
- Temperature: 50–95° F (10–35° C)
- Electrical: 115 VAC, 26 watts

WARRANTY

- ComSifter is warranted from hardware failure for one (1) year from the date of purchase
- Extended warranty plans are available

CONTENT FILTER

- Eight (8) individually configurable filters
- Supports Page, URL, and Header re-writes
- Supports *YouTube for Schools* rewrites on each filter (allows multiple *YouTube for School* portals)
- Domains, URLs, or individual sites may be filtered or un-filtered
- File extensions and MIME-types may be blocked
- Individual users may be assigned to a filter and then filtered, bypassed (timed), or blocked
- 10 configurable filter groups per individual filter
- *Warn & Go* (timed) for temporary viewing of web site
- *Time of Day* scheduling for each filter
- Comprehensive search facility
- Master Filter allows fast, system-wide changes

Configurable CSphrase Word Lists

- Web pages are scanned for banned or weighted words or phrases
- Twelve (12) configurable words/phrases categories
- Words may be added or deleted to each category
- Configurable Sensitivity settings for each filter

Active Directory (AD) Integration

- Filter matrix is defined in Active Directory and users are added/deleted/changed only in AD

Administrator Functions

- Module-based administrator functions allow granting only needed rights to each administrator
- Supports multiple authentication methods including Identd, IP, and Transparent
- User, Security, and PortBlocker Access Log Files
- Top Sites Report shows most frequently accessed sites and weekly change rate
- Extensive diagnostics including DNS and Internet tests
- Customizable "Access Denied" page
- Automatic firmware updates (when available)

Blacklist Update

- Updated automatically and seamlessly (Daily or Weekly—dependent on service contract)

CONFIGURATION

- Any browser on the local network
- Highly secure remote access

LICENSING

- Includes unlimited seat licensing

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