



“There are lots of systems out there, but Netsweeper provides a solution that is by far the biggest bang for the buck. Netsweeper goes a long way to address the needs of its clients. The solution is cost efficient, easy to set up, easy to manage and the tech support is top notch.”

Kyle Williams
IT Manager
Kenora Catholic District
School Board

The Need...

Kenora Catholic District School Board recognized a need for an Internet filtering solution when it became apparent that students at the secondary school were accessing inappropriate websites. The school board required a solution that would protect its students and allow them to only visit websites related to curriculum, as well as safeguard school hardware.

In 2003, Kenora CDSB implemented a Proxy solution through Netsweeper to filter approximately 600 students at the high school and locked down access to websites that were deemed unsuitable. However, the school began experiencing server issues and decided to shut it down and stop filtering. When network engineer Kyle Williams joined the board in 2006 he realized Kenora CDSB had a filtering solution in place and decided to resurrect it.

The Solution...

Rather than putting tight restrictions on Internet access, the Kenora board initially decided it would block specific categories, including pornography, hate speech, criminal skills, and search keywords. But the real problem staff members were encountering was a small handful of students who were continuously testing the limits of the filtering.

Network administrators decided it would be more useful to review the request logs to determine which students were trying to access inappropriate content or content unrelated to the curriculum based on the workstation address and login. Once staff established which sites were being visited they could be added to the deny list.

The Implementation...

Kyle contacted Netsweeper Technical Support to come up with a solution that would allow the board to set up filtering for its high school and three elementary schools. Netsweeper assisted Kyle in setting up the server at a central location within the board's network and upgraded it to the latest version.

“We never had an issue getting a response in a timely and professional manner,” said Kyle. “Kudos to the support team at Netsweeper.”

The server was set up on VPN with the Kenora Municipal Telephone Service (KMTS), in order to allow the schools to share resources. All outbound traffic runs through the KMTS pipe. Once the solution was deployed IT staff members were able to begin populating the deny list and running reports on Internet usage. Application protocol blocking was also set up to stop instant messaging and file sharing.





About Netsweeper Inc.

Netsweeper Inc. empowers organizations to guard against Internet abuse and to offer their end users a secure, productive Internet experience, protected from harmful, malicious and inappropriate content. Netsweeper provides intelligent, network and workstation based web filtering technology to corporations, Internet Service Providers, educational institutions, government organizations and OEM partners worldwide.

True ROI: Netsweeper provides educational organizations with reliable and accurate filtering solutions that are CIPA compliant. Netsweeper solutions are cost effective and reduce legal liabilities of schools, boards, districts and departments while keeping the Internet experience of students safe, simple and secure.

Immense Flexibility: Netsweeper Filtering solutions allow for multiple deployment scenarios and are flexible to accommodate the needs of educational environments. From network-based filtering to downloadable client versions on student laptops, Netsweeper provides educational organizations with the options to meet all of their filtering needs and protect their students.

Unparalleled Speed and Accuracy: Netsweeper Filtering utilizes advanced AI systems that actively scan the Internet and categorize pages on the fly as internet users request them. The filtering has been optimized for speed and boasts over 94% categorization accuracy rate.

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The Outcome...

Since redeploying the Netsweeper system, Kenora CDSB administrators and teachers are sound in the knowledge that students are not able to surf to inappropriate websites. Students are now more focused on their studies because they are not able to use chat sessions. As well, teachers are able to monitor student activity and report to IT when a website needs to be added to the deny list. This has helped to reduce support calls to the Kenora CDSB IT department.

The Netsweeper system has been beneficial in reassuring parents that students aren't surfing where they should not be. Prior to implementing the filtering solution parents began to complain to the board that improper content was being accessed on school computers. Now parents can rest assured that their children are not being exposed to these types of websites.

The client...

The Kenora Catholic District School Board is a Roman Catholic school system made up of three elementary schools (JK to grade 6) and one secondary school (grades 7 to 12) with approximately 1,000 students. The school board prides itself on its dedication to excellence in education, upholding Christian values, and maintaining positive partnerships within the community.

