Controlling Google Images and Search Terms

Background

Filtering configurations for NetPilot, CachePilot and SentryPilot can be employed to block pornographic and other inappropriate images from being displayed when using the Google Image search.

This mechanism necessitates that the user's PC be enabled with the Google 'SafeSearch' option in 'Strict Filtering' mode. If the user attempts to modify or switch off the SafeSearch option (by using 'Moderate Filter' or 'Do not Filter' options) – further use of Google is blocked by the CachePilot.

A second valuable by-product of deploying this configuration is that Google non-image searches are also controlled by the 'SafeSearch' mechanism; thus searching for inappropriate material also becomes much more difficult as inappropriate keywords can not be used in a conventional Google search. (If 'Moderate Filter' is selected by bypassing some of the documented controls this textual keyword filtering is disabled.)

It should be noted that this mechanism – as with any filtering service or device – is not 100% perfect. Unfortunately, the occasional inappropriate image has not been categorised by Google correctly. This is solely the responsibility of Google - Equiinet and its partners make no assurances as to the quality or reliability of this method.

Our education customers tell us that Google images are extremely useful, but the side effects of potentially seeing inappropriate and pornographic images are a major issue – hence we have created and documented this mechanism, which we hope is of value.

Detail

The mechanism requires blocking every Google site bar www.google.com. None of the other Google sites support SafeSearch in the required manner. In addition, we would highly recommend that all other search engines are disabled by specifically black listing them, or for those with N2H2 option enabled, that the category 'Search' is blocked. We further advise N2H2 users to read our other technical paper entitled 'Hints for Configuring N2H2 Categories'.

The terminology 'CachePilot' is used below, however concepts and commands are common across all current models on the whole of Equiinet's range of products.

The filtering scheme described in this document has been written to apply globally to all users. However, this could easily be modified to apply to only a subset of users.

Please note that as this technique relies on the Google SafeSearch filter, any change made by Google to their filtering system or URLs may result in a failure of the image blocking. As a consequence, Equiinet cannot guarantee any level of filtering or the suitability of any item or image passed through the CachePilot. Follow the instructions given below carefully, as missing elements will lead to unpredictable results.

The following web page gives more information and allows cutting and pasting of the rather complex Site List rules discussed below.
http://www.equiinet.com/cachepilot/support/googleimages.asp

The three required steps documented below are:

1. Modifying Users PC with required Google settings
2. Building the required Site Lists
3. Building the Group Filter Rule

These steps must be undertaken in this order. Once Steps 2 and 3 are implemented, users cannot change or set up any Google preferences or more importantly, set up any SafeSearch modes.

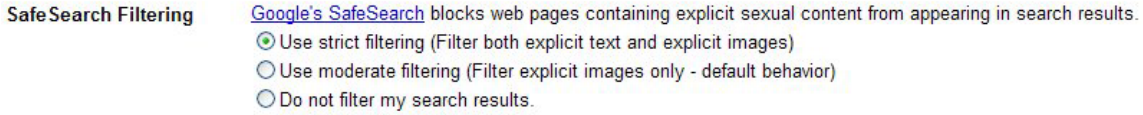
Summary of Requirements

- Only Google.com can be used.
- Other Google sites and other search engines should be blocked.
- Google Preference 'Strict Filtering' mode must be enabled on PCs before enabling the CachePilot filtering rules.
- To add new PCs to the network either the filtering rules must be temporarily disabled, or the PC must be set up on an Internet connection that is not using a CachePilot configured in this fashion.
- Changes by Google may impact correct operation.

Step 1 : Switching the PCs into Google 'SafeSearch'

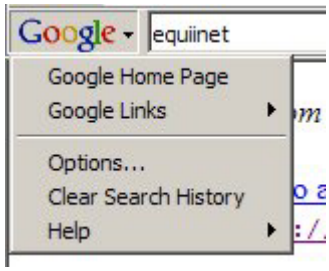
Switching user PCs into 'Strict SafeSearch mode'

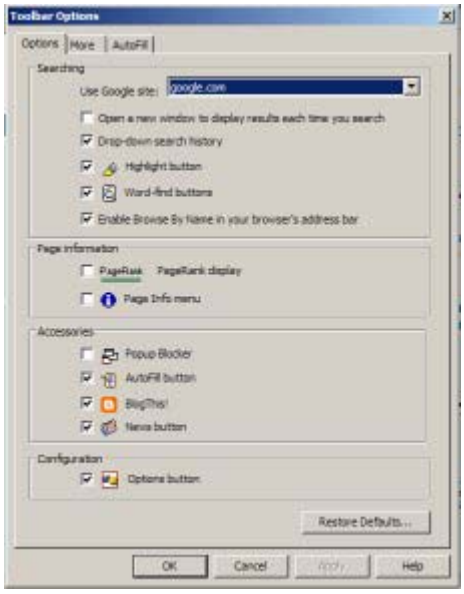
It is necessary to visit each PC in turn and select the Google SafeSearch mode. From the www.google.com home page select **Preferences**. This is located to the left of the search engine box. Within the global preferences menu, scroll down and locate the section for SafeSearch Filtering and select **Use strict filtering** as shown below. Then select the **Save Preferences** button.



Switching user PCs Google bars to Google.com

If users PCs have the Google Toolbar deployed ensure the default Google site being used is www.google.com. Click on the right hand Google drop down menu and select **Options.** Then select the Google.com site in the top pane**.**





Google is a registered trademark of Google Inc. All other trademarks acknowledged

Step 2 : Building the individual Site Lists

The first stage of the filtering configuration process is to build three Site Lists using the menu **Web, Site Lists**.

To create a Site List, log on to your CachePilot with the ADMIN account and select the side bar **Web** button, then select the **Site Lists** link. Initially, only three system supplied default Site Lists are displayed.

Then select the **Add** button. You will have a choice of three radio buttons. Select the List Type (Black or White) as directed below in the instructions to create individual Site Lists. Then click **OK**. You will then see the main Site List screen.

The names of Site Lists do not have to be identical to the ones used in this paper, but if changed, they must correspond to those used in the Group filter. We suggest if you want to experiment you start precisely as defined in this paper, test, and then modify.

First Site List: Create the first Site List (a Black list) as described above, which we call **1-googleblocks.** You need to enter the items as shown below into the main mid page box:

images.google.*/.*safe=off
images.google.*/.*safe\%3Doff
www.google.*/.*safe=off
www.google.*/.*safe\%3Doff
www.google.*/.*safe=images
www.google.*/.*safe\%3Dimages
www.google.*/.*preferences
images.google.*/.*preferences

The screen shot below shows the above items added.

Select **OK** and **OK** again to confirm.

Do not enable any N2H2 category blocking in the lower part of this screen.

Second Site List: Create the Second Site List (a White list) as described above, which we call **2-googleallows.** You need to enter the items as shown below into the main mid page box:

images.google.*/.*safe=on
images.google.*/.*safe=active
images.google.*/.*safe\%3Don
images.google.*/.*safe\%3Dactive
images.google.*/images
images.google.*/imgres
images.google.*/.*nav_
images.google.*/.*images_res
www.google.com

The screen shot below shows the above items added.

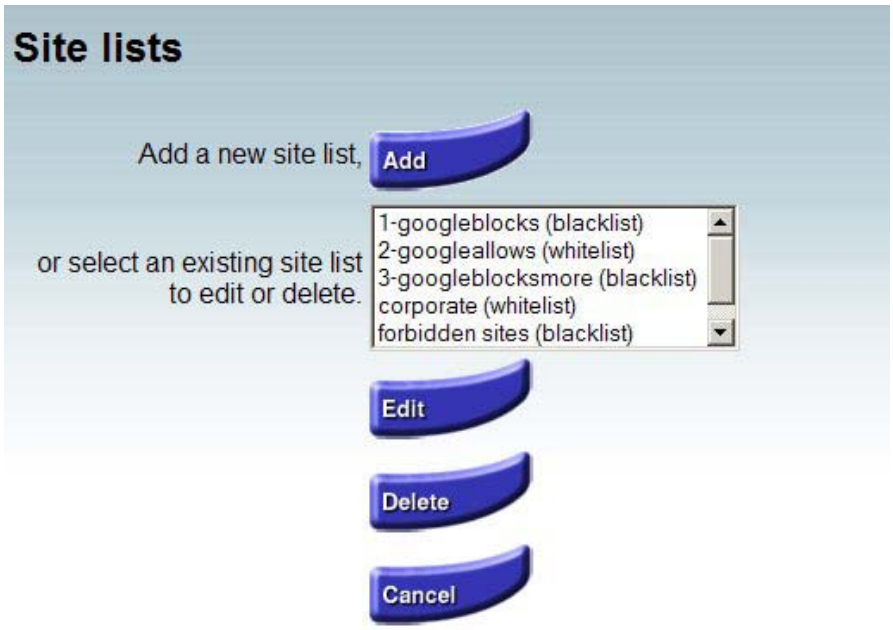
Select **OK** and **OK** again to confirm.

Third Site List: Create the third Site List (a Black list) as described above, which we call **3-googleblocksmore.** You need to enter the items as shown below into the main mid page box:

images.google.*/.*

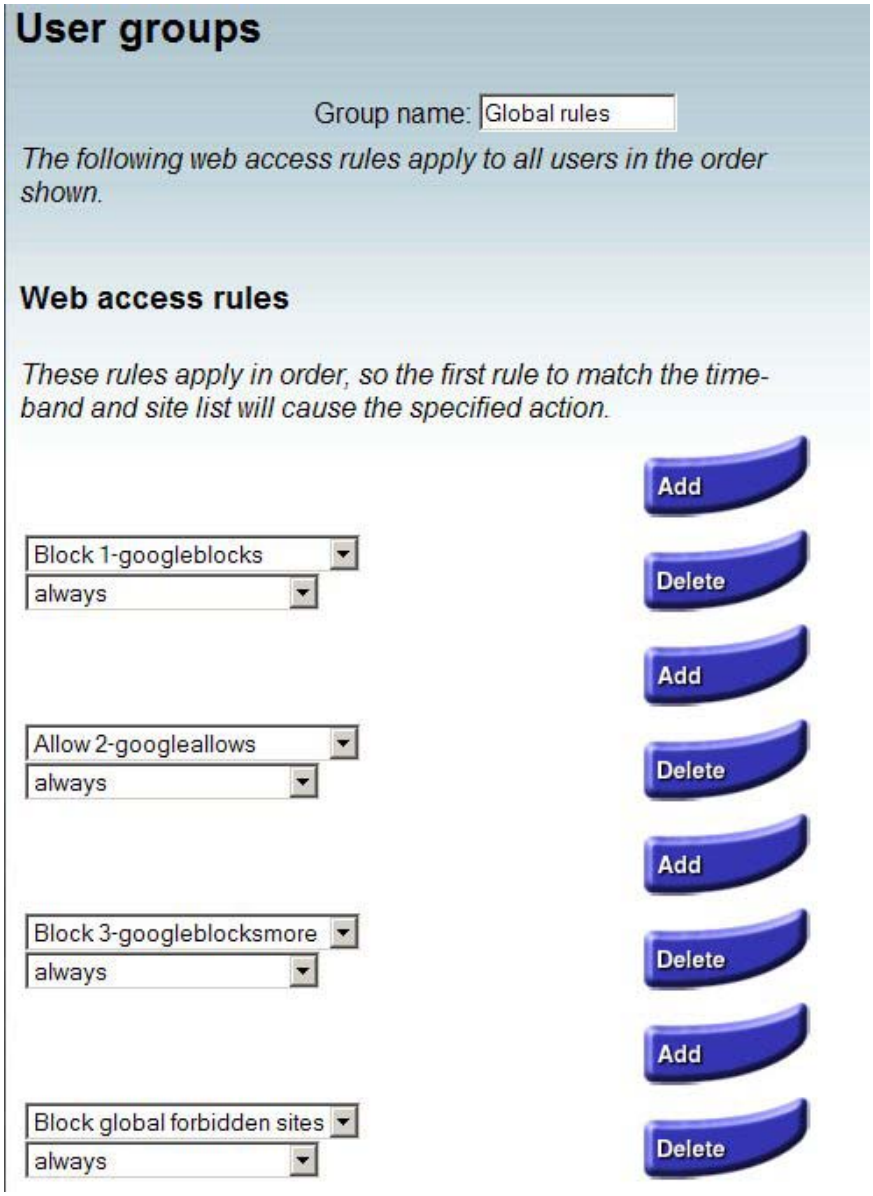
Once you have entered the text above, select **OK** and **OK** again to confirm.
Do not enable any N2H2 category blocking in the lower part of this screen.

Your Site Lists should now look as below:



Step 3 : Building the User group filter rule

Having created the three Site Lists that are required, it is now necessary to incorporate them into a filtering rule. To do this select the **User Accounts** button on the left hand side bar, then the **Groups** button on the top bar. Then select the **Global rules** option and click the **Edit** button.



The rules must be added in the order shown below, any deviation from this will result in the filter not working correctly. Once you have selected the rule in the list, select the bottom **Add** button and another drop down list will appear. When you have finished select **OK** and **OK** again to confirm.

The final Site List added as shown above is the system supplied 'Global Forbidden Sites' Black List. This must be added if you employ N2H2 filtering. By convention, this is the only Site List that normally has unit wide N2H2 settings (spreading them amongst other Site Lists is possible – but is potentially confusing to others).

Note the N2H2 Category 'Search' is blocked to prevent access to other search engines with problematic images! We further advise N2H2 users to read our other technical paper entitled 'Hints for Configuring N2H2 Categories'.

Select the url-filtering categories to block.

Category		Category		Exception	
adult	☑	mbb	☑	allowterms	☐
alcohol	☑	news	☐	education	☑
auction	☑	nudity	☑	filteredsearch	☐
chat	☑	personalinfo	☑	forkids	☑
discrim	☑	personals	☑	history	☐
drugs	☑	porn	☑	medical	☐
ecommerce	☑	recreation	☐	moderated	☐
freemail	☑	schoolcheat	☑	textonly	☐
freepages	☑	search	☑		
gambling	☑	searchterm	☑		
games	☑	sex	☑		
gross	☑	sports	☐		
illegal	☑	stocks	☑		
jobsearch	☑	suider	☑		
jokes	☑	swimsuit	☑		
keyword	☑	tobacco	☑		
language	☑	violence	☑		
lingerie	☑	weapons	☑		
loophole	☑				

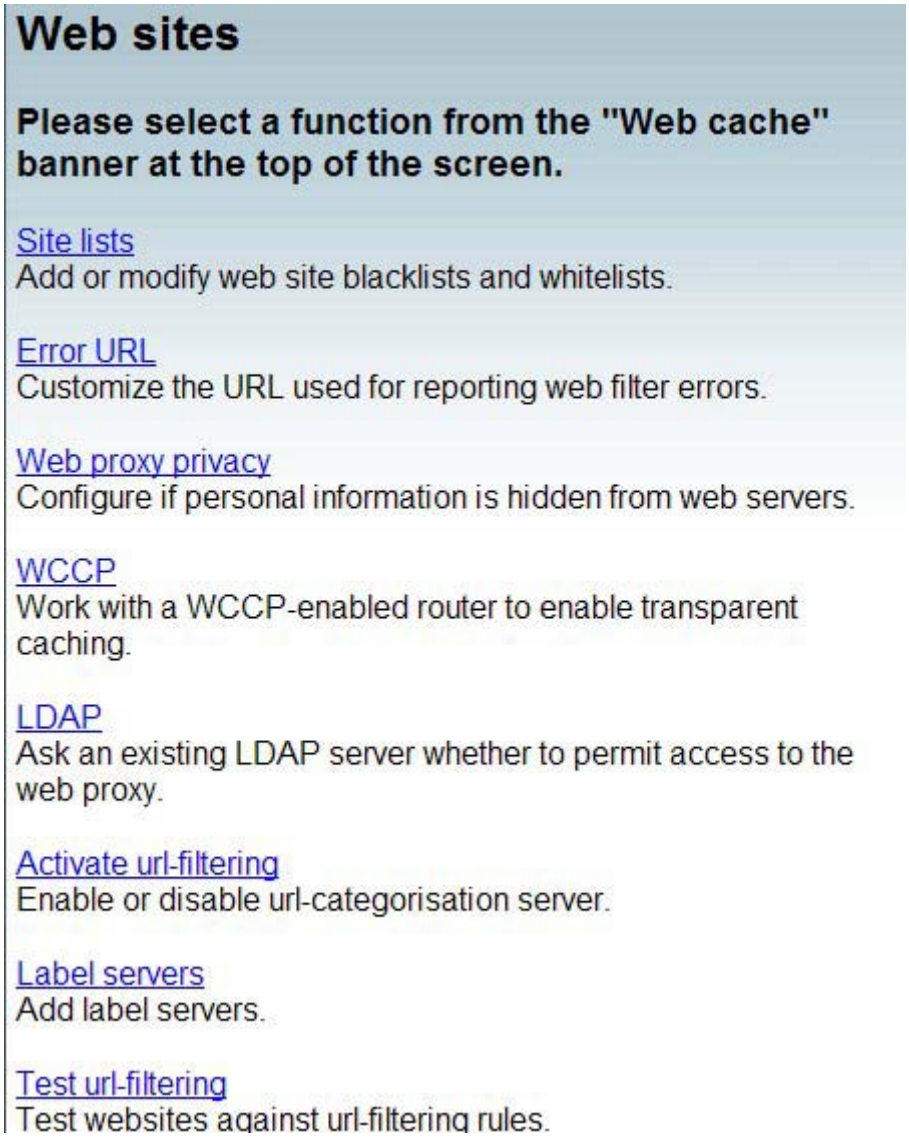
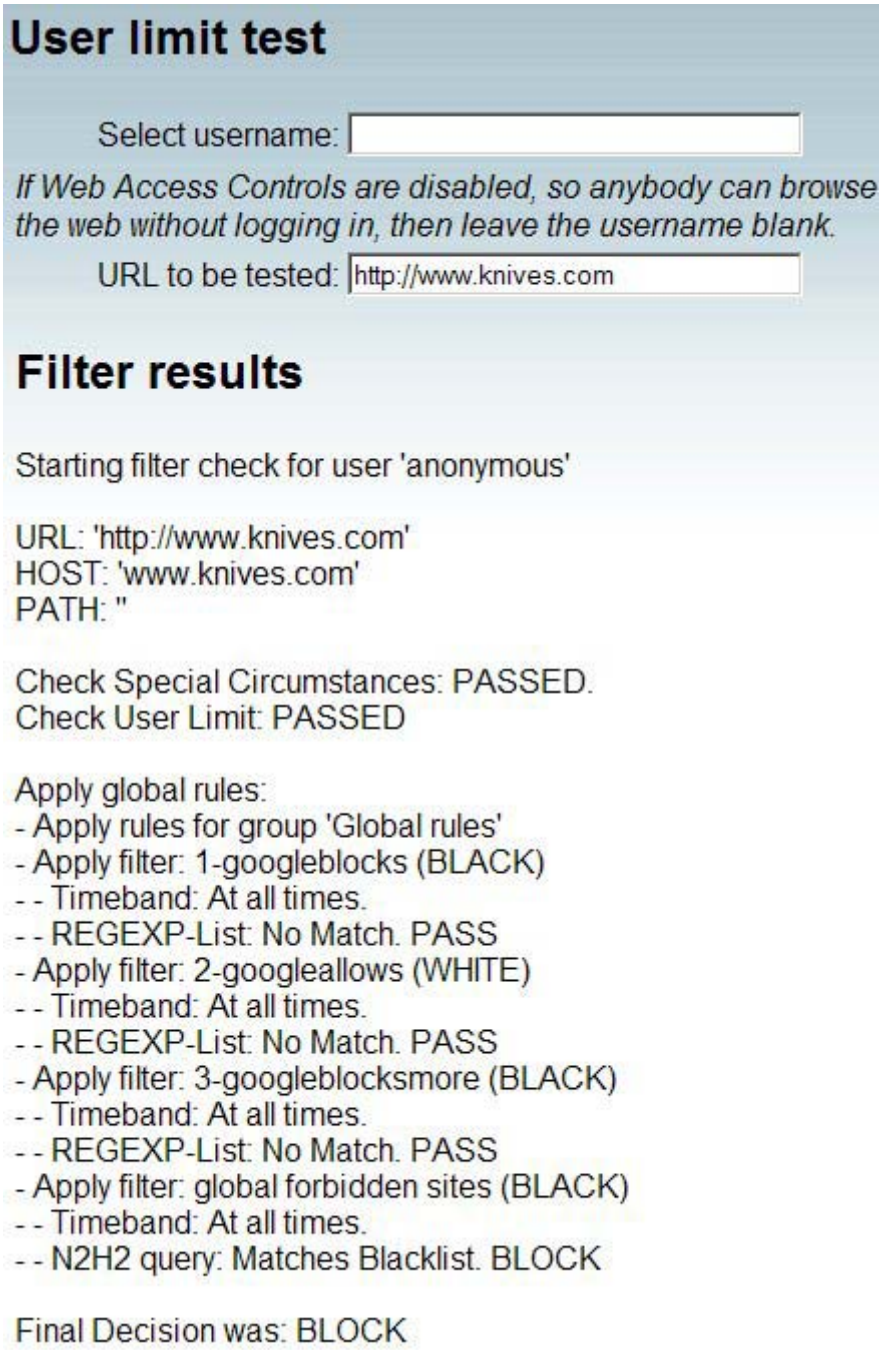
OK

Cancel

Step 4 : Testing the Rules

You really need to ensure the Google images part of this configuration works by searching in Google as an ordinary user to ensure correct operation.

If you alter the flow or naming convention or content used for Site Lists as described above you can debug using the CachePilot testing mechanism. To do this select the **Web** button on the left hand side bar, then select the bottom link **Test URL Filtering.**



The example below shows the flow through the three Site Lists we have added for Google Image blocking, and then this particular URL being blocked by N2H2.