

Introducing the iboss

Centralized filtering technology

What is it?

How will it work?

What's an iboss?

- * “iboss” is a network security services company.
- * “The iboss” is short for *the iboss Secure Web Gateway appliance*, a.k.a. *the appliance*.
- * It's a bundle of hardware and software.
- * The iboss is a product that WiscNet supports for its optional filtering service.
- * An iboss unit is installed at SCLS HQ to provide filtering service for participating member libraries.

Can the iboss provide filtering as an opt-in service?

- * Yes.
- * The iboss initially sets policy based on network addresses.
- * SCLS already distinguishes libraries by address ranges.
 - * Also identified: staff/patron/wireless/other.
- * Libraries will be able to opt in to an iboss policy which enables filtering.

How does the iboss work?

- * The appliance is installed at SCLS HQ.
- * Only the traffic of participating member libraries flows through the iboss to be filtered.
- * Content is blocked based on website domain names (much like OpenDNS does).

Will the iboss overblock, restricting desirable content?

- * Possibly, but not likely.
- * Website name filtering is substantially different from filtering on key words or flesh tones.
- * When the “Porn” category is activated, the iboss is blocking “known providers of porn”.
 - * It is not dynamically inspecting content for “indicators of nakedness or sex acts”.
- * Accidentally blocking access to art, literature or medical information is unlikely.
- * Outside of the Porn category, things might be fuzzier.

Will the iboss underblock, permitting undesirable content?

- * Yes, it will.
- * No filtering solution is bulletproof.
- * Users may find creative ways of evading it.
- * Sites may not be marked as needing blocking, particularly brand new website names.
- * CIPA compliance is about reasonable efforts to block unwanted content, not about perfection.

How will iboss impact patrons, when blocking websites?

- * The iboss returns a “block page” instead of the website.
- * When blocks occur, adults may bypass the block:
 - * if and only if the iboss policy settings permit a bypass
 - * but, for library CIPA compliance, adults *must* be able to bypass the filter.
- * These constraints are not incompatible. Imagine:
 - * Children’s Room computers where filtering blocks cannot be overridden.
 - * Select Adult computers where blocks may be bypassed, for CIPA compliance.

How will the adult bypass work?

- * Bypassing, permitted under FCC rules for “lawful purposes”, requires proof of adult age.
- * However, per court rulings, libraries may not ask an adult what their purpose is!
 - * Adults certify themselves as having a lawful purpose.
 - * It would seem ideal if this process could be automated.
- * The patron information required to bypass a block will be barcode and PIN.

Can we see it in action? Touch it? Try to break it?

- * Each library interested in filtering will undergo staff pilot testing so library staff can become familiar with the service.

Will I need to avert my eyes?

- * No. SCLS has configured a custom blocking policy using benign website content.
- * If blocking is bypassed, neither test site below requires anyone to avert their eyes.
 - * <http://scls365.pbworks.com/>
- * If prompted to log in, to bypass the filter:
 - * **your library barcode number**
 - * **your PIN**

Questions? Concerns?

Contact the SCLS Help Desk

<https://www.scls.info/help-desk>