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).
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