



# Understanding the SmartFilter Control List

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This chapter provides information regarding the Control List and provides examples of the types of sites that make up the 30 predefined SmartFilter Control List categories. It contains the following sections:

- [SmartFilter Control List, page 2-1](#)
- [Background of the Control List, page 2-2](#)
- [Category Summaries, page 2-3](#)

## SmartFilter Control List

The SmartFilter Control List is the key component in the SmartFilter product. The continuously updated Control List is a database representing tens of millions of URLs deemed nonbusiness-related or nonproductive. The Control List database is organized into 30 predefined categories plus 10 customizable categories.

SmartFilter software uses a comprehensive and up-to-date access control list. The Control List is transparent to the end user and has minimal system requirements.

## Predefined Control List Categories

For ease of administration, the SmartFilter Control List is organized into the following 30 predefined content categories.

- Anonymizers/Translators
- Games
- Online Sales
- Art and Culture
- General News
- Personal Pages
- Chat
- Hate Speech
- Politics, Opinion & Religion
- Criminal Skills
- Humor
- Portal Sites
- Cults/Occult
- Investing
- Self Help/Health
- Dating
- Job Search
- Sex

- Drugs
- Entertainment
- Extreme/Obscene/Violence
- Gambling
- Lifestyle
- Mature
- MP3 Sites
- Nudity
- Sports
- Travel
- Usenet News
- Webmail

## Background of the Control List

Secure Computing Corporation uses automated tools to continuously search the Internet for new sites and pages that meet the content criteria for the 30 predefined different Control List categories. Candidate sites are presented to Control List technicians for personal review. As a rule, sites are not added to the Control List without first being viewed and approved by these technicians.



### Caution

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Secure Computing Corporation places an updated SmartFilter Control List on the SmartFilter FTP server twice a week. You must have a preapproved login username and password to access the latest Control List. You can obtain your preapproved login username and password, as well as your license activation keys, from the Cisco Activation Certificate that is sent to you separately. See the “[License Activation Certificate](#)” section on page 1-2 for more details. The SmartFilter Control List content cannot be viewed, because it is provided in an encrypted format that only the SmartFilter software plug-in can decipher.

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The 30 predefined SmartFilter Control List categories represent general content types that encompass a wide variety of material. All sites defined within each category are deemed potentially inappropriate for today's typical workplace or educational environment.

In the broad context of cultural norms and individual taste, what is considered inappropriate may be debatable. However, in a standard business or educational environment, Secure Computing Corporation considers the sites in the 30 Control List categories to be unproductive for most employees or students to view during working or learning hours.

Identifying sites for inclusion in one of the SmartFilter software categories is an ongoing and continuous effort. Secure Computing Corporation cannot guarantee that it has identified all potential sites in a given category. Whether to identify a particular site as belonging to a category involves issues of judgment and opinion. As such, the supplied Control List may not include sites that a particular user may wish to control.



### Tip

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Use the SmartFilterWhere tool from the web page ([www.smartfilterwhere.com](http://www.smartfilterwhere.com)) to check whether a specific site is contained in the current SmartFilter Control List. You can exempt a URL that exists in a Secure Computing Corporation-defined category from being treated with the same policy as that defined by the category. See the “[Exempting a URL](#)” section on page 6-5 for details.

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## Inside the Control List

The Control List contains various types of URL entries that allow you to block at the site, URL, or path level. [Table 2-1](#) describes the types of URL entries that exist in the Control List.

**Table 2-1** URL Entry Types in the Control List

Entry Type	Example	Description
Site	www.xxx.yyy.com	Entire web page and all its content.
URL	www.eeffgg.com/pics/	Specific directory on the web page.
Path	www.aabbcc.com/pics/001.jpg	Specific object (that is, a picture or document) in a directory on the web page.



### Note

For an entry such as `www.abcinc.com/jobs/`, the entire site `www.abcinc.com` is not blocked; only the specific directory that is named is blocked.

## Control List File

The Control List *sfcontrol* file contains the categorized URLs available to SmartFilter software. These URLs are typically listed by domain name only and are grouped into 30 predefined categories.

## Category Summaries

This section contains a brief description of the 30 SmartFilter Control List categories. The site file category code appears next to its title.

## Anonymizers/Translators—an

Anonymizers enable anonymous web browsing through an intermediary to prevent unauthorized parties from gathering personal information, but they also allow users to access to any web page and bypass blocking software. Language translators that provide input of whole URLs for translation also act like anonymizers. Language translators that translate only text are not blocked. The following are sample sites or topics:

- anonymizer—Type Transaction
- anonymizer-based translation sites

## Art and Culture—ac

Web sites in this category contain virtual art galleries and other cultural topics, such as museums and country customs. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Visual Jazz Art Gallery—Contemporary art
- Cartoon Factory Animation
- A lesson in Native American funeral rituals

## Chat—ch

This category contains web-based chat groups that allow people to come together online to discuss current events, hot topics, and common interests. This category also includes forums, message boards, discussion groups, guest books that allow threads, and sites for chat software downloads. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Talk City
- The Chat Room Directory

## Criminal Skills—cs

This category contains sites that provide instructions for promoting, encouraging, or carrying out criminal activities. These include bomb making, lock picking, computer hacking, burglary, murder, rape, and so on. The following are sample sites or topics:

- The Stalking Page
- Lock picking for beginners
- Hacking groups

## Cults/Occult—oc

This category contains URLs with topics regarding the occult, cults, and extremist viewpoints. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Occult supplies
- Satanic Publications—Guide to satanism
- The First Church of Commonsense

## Dating—mm

This category contains dating and relationship topics, such as listings of personal advertisements, tips for attracting a companion, introductions to potential foreign spouses, and online dating services. The following are sample sites or topics:

- About.com's People/Relationships section—Dating
- Callgirlscorts—Escorts and call girls
- Together Dating—One of the original online dating services
- Shy Man's Guide to Success with Women

## Drugs—dr

Sites in this category contain information on the purchase, manufacture, and use of illegal or recreational drugs. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Freespeech.org—Drug and marijuana archive
- FYI: recreational Drugs—The Cocaine Tester's Handbook

**Note**

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The drugs category does not include sites that relate to prescription drugs.

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## Entertainment—et

The entertainment category contains URLs devoted to movies, television, music, hobbies, clubs, and amusement parks. These sites can either be fan club style (for sample, the Brad Pitt fan club) or sponsored by a company (for sample, Warner Bros.). This category also includes personal pages of movies and TV shows. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Internet Movie Database
- Hollywood On-line—Information, photos, and movie reviews
- Aunt Annie's Craft Page

## Extreme/Obscene/Violence—ex

The extreme category contains URLs that may fall into other categories, but test the limits of social acceptability. These URLs are typically extremely violent, gory, or horrific in nature and may be related to sex, bodily functions, obscenity, or perverse activities. The following are sample sites or topics:

- The Butt Page—Rectal foreign body page
- Bondage
- Pornographic rape, violence, or bestiality

## Gambling—gb

The gambling category contains URLs that encourage placing monetary or other bets on the outcome of games and contests. It includes sites offering gaming, bookmaker odds, lottery pages, and bingo. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Online Betting
- The New York Lottery Page

## Games—gm

This category contains URLs that focus on traditional board games and role-playing games, such as Battleship or Dungeons and Dragons. This category also includes video and online games, game reviews, and any URLs that promote game manufacturers such as Mattel. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Hasbro Toys
- Battleship
- Interactive WWW Games

## General News—nw

This general news category contains URLs that apply to most online news and mainstream trade publications, such as business trade or medical journals and high school or university newspapers. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Wall Street Journal
- JAMA
- USA Today
- CNN

## Hate Speech—hs

This category contains URLs dedicated to propaganda designed to encourage the oppression of a specific group of individuals. This includes such topics as derogatory speech against women, minorities, and the disabled. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Aryan Nations
- National Socialist Movement
- Did Six Million Really Die?

## Humor—hm

The humor category contains URLs that intend to be comical or funny. These sites include general jokes, comic pages, and comedy clubs. An example is the Dilbert site at [www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert](http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics/dilbert). The following are sample sites or topics:

- ComedyNet
- College Humor Page

## Investing—in

The investing category contains URLs that deal with personal investments and investment options. URLs in this category may contain stock quotes, money management forums, online publications, discount brokerage services, trading stock or mutual funds, portfolio setup, and more. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Prudential Securities
- National Discount Brokers On-line

## Job Search—js

This rapidly growing category contains URLs related to a job search. It encompasses sites concerned with resume writing, interviewing, changing careers, classified advertising, and large job databases. It also includes career development and individual URLs within otherwise uncategorized sites listing opportunities. For example, many corporate web pages also list their company's job openings. The following are sample sites or topics:

- HeadHunter—Employers, networking, resume writing, job fairs, and more
- Rensselaer Career Development Center—Career resource, resume book, job database, and more
- CareerResume—Online resume writing service

## Lifestyle—lf

URLs in this category may contain discussions or material relevant to an individual's personal life, whether it be unique characteristics or orientation. The sites may include such things as straight men's groups, gay and lesbian discussions, senior citizen clubs, transgender issues, vegetarianism, naturism, and more. The following are sample sites or topics:

- World Guide to Vegetarianism
- The Naturist Society—Promotion of clothes-free lifestyle
- Gay Universe—Guide to alternative lifestyles

## Mature—mt

This category contains URLs that advertise or sell products that require visitors to be of majority age to buy, such as tobacco, alcohol, and firearms. Other topics rated as mature are:

- Adult humor
- Provocative but not transparent lingerie photos
- Detailed text and images explaining sexual products
- Adult topics in nonfiction, fiction, poetry, and entertainment
- Some usage of profanity

The following are sample sites or topics:

- Choice Tobacco
- 800 Microbrew
- Sex Jokes
- Anatomy of the Penis/Mechanics of Intercourse

**Note**

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This category also includes URLs showing women or men dressed in seductive or sexually suggestive clothing (partially nude or bikini-clad women and men).

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## MP3 Sites—mp

This category contains URLs that are for downloading, uploading, or trading of MP3 files. The following are sample sites or topics:

- MP3 player downloads and resources
- Ugo
- Napster

## Nudity—nd

This category contains URLs that include nonpornographic images of the bare human body. Classic sculpture and paintings, artistic nude photographs, some naturism pictures, and detailed medical illustrations are included in the Nudity category. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Jaedas Fine Art—Commercial photography of artistic nudes
- Museum paintings
- Ceramic Arts/Classical Nudes—Classical nude sculpture

## Online Sales—os

This category contains URLs that include any form of merchandise sales or service that only benefits the individual, such as the sale of clothing, accessories, appliances, pets, and more. This may also overlap other categories, such as the sale of sex merchandise, sports memorabilia, or hate speech paraphernalia.

It includes market promotions and catalog selling. This category does not include merchandise or services that may benefit a normal business, such as business and computer supplies or business-to-business selling. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Mall of the Internet
- NetBuys Online Shopping Network

## Personal Pages—pp

This category contains URLs that include personal pages that are created by two main groups: students and subscribers to dial-up Internet service providers. Typically, the content in this category relates to the personal or recreational activities, hobbies, and interests of the page's author. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Zig's Stray Thoughts Page
- Bink's Home Page

## Politics, Opinion, and Religion—po

This category contains URLs that include discussions regarding politics, religion, social values, and other nonwork-related topics. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Spiritual Spectrum—Discussions of spiritual issues
- CARAL—California Abortion and Reproductive Action League

## Portal Sites—ps

This category contains URL web pages that serve as a major starting point for users when they connect to the web. samples are Yahoo, Excite, Lycos, CNET, Microsoft Network, AOL.com, and many large Internet service providers (ISPs). Services that may be offered by portal sites include a directory of websites, a search engine, news, weather information, e-mail, stock quotes, phone and map information, and chat rooms, message boards, and forums. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Alfy—Portal for kids
- Altavista—Search Engine or Portal
- Freeserve—ISP Portal

## Self-Help/Health—sh

This category contains URLs with topics designed to improve an individual's well-being. Sites may provide information on new medications, medically related sex or drug therapies, or support groups. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Ask the Dietitian—Advice on health and diet questions
- DivorceCare—Support for divorcees
- TeenHelp—Provides information to help teenagers withdraw from drug dependency

## Sex—sx

This category contains URLs that reference, discuss, or show pornography, including pictures, videos, or text of sex acts, or sexually oriented material. This includes soft- and hard-core pornography, sado-masochism, bestiality, and so on. The following are sample sites or topics:

- PORN USA
- Hustler



### Note

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In the broader context of cultural norms and individual taste, it is debatable what differentiates sex or pornography from adult entertainment. However, in the daily business environment, URLs of this nature are unrelated to the conduct of business and are considered unproductive for employees to view during working hours.

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## Sports—sp

This category contains URLs related to sports, such as sports teams, sport discussions, sports scores, and sports merchandise. The following are sample sites or topics:

- ESPNET Sportzone
- SportsLine USA—Sports news, merchandise, contests
- AllSports—Features current news, odds, scores, and real-time chat with current players and coaches

## Travel—tr

This category contains URLs that are related to travel and travel activities. These URLs discuss popular travel destinations, travel reservation services, discount travel listings, special events in various cities, and sight-seeing guides. The following are sample sites or topics:

- Internet Travel Network—Reservations and flight options
- 1800FlyCheap—Discount travel
- Interactive Travel Guide
- Alaska One – Travel guides, parks, and recreation

## Usenet News—na

The usenet news category contains URLs that provide web access to usenet news groups and archives of uploaded newsgroup files. This category does not include any of the alt.sex or alt.binaries sections, because such sections can contain more than newsgroup talk. The following are sample sites or topics:

- DejaNews
- Real News—Provides Usenet News to individuals, ISPs, corporations, and educational institutions

## Webmail—wm

This category contains URLs that support web-based e-mail (through HTTP, not Internet relay chat (IRC)). The following are sample sites or topics:

- Netscape Webmail
- HotMail—Free e-mail
- Cool Jargon of the Day