BISK Internet Security

What is BISK- Firewall?

Firewall is specialized computer, placed at the edge of a computer network, that control and monitor the internet traffic that enters and leaves the network. They often have additional functions to allow remote access to the network (e.g. a Virtual Private Network (VPN)) or provide IP addressing functions (e.g.DHCP and DNS). Firewall functions are usually combined with routing functions and the terms 'Router' and 'Firewall' are used interchangeably. In simple terms, firewalls prevent unwanted internet traffic from entering a computer network while simultaneously allowing permitted traffic to leave. Firewalls should be configured so that the allowed / not allowed internet traffic meets the needs of users.

What is BISK-Web Filtering?

Web filters work by routing internet traffic through a specialized device that inspects what internet sites are being requested by the user. The filter checks each request against a set of policies that have been defined for each school (or group or user if group/user filtering is in place) and accordingly allows or rejects the request. This process is usually invisible to the end-user.
Web filtering allows schools to monitor and accordingly restrict or allow what users can access when browsing the internet. Web filters typically have the ability to filter sites based on:

- individual sites (e.g. ABC.com)
- pages within a site
- categories of sites (e.g. gambling, games, etc)
- IP addresses
- keywords (e.g. swear words)
- applications (e.g. chat functions within websites)

BISK implement internet filtering for 2 main reasons:

- To help prevent access to sites and applications not appropriate to a school environment
- To help prevent sites or applications that act as a source of distraction or time-wasting

BISK have a responsibility to ensure that students are safe when using the Internet.
How individual schools do this will vary but requires a combination of two complementary approaches:

- *Educational* : digital citizenship: guiding young people's learning in the digital world
- *Protective* : web filtering: mitigating or buffering risk by protection, support or intervention.

BISK Web filtering must be balanced with strategies that promote:

● Development of skills and knowledge for safe and responsible use of digital technologies
● Opportunities for students to be involved in decisions about the management of digital technologies at the school
● Development of a pro-social culture of digital technology use
● Cooperation of the whole community in preventing and responding to incidents

Internet access on student devices

Typically the BISK firewalled and filtered the connection. This ensured the students were protected while at school. It also gave the school a degree of protection: it was clearly seen to be proactive and acting responsibly. Recent advances and availability of mobile data connectivity mean that this approach is no longer effective, particularly in secondary schools. A smartphone can access the Internet at speeds similar to or faster than the speed offered by the school's network and the connection may be shared with others by creating a wireless hotspot. In almost all cases, the mobile data connection will be unfiltered.
BISK responsibility to ensure students are safe while at school and this responsibility extends to student use of mobile Internet connections. Additionally, unless it is clearly endangering the emotional or physical safety of other students or detrimentally affecting the learning environment, school staff cannot ask to search a student-owned device, nor ask for the password to any device to access the content.
This means that the school cannot easily monitor the use of cellphone Internet access so the only way to ensure the school meets its digital safety obligations is to implement a Comprehensive digital citizenship strategy.

<u>This is because Effective digital citizenship:</u>

● guides people at home and at school
● guides people on a mobile data or school Internet connection
● guides people on any device they choose to use.

What role does BISK Internet filtering have in a digital citizenship strategy?

An appropriate level of internet filtering can help students develop Key Competencies and be a useful part of a digital citizenship strategy by:
● providing learners with opportunities to exercise digital citizenship skills in a supportive yet safe environment
● Encouraging learners to use the school's internet connection while at school, rather than using unfiltered, personal mobile data connections.
● Using the reporting functions of your filtering solution to prompt conversations about online behavior with users.

BISK Managing Self - What does it really look like?

In the context of digital technologies, a student who is able to manage themselves will be able to:
● manage their time so that it is used efficiently and productively
● know the difference between appropriate and inappropriate content, that this varies contextually and make good decisions based upon the context
● actively make decisions to ‘do the right thing.
Older learners should be able to manage themselves more effectively than younger learners, and be more discerning about what self-management means for themselves in different contexts. Using your filtering reporting tools to inform conversations with learners about how they manage themselves. can be a useful technique to allow students to increase their ability to be discerning digital citizens.

Implementing BISK Firewalls:

● The firewall rules that implement as standard mean that common applications such as Google Hangouts, video-conferencing and Skype will not require extra configuration by your school.
● Teachers and students are more likely to be able to use the applications or sites they want without requiring technical support or intervention.