

ISPANZ POSITION PAPER

CONTENT FILTERING

ISPs do not normally filter content or actively monitor their customers' activities. Exceptions include the Digital Child Exploitation Filter System (DCEFS), which some ISPs subscribe to, and family content filtering services either offered by ISPs or through 3rd parties to take the "nasties" out of the internet for families and educational institutions.

Filtering services are available to customers on an opt-in basis, but ISPs typically don't enforce content restrictions upon their customers. While some customers want to be protected from inappropriate or offensive content, one person's propaganda can be another person's news. Applying blanket rules on content filtering would raise significant issues around freedom of speech and freedom of information.

The Department of Internal Affairs offers the DCEFS to ISPs. The DCEFS focuses solely on websites offering clearly objectionable images of child sexual abuse, which is a serious offence for anyone in New Zealand to access. It is relatively simple to get DCEFS up and running. Basically the system uses BGP via a GIF tunnel and the DIA advertise specific routes relating to child abuse sites, these routes are /32 routes and are advertised approximately 4 times a day. ISPANZ recommends that members investigate implementing DCEFS. Full details can be found at: <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Censorship-DCEFS>

In the case of suspected criminal activity the police could issue a search warrant to request end user contact details for a user who was using a given IP address at a given time and date. In these instances the Police would contact the end user directly rather than involving the ISP.

In summary:

- ISPs do not normally filter content or monitor customers' activities.
- ISPs offer filtering services on an opt-in basis.
- ISPANZ recommends that members investigate implementing DCEFS.
- Whilst ISPANZ does not take any position on matters of taste or opinion, we do not condone criminal activity and expect our members to cooperate fully with any police investigation related to possible criminal activity.