Opinion Paper
SonicWALL

Understanding and Securing the KCSIE Standard

The safeguarding of children in schools has always been of paramount importance, and is one of the fundamental priorities within a learning environment. As such, it continually presents new challenges for school staff, and with the rapid rise of technology and digital learning over the past 10 years, the expectations for safeguarding have now extended to the unfamiliar realms of e-safety. It is therefore vital for all schools to implement rigorous online safety policies and procedures that actively combat students' vulnerability to illegal or inappropriate online content.

The Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) statutory guidance was introduced in 2014, and updated in September 2016 to better ensure that school policies are reflective of the growing reliance on and accessibility of the Internet for learning. Every school in England and Wales must prove their compliancy with the KCSIE by demonstrating which measures have been taken to prevent student access to harmful content.

Ofsted too has made this a primary aspect of its future inspections, now focusing largely on online safety and digital literacy. It is now also a requirement to educate students on e-safety via the curriculum, and see that all staff members undergo regular technology safety training.

The Challenges
The endeavour for KCSIE compliancy can present a number of technology-related obstacles to school staff. Namely, online policies need to:

- Remain compliant without needing to compromise or hinder student learning
- Ensure web filters are appropriately set to student needs
- See that the school's online portal contains web filtering and blocking for:
  - Illegal child abuse images/content (CAIC) using the Internet Watch Foundation list (IWF)
  - Police-assessed list of unlawful terrorist content, according to the Home Office
- Be entirely future-proof and open to frequent updates
- Enable key visibility for monitoring online activity and behaviours
- Implement flexible security solutions that also promote e-safety

Most importantly, schools need a solution that is right for their unique requirements. This means finding an appropriate and comprehensive solution that is also balanced with the pressures faced by cost-conscious schools. Whilst technology has brought complications for school safeguarding, it also

Why SonicWALL for Education?

- **Purpose-built for KCSIE compliancy**

- **Unrivalled online protection**

- **Straightforward deployment**

- **Highly flexible to suit your school's individual needs**

- **Easy-to-use reporting and monitoring capabilities**

- **A solution ready for the demands of both today and tomorrow**

SONICWALL™

holds the answers. Despite the rhetoric and trepidation surrounding compliance, it is more than possible to deploy an online safety solution that addresses every component of KCSIE without becoming an impediment to teaching or an onerous management burden.

Compliancy Without Compromise

SonicWALL takes into account the difficulties that filtering can bring when it comes to blocking inappropriate websites. It prevents the dangers of technology whilst helping your school and students reap its benefits, offering granular control over blocking to restrict 'over and under-blocking'. This way, students are able to utilise only the key teaching resources that are appropriate to them, even when using computers from outside the firewall perimeter, such as at home or during a school trip. When attempting to access blocked sites, such as YouTube, from a teacher's computer during a lesson, a password override can be applied to ensure that learning can continue without impacting all-important timings and lesson plans.

Always Appropriate

The flexibility offered by SonicWALL enables your online safety policy to match students' knowledge of and responsibility with technology to provide a content filtering solution (CFS) appropriate to their individual needs. It permits age appropriate filtering, seeing different abilities and year groups easily catered for, and allows you to apply policies specifically focused on the individual user or user group, identified by their own unique credentials. Furthermore, in conjunction with its intelligent reporting platform, FastVue, teachers and management are granted a real-time view of the Internet activity of these individuals, giving you the freedom to block questionable searches quickly and efficiently.

Meet Filtering Standards

The deluge of illegal and harmful website content is hard to keep track of, and it can be tough to know just what is appropriate and what isn't. SonicWALL's CFS is a fully integrated solution that comes already equipped with a database of over 4 million websites, domains and IP addresses that receives frequent updates. This database includes the minimum requirement of the IWF and Home Office terrorism lists, and ensures the protection you have in place is always in step with government guidelines.

Making Online Safeguarding Simple

SonicWALL's web filtering and monitoring solution goes beyond the requirements of the KCSIE, offering an enhanced level of protection that isn't intrusive of the teaching experience. It directly addresses the challenges schools face on a day-to-day basis, providing effective and reliable protection through a powerful, user-friendly interface.

SonicWALL has been protecting school networks for more than 20 years. Their next-generation security appliances are hardened to continually deliver the highest levels of security and can be easily sized to meet the individual needs of your school. SonicWALL also runs from a single, unified management system, allowing further security services, such as anti-virus or Advanced Threat Protection (ATP), to be added over time without troublesome integration, therefore removing the headache of having to interact with multiple systems to be suitably protected. It means that you can be confident in the protection in place both today and tomorrow.

Keeping Things Visible

The use of exciting new software applications as a learning tool has increased significantly over the last few years. Accordingly, it's important to have visibility over which apps are being used and downloaded, and by whom. SonicWALL gives authorised users the ability to both control and monitor application use, so that only the specified teaching-based apps are used during lessons. Likewise, the ability to see and control your bandwidth use is made easy, ensuring this is not being taken advantage of. Thanks to FastVue's reporting capabilities, notifications can be set up to instantly send alerts when the school online policy has been infringed, or else when suspicious activity is taking place, allowing you to always be on top of breaches and respond quickly to potential protection issues. FastVue was designed with the simplest user experience in mind, so all of your reporting is clear and easy to interpret.

A Solution That Suits Your School

The flexibility and control of this technology means it is a solution appropriate for schools of all shapes and all sizes, regardless of whether you're a Primary, Academy, Grammar, or Independent. SonicWALL is one of the leading security solutions for Education, and introduces incredible safety and functionality to each and every school.
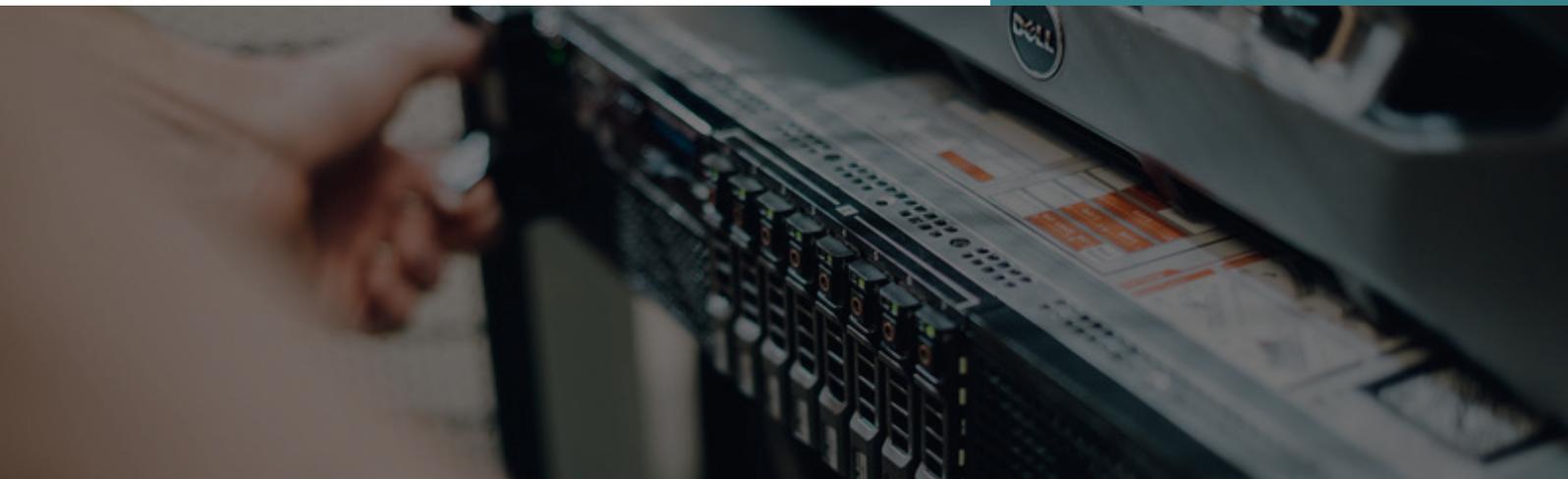
E-Safety-Conscious Security

All SonicWALL solutions are delivered as a security appliance, which means they are ready to plug in to your network straight out-of-the-box for a hassle-free implementation that doesn't compromise on protection. They include:

• Deep packet inspection firewalls that provide a first line of defence
• SSL/IPSec virtual private networking (VPN)

Deep Packet Inspection for Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) helps you to safely inspect, and decrypt, encrypted traffic. This is particularly useful when protecting against the risks associated with social media use, and will inspect SSL from a wide-ranging host of websites. Its controls also ensure that sites that are deemed trustworthy by an authorised user do not need to undergo further inspection, so that your SonicWALL solution is always learning from acceptable user behaviour.

Similarly, VPN capabilities also make certain that the network remains completely secure if staff are working remotely, without impeding performance. This can also extend to student-issued computers, so that they are always able to work from home yet have the same filtering restrictions applied as they do in their school environment, extending and guaranteeing protection wherever they are. Cognisant of Ofsted's drive for increasing awareness of e-safety, lots of customisable features include custom 'block' pages that can both promote the school brand and additionally refer the user back to the school's online safety policy, continuing their education of it.

SONICWALL™

Think Local, Buy Local

CCS Media has 34 years of experience delivering IT and technology solutions for Education. We're a SonicWALL Partner, which means we've achieved the highest possible accreditation in their technology. However, more importantly, we have a UK network of offices so are never far away. It means we have local knowledge, know your community and your place within it. We are your neighbours, and are aware of the local and cultural pressures you face and their ramifications on child safety. We work to alleviate those pressures so that your sole focus can be as it should be: the happiness and satisfaction of both students and staff. That's why we always make your school's progress our number one priority.

We're truly invested in making a difference, and know that achieving compliance with KCSIE needs both exceptional, trusted technology and some good, old fashioned community know-how. It's an important and often overlooked ingredient to a successful solution. We put the two to work together to bring out only the very best for your school.

Rapid scalability, constant availability, low-touch management, application mobility across computing environments and reduced inefficiencies in IT planning are all features of a hyper-converged infrastructure. The modular nature of the technology flattens the investment curve and ensures that units of compute, network or storage can be acquired to improve capacity or performance as needed without major overhaul.

What now?

Discuss it - Speak to one of our resident all-flash experts to talk further about the points raised in this paper.

See it – take a closer look at all-flash technology at one of our forthcoming events.

Test it – see it for real in your own environment with a trial of the technology.

CCS work with the world's leading brands to provide Everyday User IT, Print & Office Supplies and deliver IT Project Services to over 4,000 companies every month.

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