



## CIPA FILTERING FOR E-RATE COMPLIANCE

### Product Options for Small Public Libraries

Prepared by CLiC Consultants - October 2021

*The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) was enacted by Congress in 2000 to address concerns about children's access to obscene or harmful content over the Internet. CIPA imposes certain requirements on schools or libraries that receive discounts for Internet access or internal connections through the E-rate program – a program that makes certain communications services and products more affordable for eligible schools and libraries.*

From <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/childrens-internet-protection-act>

### OPTIONS FOR CIPA-COMPLIANT FILTERING

Client-based solutions are per device and are installed on each machine. Network Level Solutions are filters that work like a “parental protection” layer that is installed as a router firewall or as a cloud-based network.

#### **Current Ware: BrowseControl**

<https://www.currentware.com/store/> or view this 2-minute [YouTube video](#)

Install Client on devices (filtering continues if devices leave the network)

Or Server Set-Up to connect the clients to the server

*Pros:* Great customer service, easy to customize, also blocks use of certain apps. Good option for the non-techie. Clear pricing structure. Option to purchase only the “Browse Control” without paying for other features.

*Cons:* Client-based solutions are becoming less common. Cost rises per device, so a better solution for libraries with fewer computers or devices that need the filtering.

*Cost:* Price per users \$2.99/month per license for 10-99 devices  
(10 license minimum required; 10% discount for libraries)

\$358/year per license <less 35.80>

*Contact:* Anish Verma / [anish@currentware.com](mailto:anish@currentware.com) / 1-888-912-9619 x 526

#### **iBoss**

<https://www.iboss.com/education/web-filtering-for-cipa-compliance/>

Core Package: Content Filtering Features: blocks categories of websites with monitoring and reporting built in.

*Pros:* All Cloud based, so no applications or hardware to install. Network traffic is re-directed to the iBoss cloud where filtering occurs. Customizable: Can white-list certain sites and has full reporting capability. Responsive customer service.

*Cons:* Software deployment for desktops per machine adds licenses per device (if devices are leaving the network). More expensive.

*Cost:* \$3,500/year per account

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## OpenDNS Filtering

<https://www.opendns.com/home-internet-security/>

Family Shield (Free): set-up is done by library at the router level

Router goes to their FamilyShield nameservers where the content is blocked if inappropriate.

*Pros:* Low cost. Online instructions for installation.

*Cons:* No support or contact information to speak with the company. Requires library to have enough tech expertise to set-up. Free version does not include whitelisting nor reporting. In the free version the content filtering is pre-configured to block "adult content." Email support only; no phone support. OpenDNS was just acquired by Cisco. Transition may lead to less support of some products.

*Costs:*

- Home (Free): Allows for customizable content filtering
- VIP Home: (\$19.95/year per location) Includes some statistics and reporting
- Prosumer: (\$20 per device, maximum of 5) Includes protection for malicious phishing and malware

## SonicWall Content Filtering Client

<https://www.sonicwall.com/products/firewalls/security-services/content-filtering-client/>

Firewall router installation at location level.

*Pros:* Can add gateway malware protection for additional cost. Customization available for whitelisting. Includes reporting. Cost is low as quoted.

*Cons:* Does not cover devices that leave the network. Customer service is not very responsive.

*Cost:* \$200/year per location

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## Content Filtering with a Cisco Meraki Firewall

Meraki Cisco routers come with an enterprise license for basic filtering, and libraries can purchase [Advanced Security Licensing](#) for malware protection and CIPA-compliant Filtering.

*Pros:* The license includes an easy-to-use dashboard and a support line to call for tech assistance.

Libraries may also have access to the Meraki Device System Manager which allows you to track and update devices such as iPads, Chromebooks, or Hotspots. A free one-year trial available for the device system manager.

*Cons:* Costs are not set; depends on the hardware being used and how many computers/devices. Wait times for tech support calls can be long.

*Cost:* \$700 licensing/year for the Advanced Security Licensing; some discounts for libraries are available

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Or look at [https://documentation.meraki.com/MX/Content\\_Filtering\\_and\\_Threat\\_Protection/Content\\_Filtering](https://documentation.meraki.com/MX/Content_Filtering_and_Threat_Protection/Content_Filtering)

*Note: For informational purposes. This is not a comprehensive list of all CIPA-Compliant Filtering Software options. CLiC is not promoting any specific product. Library best practice is to develop public policies regarding Internet use and CIPA filtering.*

*Looking to develop or update a policy? Check out the [Public Library Policy Collection](#) for examples and templates. Need to talk over specific filtering needs at your library? CLiC Colleague on Call is here to help small & rural libraries: [concteam@clicweb.org](mailto:concteam@clicweb.org).*