The Netsweeper Difference for iOS Devices in Education

THE CHALLENGE

Schools need to have web content filters in place to keep students safe online while meeting regulatory compliance requirements like CIPA or Ofsted. Unfortunately, for those who invest in iPads, remote content filtering may be a challenge due to iOS devices historically requiring the use of Proxy Auto-Configuration (PAC) files, a file-based configuration approach that forces all internet traffic through a proxy server.

Issues with PAC Files:

- Cause latency due to proxying traffic back and forth
- Not user-friendly for students, teachers, or IT support
- Security concerns from malicious redirection like malware or phishing
- Increased costs from added bandwidth use
- Not easily scalable because of inline/in-network filtering technologies

HOW NCLIENT WORKS

Netsweeper's network loopback filter consists of a downloadable application that establishes a custom SSL app-proxy internal network on the mobile device's loopback interface. This allows full SSL inspection for all applications to be offloaded to the device and eliminates the network bottlenecks found in other PAC file solutions while providing significant scaling benefits. Decrypted requests are sent to our remote Policy Server via a lightweight message protocol. For iOS devices, an Apple limitation restricts this type of access to only one active connection at a time. If multiple private network-based solutions (such as VPNs) operating in tandem is a requirement, we recommend our customers employ our Filtered Browser as an alternative.
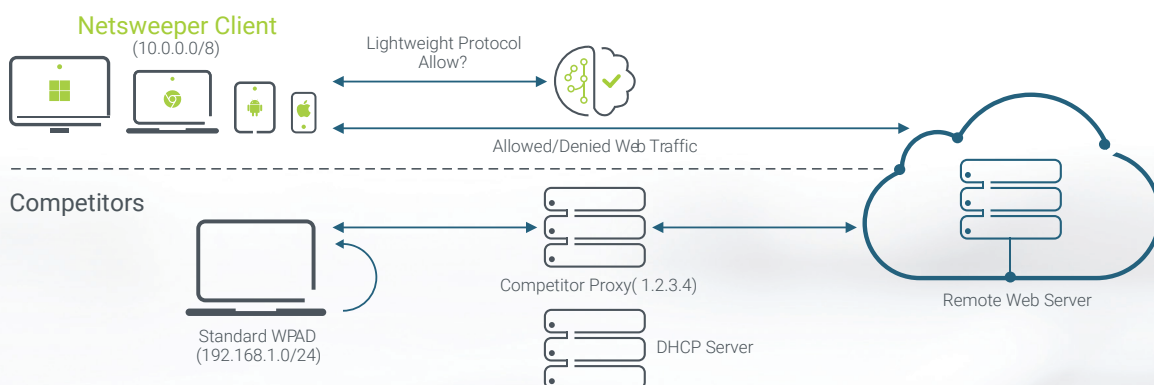
Netsweeper's Apple iOS Filtered Browser, based on the Mozilla Firefox browser and integrated with our own Client Filter, provides a safe browsing environment on iOS devices. Device lockdown requires the Apple configurator, a device with OS-level parental controls, or other suitable MDM with device enrollment capability.

BENEFITS

- **On Device** – All filtering and decryption are done on the device, offloading the workload.
- **Scalability** – The request/response between the client and the policy server is extremely lightweight making it highly scalable as only the header information is transferred.
- **Full SSL Decryptions** – Ability to decrypt all traffic (system level) on the device, not just browser traffic.
- **Zero Latency** – No PAC file approach means no slowdown on your school network.

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