

The breadth and depth of web content filtering products has improved significantly. It is not just for web pages anymore, reports Peter Stephenson.

It was a new year in web content filtering. There are several new trends this time. First, products are displaying a variety of architectures. These range from in-line gateways that sit behind the firewall to a proxy device that re-routes web-bound traffic through itself. Of course,

we also saw the traditional client-server products as well. Last year, most of our products were software based. This year we saw several appliances. The final trend we noted in performing this test was the inclusion of tools that do not apply directly to, but integrate

nically with web content filtering. Our overall impression is that web filtering products have come a long way in a short time. They are beginning to show a level of maturity that fits well as a countermeasure to some of the most pervasive security problems we experience today.

## R3000



<b>Vendor</b>	8e6 Technologies
<b>Price</b>	\$19.02/user for 1,000 users
<b>Contact</b>	www.8e6.com

The R3000 is a superb product. The appliance was easy to set up, performed well, is well documented and is feature rich. Set-up is typical of more advanced appliances.

Initial configuration is performed by connecting a keyboard and monitor to the appliance. From there a wizard guides the user through set-up. Once initial configuration is complete, policy development is quick and easy through the intuitive web interface.

Documentation is clear and walks the user through initial configuration in great detail. The user guide is an indexed PDF file and describes policy configuration, network settings and cus-

tomization in an easy to read style complete with numerous screen shots and examples.

Performance was excellent and included, in addition to URL and content filtering, spyware, phishing, instant messaging and peer-to-peer protection. The product can be used in conjunction with other products, such as the 8e6 Threat Analysis Reporter and the 8e6 Mobile Client. Additionally, there is the capability of archiving large amounts of information in the optional storage repository (the NEXSAN InfiniSAN).

The R3000 sports over 90 different content categories making it one of the most flexible products of its type. These categories include all of those one would expect (illegal drugs, pornography, gambling, etc.), plus several others such as explicit art or comics. Also, there is a mobile client that you use with notebook computers. One of the more useful features of the product is its ability to lock a user out of the internet after some pre-configured number of attempts to access forbidden sites. This prevents users from attempting to bypass the device by trying different sites repeatedly.

The support site is strong and includes all of the expected resources. Users can obtain support by phone or email as well as on the website. The support site contains quite a bit more than we are used to seeing, however.

The pricing range for R3000 goes from about the middle of the pricing spectrum for up to 1,000 users to a very reasonable price per user at 5,000 users. We found it to be an excellent value, and for its value, power and flexibility we rate the R3000 our Best Buy.

SC MAGAZINE RATING	
Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★★★
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
<b>OVERALL RATING</b>	<b>★★★★★</b>
<b>Strengths</b> Flexible; good for large- and medium-sized organizations; solid documentation.	
<b>Weaknesses</b> None that we could find.	
<b>Verdict</b> For its solid performance, flexibility and value we rate the 8e6 R3000 Internet Filter and Enterprise Reporter our Best Buy	



Flexible; good for large- and medium-sized organizations; solid documentation.

Peter Stephenson



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