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# 1:1 Initiatives:

Ensuring Safety and Success with Mobile Filtering



Network solutions for safe online learning

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## Introduction

Technology is a core element of any educational program for today's youth. It prepares them with the 21st-century skills they need to excel in their ongoing schooling, lives, and work; it provides them with the skills and knowledge to be global citizens; it enhances their curriculum with multimedia and interactivity and communication; and it allows teachers to engage students in a medium that they are already familiar and comfortable with.

As part of efforts to enhance the learning process with technology, schools are incorporating technology into core curriculum at school, and finding new ways to engage students in their learning even when they are not at school. 1:1 initiatives, which aim to provide each student with a laptop that they can take home, are sprouting up across the country.

## About 1:1 Initiatives

Handhelds, laptops, netbooks, tablet PCs, iPads and other mobile devices are being handed out to students in districts across the country. Students can take the computers home to continue their learning and their technology interaction even after school hours.

1:1 initiatives offer many benefits to students and teachers:

- Provide regular, consistent interaction with technology
- Encourage learning after school hours
- Provide consistent, fair access to technology for all students
- Allow students to utilize technology in a location/time of their choice
- Give students greater access to learning resources
- Increase teacher-student communication

In fact, research has shown that learning is enhanced when students use computers at home to continue work initiated at school. The results of a three-year study showed that:

“Extensive use of laptop computers, in conjunction with teacher development in technology integration, results in increased time working away from the school, enhanced competency and confidence in computer use, and improved performance on measures of writing ability.”<sup>i</sup>

Project RED: Revolutionizing Education, which is an Apple-sponsored research project aimed at measuring how technology can help schools save money and improve instruction, revealed through recent research that the national average of schools with 1:1 (or ubiquitous) technology programs is about 5.4 percent.<sup>ii</sup>

## The Need for Mobile Filtering

A successful 1:1 initiative must also recognize the inherent risks that come with allowing students to utilize school resources away from the school network. When school computers leave the network, both the computers and the users can be exposed to harmful content and safety and security risks.

Blocking access to the Internet when the mobile device is off the school network may seem like a viable option, but it stifles the learning process and severely limits the purpose of the initiative: to encourage learning any place, any time.

Instead, schools need a solution that extends their on-network policies and protection to users who take their mobile devices off the network.

Mobile filtering offers many benefits:

- Ensures students are protected from harmful content when they use school resources off the network
- Maintains CIPA compliance for users off the network
- Protects mobile computers from damaging viruses and spyware
- Protects districts from liability for issues on school-owned resources



## About The Guide Mobile Filter

To provide districts with the protection they, and their students need, as they launch 1:1 initiatives, Lightspeed offers The Guide Mobile Filter<sup>iii</sup>. The Guide Mobile Filter extends your policies and protection with flexible filtering when computers are off the network. Whether your mobile users are part of a 1:1 initiative or just staff bringing laptops on and off the network, the Guide Mobile Filter will protect them and enforce your Acceptable Use Policies.



## About The Guide Browser App

The Lightspeed Guide Browser Application<sup>iv</sup> extends mobile filtering and policies to iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch devices—helping to ensure the safety of your users, the security of your technology, and the success of your mobile learning initiatives.

## Benefits of the Guide Mobile Filter/Guide Browser App

**Extends policies and protection to off-network computers.** Your Acceptable Use Policies protect both your users and your equipment. Laptops taken off the network are often free from the content filtering used within the network, opening users up to inappropriate content and equipment to dangerous web sites. The Guide Mobile Filter and Guide Browser App deliver flexible filtering for off-network computers, ensuring that blocked sites remain blocked—no matter where the computer is being used.

**Keeps users safe with comprehensive filtering.** The Guide Mobile Filter and Guide Browser App detect and/or block access to inappropriate material on the Internet based on our extensive, education-specific content database, as well as your own custom allow and block lists, helping to ensure user safety and CIPA compliance.

**Reduces the cost, time, and frustration of compromised computers.** By blocking sites known as threats for spyware, malware, and viruses, the Guide Mobile Filter and Guide Browser App help keep your school computers secure and safe when they are off the network, helping to keep computers clean and functioning properly.

### Key Features of the Guide Mobile Filter / Guide Browser App:

- CIPA-compliant Internet filtering for mobile computers
- Available as hosted or appliance-based solution
- Comprehensive and accurate education-friendly content database with more than one billion entries
- Reporting of off-network activity, including Blocked URLs, Blocked URLs by Category, Unknown URLs, URLs Visited
- Ability to block all forms of proxy servers (anonymous and secure)
- Forced SafeSearch for Google and Yahoo search engines
- Local policy control (Active Directory and LDAP)
- Password-protected uninstall (*not available with the Guide Browser App*)
- Full support for PCs and Macs; and iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch devices
- Works from any location, with any type of Internet connection—without the need for a VPN

### How the Guide Mobile Filter Works

The Guide Mobile Filter communicates Internet-browser requests from the mobile computer to a Lightspeed server at the district. In turn, the Lightspeed server references the URL requests with its content database and either allows the request to be processed or sends a blocking and redirect message to the user.

In this way Acceptable Use Policies are consistently enforced for users alternately attached to the local network and working remotely. The Guide Mobile Filter protects off-network computers at any location, with any type of Internet connection—without the need for a VPN connection.

## **How the Guide Browser Application Works**

To use the Lightspeed Guide Browser on an iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch, students login with their school network credentials. The browser transmits URL requests to the local Lightspeed server. In turn, the Lightspeed server, which checks the request against its content database, either allows it to be processed or sends a blocking and redirect message to the user. The application enables schools to enforce Acceptable Use Policies consistently, protecting users on and off the school network.

## **About the Hosted Guide Mobile Filter**

With the hosted version of the Lightspeed mobile filter, instead of communicating back to the solution at your district, the installed Guide communicates with a policy server at Lightspeed HQ—freeing you from maintaining hardware or software.

## **Testimonials**

“More than 10,000 district tablet PCs are used after school hours. And because of Lightspeed, we still know what’s going on on those devices. Keeping that connectivity has been very important for us, to meet the federal laws and also to have more complete information about how our resources are being used.” Karen Fuller, Chief Technology Officer, Klein Independent School District

“We had a problem where laptops would be returned with pop-ups and other issues. Unlike antivirus programs, the Guide Mobile Filter prevents users from accessing known bad sites, such as those that might infect the computer with spyware, to begin with. The Guide Mobile Filter is a preventative and proactive solution for us, which keeps our laptop computers running and our mobile users safe—and makes our jobs as system administrators easier.” J.J. McDermott, Network Administrator, Carroll County Schools

“Now with the Guide Mobile Filter, knowing that connections are secure and filtered, we can leave Internet connections open. This gives us security, and it lets the kids use the computers to a more full extent,” James Hanrahan, Systems Support Specialist, Kenosha Unified School District

## **Conclusion**

1:1 initiatives offer an exciting opportunity for districts to make learning an ongoing, anytime, anyplace activity for students. But in order for the initiative to be a success, mobile devices must be filtered to ensure CIPA compliance, student safety, policy enforcement, and resource security. The Lightspeed Guide Mobile Filter and Guide Browser App provide comprehensive filtering for mobile devices so the

same policies and protection you provide to users on your network are extended to users when they leave your network.

## About Lightspeed Systems

Lightspeed Systems Inc., founded in 1999, develops comprehensive network security and management solutions for the education market. We are committed to helping schools operate their networks effectively and efficiently, so educators can provide safe online teaching and learning environments.

Our software is used in more than 2,000 school districts in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia to protect more than 7 million students. For the past several years, Lightspeed Systems has been recognized on the Inc. 5,000 list as one of the nation's fastest-growing private companies.

[www.lightspeedsystems.com](http://www.lightspeedsystems.com)

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<sup>i</sup> <http://caret.iste.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=evidence&answerID=27>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.projectred.org/uploads/1-1%20Research%20Brief.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> The Guide Mobile Filter is a built-in feature of Lightspeed Web Access Manager. For more information on Web Access Manager, visit [www.lightspeedsystems.com/products/WebAccessManager.aspx](http://www.lightspeedsystems.com/products/WebAccessManager.aspx)

<sup>iv</sup> The Lightspeed Guide Browser app is available for free download from the iTunes App Store for Lightspeed Total Traffic Control or Web Access Manager customers. If you choose to deploy it en masse, contact Sales to extend your license's seat count. <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/lightspeed-guide-browser/id367422068?mt=8>