

Web Filter installed 360 miles north of Arctic Circle

CLIENT - The Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital, Barrow, Alaska

The Samuel Simmonds Memorial Hospital (SSMH) is situated in the United States of America's northernmost city of Barrow, 360 miles north of the Arctic Circle. Part of the Indian Health Service, it is run by the not-for-profit, Arctic Slope Native Association (ASNA) and serves an area of rich cultural diversity.

There are no roads in or out of Barrow and all supplies must be flown in or barged in during the summer months. Samuel Simmonds is therefore more than just a hospital - it also has the task of promoting the culture and general well-being of the Inupiat people.



The Hospital required a web filtering/caching solution which would make the best use of their satellite-based Internet connection and maintain reliable, constant uptime in this remote, inhospitable location.

Specific Requirements

The client had several major concerns regarding Internet usage at the hospital.

First and foremost, they needed to be sure that all Internet usage complied with HIPAA - The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (1996). Part of this Act requires the "establishment of national standards for electronic healthcare transactions and identifiers for providers, health insurance plans and employers". In other words, they needed to be certain that patient and staff confidentiality was guaranteed.

They were also concerned about staff productivity. Using the Internet for purposes other than work-related tasks is always a temptation, but in an area where resources are limited, there was a risk that misuse, however innocent, was impacting on staff productivity.

Finally, they wanted the most effective use of their limited resources. Prolonged downtime would cause serious problems, so the system needed to be efficient. With such a remote location - frozen for nine months of the year with temperatures sometimes reaching minus 70 degrees - the client naturally placed a great emphasis on system reliability.

The CensorNet™ Solution

The SSMH chose CensorNet Professional above the other possible solutions for several reasons: Most importantly, the solution offered reliability - an essential requirement considering their remote location.

Department with their task of keeping the Internet a safer, useful tool for the whole organisation. The reporting features meant that more information would be available for monitoring usage and planning future requirements.

CensorNet™ installed a system that offered the client the key features they required:

- Caching
- Content Filtering
- **Real-time detectors for unknown/zero-hour web pages**

A comprehensive database of websites is also updated daily, with categories ranging from automotive and film to pornography and violence. This means that the system not only allows SSMH to protect the day-to-day functions of their organisation, but also gives the best possible experience to users.

Feedback

Since installation, management has noticed positive changes within the organisation.

To begin with, productivity amongst staff has increased and errors and loss of patient information has been addressed. Patients are now assured of confidentiality and HIPAA compliance. The hospital's small Information Services Department has been able to maintain and manage their Internet resources more effectively and are also able to produce detailed reports on Internet activity for general analysis.

“The SSMH and ASNA have been using CensorNet for the past five years. In that time, and with limited resources, CensorNet has allowed the organisation to maintain and improve our overall network and Internet activity. We are very pleased with the system.”

Adam Smith, Network Manager