



NAME	PROFIL PARENTAL FILTER 2
Company	Profil Technology
Version	2.4.0
Type of product	Client
Devices supported	Computer
Operating systems	Windows 7 (32/64 bit) Windows XP (32/64 bit) Windows Vista (32/64 bit)
Price	1 year, 3 licences: 39,99 €
Language of interface	English, French, German, Spanish, Italian
GLOBAL RANKING	<p>≤ 12 years old users: 10/21 (points 1,77 out of 4)</p> <p>≥ 13 years old users: 8/21 (points 2,11 out of 4)</p>

*Prices might change according to the latest company offers

User's voice

Comprehensibility:



Look and Feel:



Time to install and configure:



130 minutes

"It's a very detailed software offering many possibilities for parents to set some limits for their kids while using IT. There are so many levels, grades, settings for limiting access to IT and inappropriate content that sometimes I almost felt lost. Maybe some video tutorial encouraging using PF2 would help more in full and successful managing with parental control over kids online."

Test user placed in: Poland

Test user's degree of Internet literacy:





FUNCTIONALITY

Functionality was tested with Windows. The Internet Parental Control is able both to customize the webpage filtering and to manage the use of some applications. The parent can choose among 4 age-based pre-defined profiles to be further customized. The parent can filter webpages according to content topics and to set levels of filtering for each of them. The URLS default white list is available in French only. It is possible to block personal data provisions. It is possible to block Streaming media, Skype and MSN applications selectively also defining a specific timeframe for usage. The parent can block a list of MSN addresses or protect the children from being exposed to new contacts by restricting the MSN activity to a white list of contacts. It is possible to block the provision of personal data. This control is possible also on the email clients: block the clients, create a black list of contacts or restrict contacts to a white list. Social Networking can be blocked but it is not possible to have a dedicated report on usage (e. duration). It is possible to force the use of safe Search functionality. The reporting is detailed and can also include screenshots. The tool is also able to filter inappropriate images.

FUNCTIONALITY SCORE: 3,4 OUT OF 4 POINTS

EFFECTIVENESS

The overall effectiveness score is almost good on adult content and very weak on other harmful content. There is no major difference in effectiveness between teenagers and children. The tool performs better on web than web 2.0. The tool has a slightly better effectiveness on English and French than on the other languages.

Effectiveness score with adult content filtering for ≤ 12 years old user: 2,4

Effectiveness score with other harmful content filtering for ≤ 12 years old user: 0,0

Effectiveness score with adult content filtering for ≥ 13 years old user: 2,8

Effectiveness score with other harmful content filtering for ≥ 13 years old user: 0,0

OVERALL SCORE FOR EFFECTIVENESS FOR ≤ 12 YEARS OLD USER: 1,2 OUT OF 4 POINTS

OVERALL SCORE FOR EFFECTIVENESS FOR ≥ 13 YEARS OLD USER: 1,4 OUT OF 4 POINTS





USABILITY

Installation of the tool: The installation process is partly not comprehensible and context sensitive explanations are missing at some points. The installer does not provide advanced options and cannot be influenced with regard to kind or amount of information, except for the language. The process is generally consistent, but it does not fully meet users' expectations as, for example, the installation button is not labelled adequately.

Configuration of the tool: The configuration is partly incomprehensible with regard to symbols and some technical expressions. Context sensitive explanations are generally provided, but missing with regard to the filtering categories. The process can be adjusted with regard to different filtering tasks and the amount of information can be influenced. The configuration is mostly consistent, but it does not always meet users' expectations. The overall look and feel of the product is adequate, although the handling is rather exhaustive.

Usage of the tool: The tool provides a few options to react, when a website has been blocked, but these are mainly addressed to parents and not to children. The alert message can be customised and the default message is generally adequate, although it is not explicitly worded with respect to children's capability of understanding. The reporting is very detailed, designed appealingly and well comprehensible.

Usability of the installation process: 2,31

Usability of the configuration process: 2,28

Usability of the usage of the product: 2,81

OVERALL SCORE FOR USABILITY: 2,44 OUT OF 4 POINTS

SECURITY

The tool resisted to the main hacking attempts to by-pass it, except that the tool can be by-passed starting the computer in Safe Mode.

OVERALL SCORE FOR SECURITY: 3 OUT OF 4 POINTS



DETAILED FUNCTIONALITY FICHE



AREA OF NEED	FUNCTIONALITY	SPECIFIC ISSUE	ASSESSMENT
MGMNT	Management of users profile	Create several profiles	YES
	Monitoring	Remote access	YES
FILTERING CUSTOMIZATION	Topics	Customisation of filtering topics	YES
	Urls White lists	Restrict browsing to a white list	YES
		Default white list	YES
		Modification OR Creation	Modification - YES Creation - YES
	Urls Black lists	Creation of user's own black list	YES
KEYWORDS	Keywords	Default black list	NO
		Default white list	NO
		Creation of a user's black list	YES
		Creation of a user's white list	YES
TIME	Time limit settings	Set a specific timeframe or web access duration	YES
BLOCKING MESSAGE	Type	Ask for unblocking to parents	YES
		Redirect to safe resources	NO
USAGE RESTRICTION	Web	Block access	YES
		Monitor access	YES
	Safe Search	Availability	YES
	Social Networks	Block access	YES
		Monitor usage	NO
	Personal data provision	Block	YES
	Streaming	Block the access	Application - YES Web - YES
		Monitor the access to the application	YES
	P2P application	Block the application	YES
		Monitor downloads	NO
	Skype application	Block (chat, VoIP, Video-chat)	YES
		Monitor the access	YES
		Prevent from new contact	NO
	Windows Live Messenger	Block the application	YES
		Monitor the access	YES
		Prevent from new contact	YES
E-mail	Block email Client and/or web	YES	






DETAILED SECURITY FINDINGS

The Tool prevents the user from by-passing the filter by:	YES/NO
Using the IP address instead of the URL	YES
Using an alternative browser	YES
Changing time and date settings*	YES
Disabling or uninstalling the software without a password*	YES
Closing the filtering tool through the Task Manager	YES
Using a proxy instead of a direct connection to the Internet	YES
Accessing the web-pages through the Google Cache	YES
Reaching a website through translation sites	YES
Renaming a blocked application	YES
Using Safe Mode	NO
Changing the port of Peer-to-Peer application	N/A

*As managed directly by the tool and not by the device.

DETAILED USABILITY FINDINGS

	YES/NO
I: installation in 3 steps or less	NO
I: choice of installation for beginners or advanced users	NO
C: different degrees of strength for the filtering	YES
C: different content criteria for the filtering	YES
C: option to transfer filter configurations between target users	YES
C: option to transfer filter configurations between devices	YES
C: altogether comprehensible configuration	NO
C: altogether in conformity with user expectations	NO
C: altogether easy to learn	NO
U: alert message in a child friendly language	NO (default)
U: option to customise the reaction in case of blocking	YES
U: altogether easily operable and comprehensible reporting	YES