



NAME	eSCAN
Company	MicroWorld Technologies Inc.
Version	10.0
Type of product	Client
Devices supported	Computer
Operating systems	Windows 7 Windows XP Windows 2000 Vista
Price *	1 year, 1 licence: \$45.95
Language of interface	English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Norwegian, Turkish, Korean.
GLOBAL RANKING	≤ 10 years old users: 23/26 (points 1,232 out of 4) ≥ 11 years old users: 23/26 (points 1,522 out of 4)

*Prices might change according to the latest company offers





FUNCTIONALITY

The tool consists in an all-in-one security suite: protection against viruses, spyware, and other internet threats that can harm users' PC. The tool provides an Internet Parental Control tool. The Internet Parental Control is able to customize the webpage filtering. The parent can indicate specific URLs to be blocked (creation of a black list) or allowed (creation of a white list) by the filter despite the selected categories to be blocked/allowed.

The parent can create a list of "blocked" as well as "allowed" keywords (black and white lists). This will block or allow the page containing the listed keywords, accordingly. The criterion for the keywords-based filtering is the following and should avoid overblocking: the website is blocked if any of the black-listed words appear for more times than set in the threshold value. The parent can choose where the tool has to search for the keywords: "Site Name", "HTML tags", "Title", "Page Text", "Description and Keywords". It is not possible to block Streaming, email, MSN and Skype applications nor P2P, FTP, IRC protocols. There is a specific option for Pop-ups filtering.

FUNCTIONALITY SCORE: 1,4 OUT OF 4 POINTS

EFFECTIVENESS

The overall effectiveness score is very weak.

The effectiveness is low on all categories.

There is no major difference in effectiveness between teenagers and children.

There is no major difference in effectiveness between web and web 2.0.

Effectiveness score with adult content filtering for ≤ 10 years old user: 0,8

Effectiveness score with other harmful content filtering for ≤ 10 years old user: 0,2

Effectiveness score with adult content filtering for ≥ 11 years old user: 0,6

Effectiveness score with other harmful content filtering for ≥ 11 years old user: 0,4

OVERALL SCORE FOR EFFECTIVENESS FOR ≤ 10 YEARS OLD USER: 0,5 OUT OF 4 POINTS

OVERALL SCORE FOR EFFECTIVENESS FOR ≥ 11 YEARS OLD USER: 0,5 OUT OF 4 POINTS





USABILITY

Installation of the tool: The installation process is generally comprehensible, but the name of the installation file is unrecognisable. The installer doesn't provide advanced options and cannot be influenced with regard to kind or amount of information. The steps are consistent and conform to users' expectations.

Configuration of the tool: The configuration process is not well comprehensible, the parental control functions are difficult to find within the security suite. The process is consistent, but it is not conform to users' expectations at several points. There are barely any options to individualise or influence the product. The product does not provide sufficient options to create various user profiles. The design contains some breaches of aesthetic habits.

Usage of the tool: The alert message cannot be customized and is not worded with respect to children's capability of understanding. It is also partly difficult to understand for adults. The reporting is well comprehensible, but it cannot be adjusted in any way.

Usability of the installation process: 2,41

Usability of the configuration process: 2,22

Usability of the usage of the product: 2,70

OVERALL SCORE FOR USABILITY: 2,40 OUT OF 4 POINTS

SECURITY

The tool security is very high.

OVERALL SCORE FOR SECURITY: 4 OUT OF 4 POINTS





DETAILED FUNCTIONALITY FICHE

AREA OF NEED	FUNCTIONALITY	SPECIFIC ISSUE	ASSESSMENT
MGMNT	Management of users profile	Create several profiles	NO
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	YES
		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
USAGE RESTRICTION	Web	block access	YES
		monitor usage	NO
	Streaming	block the access to streaming	Application - NO Web - YES
		monitor the streaming activity	NO
	FTP	block the protocol	NO
	P2P	block the application	NO
		monitor	NO
	USAGE RESTRICTION RELATED TO COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES	IRC protocol	block the protocol
monitor the usage			NO
prevent from <i>new</i> contact			NO
Skype application		block (chat, VoIP, Video-chat)	NO
		monitor the usage	NO
		prevent from <i>new</i> contact	NO
MSN		block the application	NO
		monitor the application usage	NO
		prevent from <i>new</i> contact	NO
e-mail		block email Client and/or web	YES (web mail)





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
Using a Live CD instead of the default Operating system	NO
Formatting the hard disk	NO

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

DETAILED USABILITY FINDINGS:

	YES/NO
I: installation in less than 5 steps	YES
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	NO
C: option to transfer filter configurations between devices	NO
C: overall comprehensible configuration	NO
C: overall conformity with user expectations	NO
C: overall ease of learning	NO
U: alert message in a child friendly language	NO
U: option to customize the reaction in case of blocking	NO
U: overall easily operable and comprehensible reporting	YES

