

Computer Bits by Mark Eggert of Raad One Network Solutions, Inc.

Welcome to Computer Bits, a series of articles on computers and network information. This month's article is about a web service that will help protect your business and employees from the harmful things on the net.

Has your server or one of your computer been attacked by spyware? Has an employee gone to an adult site and then had their computer hijacked (even if they went there by mistake)? Are you losing productivity because you have no control on where employees can go to on the net? If you've answered "yes" to any of these questions or if you even think they may be a problem for your business, then you need to look into some content filtering software or service. There are many good ones out there, but one that I've found to be useful is OpenDNS at opendns.com. Since this is a web service, to use them you setup your internet connection to route all traffic through their servers. Doing this allows them to check where users are trying to go to and then filter out bad/harmful websites. As a registered user you are able to get reports on the activity of your internet connection. You can see what is the busiest time of internet use, what are the most visited websites, what are the most blocked websites, and other statistics.

So you're probably thinking this could be useful, but what does it cost? Well, it doesn't cost anything to use their service, it's a free service. So how does OpenDNS stay in business? They sell advertising and they will give you a few ads on the results of web searches that you do. Only you can tell if these ads can be tolerated for the service that being provided. So since it is a free service, you can give them a try. If you don't like the ads or find a better solution, just change the setup of your internet connection.

If you have a computer or network question you'd like answered and you think others would like to know the answer too, please forward them to me. My email address is meggert@wi.rr.com and my phone number is 262-679-7704.