

# RM SafetyNet Plus v3.5: Product Specification

## What is RM SafetyNet™ Plus?

RM SafetyNet™ Plus is a specialised web-filtering product designed for education. It is one of three filtering services in our SafetyNet range developed by RM for this market.

RM SafetyNet Plus provides multi-layered filtering, customisable by establishment or region. Its remit is to supply:

- Robust education-specific protection against illegal and unsuitable web sites; and
- The ability to regulate access to the World Wide Web and align its use with the local Acceptable Use Policy.



It is used by thousands of education establishments, as well as libraries, Local Authorities, Councils and Regional Broadband Consortia. RM SafetyNet Plus has a strong track record of success confirmed by our exemplary customer retention rate. It is available with RM connectivity services direct to education establishments or for installation in data centres for regional filtering.

The service is highly-effective, easy to manage, automatically updated, and customisable:

### Highly-effective

RM SafetyNet Plus employs a multi-layered approach to filtering the World Wide Web. This multi-layered approach utilises a combination of sophisticated methods which work together to provide highly-effective web-filtering. With the size and rapidly changing nature of the World Wide Web a well-developed approach is essential. The six layers are:

**Layer one: Application of the Internet Watch Foundation URL list of child sexual abuse content.** This essential layer protects users against inadvertently accessing sites classed as illegal by UK law and risking subsequent prosecution. This list is updated twice a day.

**Layer two: Proxy bypass identification.** This layer combines URL within URL filtering with advanced pattern-recognition technology to detect ciphered URLs.

**Layer three: Our expert URL database containing an extensive directory of URL classifications.** Intelligence from industry blacklists, plus our dedicated filtering experts and web analysis techniques, and – importantly - input from establishments, Local Authorities and Regional Broadband Consortia, are used to build a unique database developed for education.

**Layer four: Search term filtering.** A subset of search terms will always be inappropriate for access in establishments. Search term filtering allows searches for these banned terms to be wholly blocked, clearly highlighting their unsuitability and the policy breach.

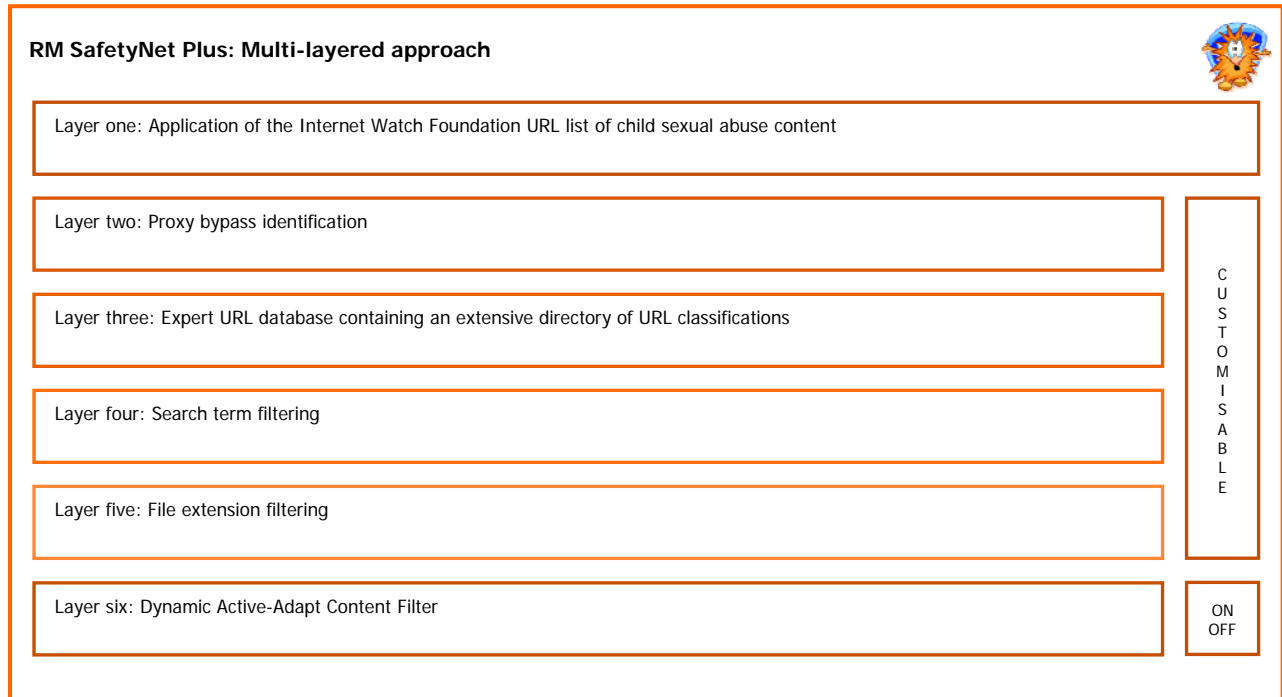
**Layer five: File extension filtering.** Particular file extensions waste bandwidth and can also waste time. Functionality designed to prevent this allows .mp3 or .exe file extensions to be blocked.

**Layer six: Our dynamic Active-Adapt Content Filter.** This instantly scans the content of every page and employs risk calculations to identify 'positive' and 'negative' features on each page, identifying the context, before a resulting 'permit' or 'deny' decision is made. This active feature adapts immediately to changes in web content for ultimate protection.

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These layers interrelate with one another, and interact with personalised rules set by an establishment and/or region, to provide a learned decision on whether to permit or deny access to a web site or web page. This intelligence provides dynamic coverage which changes in line with the central database, core and personalised filtering rules and constantly changing content of the World Wide Web.

The RM SafetyNet Plus multi-layered filtering system is illustrated below:



## Easy to manage

The service does not require any additional hardware or software at the school or college; all updates are conducted through a web-based administrative interface.

## Automatically updated central database

Our expert database and filtering rules are constantly updated as web site content is added or amended, and in line with results of our proactive filtering activities and customer feedback. This constantly updated list is automatically rolled out to all SafetyNet Plus customers to ensure that they continuously benefit from the latest filtering information.

## Customisable

RM SafetyNet Plus can be customised at establishment or regional level. Many establishments use this filtering without customising the filtering settings, and many others tailor this to their individual requirements. RM SafetyNet Plus allows local customisation by providing filtering administrators with control over which web sites, web searches and file extensions their users can access.

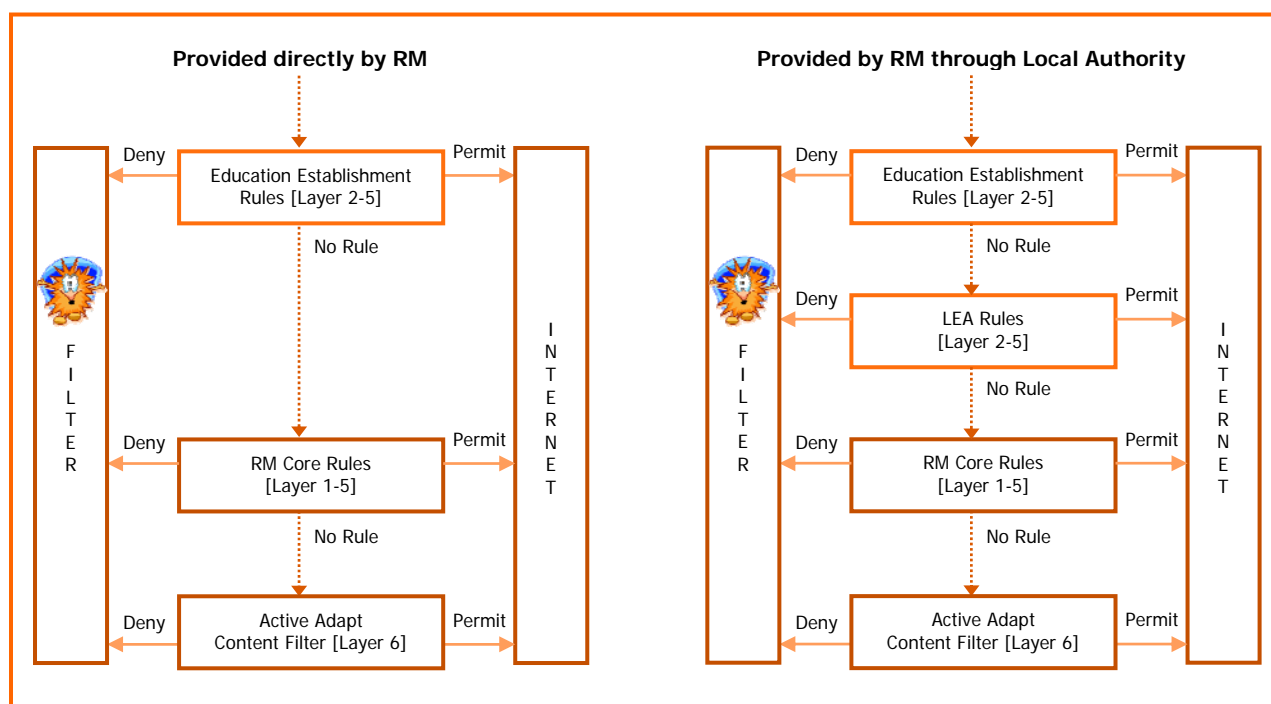
Rules can be amended at local level, by authorised personnel. This allows administrators to manage the way the Internet is used in accordance with the local Acceptable Internet Use Policy. Most local rules take precedence over our central database, with the exception of illegal web sites which are always blocked, regardless of local policy. Changes are easy to specify and implement using the intuitive web-based user interface, and are applied quickly - after updating the filter list, the filtering modification becomes effective for the establishment within seconds.

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## The hierarchy policy

A hierarchy policy is used to underpin local customisation without negating rapid performance. Programmed decisions on which content is permitted or denied are made after consulting filtering rules at each rank of the hierarchy. The filtering engine will check each hierarchy level for a rule; if no rule is found it will consult the next rank of the hierarchy for instruction.

The standard hierarchy ranks are illustrated below:



SafetyNet Plus will consult the rules of the top rank, and consult the next level if no rule is found. The six layers of filtering provided by RM, outlined on page one of this document, underpin the results. Local rules are applied, creating exceptions to our standard rules, except for web sites classed as potentially illegal by the Internet Watch Foundation.

Local Authorities with SafetyNet Plus deployed in their WAN Centre can request that their regional hierarchy policy is amended so that the Local Authority rules take precedence over those set by the establishment. This is a chargeable configuration change which can be implemented by RM.

## Protocols supported

RM SafetyNet Plus is implemented as a specialised web proxy and supports HTTP and HTTPS protocols and any application that uses these protocols. This includes Java and Active X when configured to use the proxy. FTP over HTTP is supported (read only); FTP upload is not supported. The proxy supports the full HTTP 1.0 specification and all commonly used parts of HTTP 1.1 (including KeepAlive).

## Platforms supported

RM SafetyNet Plus supports Microsoft® Windows®, Linux® and Apple® Macintosh® platforms. Filtering administration is supported on Microsoft® Windows® only.

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## Disk caching

Disk caching is disabled as standard for performance maximisation. This can be enabled for WAN implementations as a cost option if required. Memory caching is enabled as standard.

## Firewall requirements

Firewall requirements include:

Education establishment outbound – port 8080

WAN centres – Firewall requirements for WAN implementations can be obtained from RM support.

If you require a solution that offers an even higher level of customisation you may wish to consider RM SafetyNet Universal.

