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OpenDNS

OpenDNS provides parents a way to secure their internet connection and prevent access to restricted web sites. The advantage for parents is that this can be applied to ALL devices in the home.

There are some great videos on setting this up located at http://www.opendns.com/support/videos/

**Note:** Please be aware that the service will only work on all devices that are connected to the home modem, for example, iPads, iPhones, Game consoles PCs etc. Devices that access the internet through mobile phone connections will not be subject to this policy.

**How it Works**

At the College, if a student wishes to access the internet, a request is sent to a service called a proxy. The proxy determines if the content should be made available to the user.

At home, none of this occurs. When a user accesses the internet, the page is simply displayed.

OpenDNS provides a proxy system that you are able to use at home, thereby providing you with filtering that you would otherwise not have.

When someone tries to access a web page, the request is grabbed by the OpenDNS server. It is then checked against a list of sites that are to be denied to the end user. If the site is not on this list, the page is provided to the user.
Advantages

- Parents can adjust the sites accessed by students.
- The filtering works on any product that access the internet through the home router.
- Parents are able to block or unblock certain sites at various times of the year.
- Empowers parents as they can see sites that are being visited and sites that have been attempted to be visited.

Set-up

1. Start by visiting: http://www.opendns.com/

2. Select "Sign Up! (It’s Free)"

3. Create an account, then select continue
4. Now is a good time to **activate your account**.

   a. Without **closing the open window**, browse to your email.
   b. Click on the link to activate the account.

5. To continue setting up, most users will need to **select the Router option**.

6. Choose the **brand of router you have**.

7. You will then be **provided with a method to change your settings**.
8. At the bottom of the page you will find the important information.... the OpenDNS addresses.

9. Add these to the area shown for your router.

10. Then click 'Apply'.

11. Wait a minute whilst the settings take effect, then click 'Test your new settings'.

12. You will then get a screen like the one below. If you don’t, go back and try the next button again.
A little about ‘IP addresses’

- An IP address is a number that your internet service provider gives you.
- They look something like 124.150.71.122.
- An IP address is similar to a street address. When you request a page like google.com.au your IP address is where the page is delivered to.
- The same way that it is possible for you to move house, your IP address may change from time to time.

The reason this is important is that OpenDNS uses your IP address to send the information back.

To fix this, there is a small application you can install on the computers in your house, which will update OpenDNS automatically.

- For **Windows visit**: http://www.opendns.com/download/windows/
- For **Mac visit**: http://www.opendns.com/download/mac/

It will download an application that will ask you for your **username and password that you used when you signed up for the account**. It will run in the background, and you should not need to worry about it again.

**How can I adjust the settings?**

1. **Log into your account**, select, Dashboard and then the ‘**Settings**’ tab.

2. **Select your IP address as shown right.**
3. Here you can **adjust your settings**.

4. Select "**Customize**" to adjust the settings to your liking.

5. You can even **block or unblock a specific website**.
Upgrade

If you like you are able to upgrade for $9.95 per year.

Visit: https://store.opendns.com/get/deluxe