

# 8e6

## CASE STUDY



### Securing the Learning Environment

**Client:** Waterford-Halfmoon  
Union Free School District  
**Web Site:** www.whufsd.org  
**Number of Users:** 1,000  
**Requirements:** Web Filtering and  
Reporting  
**Solutions:** 8e6 Professional  
Edition and 8e6 Mobile Client

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**Joe Sprety**  
Network Manager

## Taking Anonymous Proxies To Task: Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD Halts Emerging Threat

### Profile

Located in Saratoga County, New York, the Waterford-Halfmoon Union Free School District (UFSD) serves approximately 1,000 students in grades K-12.

Integral to the education process, computers equipped with Internet access are available to staff and students. Accordingly, the district provides a safe and educational computing environment for its students and staff.

### Challenge

Like most school districts across the nation, the Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD faces a proliferation of anonymous proxies, as well as savvy students who know how to bypass existing Web filters. With limited resources, network managers need to save the time and cost associated with monitoring, detecting and blocking prohibited content.

Joe Sprety, a Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD network manager, originally implemented a filtering solution from SurfControl to prevent students from accessing inappropriate or threatening content from school computers. Initially SurfControl fulfilled the district's security requirements, but over time, the solution failed to detect more sophisticated, emerging anonymous proxies.

According to Sprety, "It seemed that it was quite easy for students to find an unfiltered, uncategorized anonymous proxy site."

After researching open source programs like Circumventor, Sprety realized that filtering anonymous proxies based solely on a list-type database would never be effective. He needed a more innovative solution – one that could detect proxies based on their unique pattern or signature.

### Solution

After researching the topic, Sprety found 8e6 Technologies online and contacted the company for additional information about its solution. Promptly, 8e6 set up an online WebEx conference to demonstrate the Web filtering and reporting capabilities of its signature product, the 8e6 Professional Edition. Plus, the product offers historical and detailed reports, as well as up-to-the-minute graphical snapshots of Internet traffic.



Sprety discovered that 8e6 employs "Proxy Pattern Detection," a unique signature-based technology, to detect and block Web-based proxies/anonymizers as they occur. This was a welcome alternative to list-based methods which often turn up prohibited URLs weeks or even months after a breach has occurred.

"I was pleased to see there was a Web filter on the market that took the anonymous proxy problem into great consideration," said Sprety.

Impressed by the demonstration, Sprety contacted other network managers in the school districts under the Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex (WSWHE) BOCES to ascertain their interest in changing Web filtering products.

He received an overwhelming response, including a deluge of questions about the 8e6 solution. Consequently, 8e6 presented another WebEx demonstration to the other districts served within the WSWHE BOCES and received enthusiastic feedback.

**The result?** Twelve districts and the WSWHE BOCES decided to purchase the 8e6 Professional Edition and 8e6 Mobile Client, a remote laptop filtering solution.

Sprety and the other district network managers appreciated the features offered by the 8e6 Internet filtering and reporting solution, specifically:

- **Signature/Pattern-based Detection**  
Only 8e6 Technologies uses signature-based blocking technology to detect and block Web-based proxies, IM/P2P, streaming media, remote access applications and online/network games.
- **Invisible/pass-by network configuration**  
When deployed in pass-by (transparent) mode, the 8e6 R3000 Internet Filter resides outside the flow of network traffic to deliver network compatibility, scalability and unmatched performance.
- **Transparent domain user authentication**  
Network managers can easily identify individual students and staff who violate the district's Acceptable Use Policies.
- **Intuitive GUI/product ease-of-administration**  
Easy to install, configure and maintain, the 8e6 Professional Edition includes responsive and world-class technical support free of charge.
- **K-12 specific feature set**  
Education-specific features include: a CIPA Rule enhanced database, X-Strikes blocking, Google/Yahoo! SafeSearch enforcement, authentication, and multi-tiered/multi-site administration.
- **Detailed Reporting**  
Can quickly generate detailed Web usage reports, either custom or canned, with drill down capabilities that help in establishing "user intent".

Because 8e6 Technologies is uniquely experienced with the K-12 education sector, Sprety knew he would receive the best possible solution for Waterford-Halfmoon UFSD students.

## Result

Initially, Sprety configured the 8e6 filter to run in parallel with the SurfControl filter, enabling him to uncover what content 8e6 detected that SurfControl missed.

"To date the 8e6 filter has caught a significant amount of proxies, games and other inappropriate material that the SurfControl filter never knew existed," said Sprety. After implementing the 8e6 Web filtering solution, students can no longer circumvent their school's Web filter.

Sprety continued, "I'm truly impressed at how the 8e6 filter uses a multi-layered approach to thwart off anonymous proxy threats."



8e6 Technologies is the leading provider of appliance-based Internet filtering, monitoring and reporting solutions for education, and has played a significant role in filtering the Web for over 10 years. 8e6 directly addresses the challenges of online child safety by giving network administrators and educators the tools to view, understand and react to Web-based threats arising from online learning. As a single-source vendor, 8e6 provides all of the hardware, software and support to ensure a secure learning environment while maintaining CIPA compliance. The company maintains headquarters in Orange, California, and has a network of channel partners worldwide.

For more information on 8e6 Technologies and 8e6 appliance-based solutions for Internet Filtering and Web-use Reporting, visit [www.8e6.com](http://www.8e6.com).