



## 8e6 | Enterprise Reporter 3.0



# Regionalization of Enterprise Reporters

## Scope

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The purpose of this document is to describe a situation in which you would want to purchase multiple Enterprise Reporters and install them in a regionalized manner.

## Product Definition

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The 8e6 Enterprise Reporter (ER) 3.0 is a standalone server appliance dedicated to monitoring and reporting on Internet access. Using a proprietary processing approach, the ER is able to produce detailed or summarized reports in minutes or even seconds without compromising other server/network functions.

## Introduction

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In some cases, an appliance (such as the 8e6 R3000) that performs logging of all Internet traffic (known as URL logs) will only log an IP address as the source of a given Internet request. The logging device would collect no username information. IP.ID is a tool that allows the Enterprise Reporter 3.0 to associate that IP address with a username that is logged into the client machine at the time of the request. Detailed information on the IP.ID username lookup feature can be in the "IP.ID and Static IP Lookup on 8e6 ER3" white paper.

The Enterprise Reporter is capable of processing logs transferred to it from multiple 8e6 R3000s if necessary. In most cases, this is handled without issue. Each R3000 would be configured to send its logs to the specified ER, which would process the data for presentation.

However, if the IP.ID username lookup feature will serve as the primary means to collect usernames, consideration must be given to the time zone configured for the ER with respect to the time zones of the log contributing R3000 devices. As mentioned in the IP.ID white paper, the ER will perform NetBIOS lookup queries against all active IP's logged by the R3000 in 10-minute intervals. When the ER receives a reply from the workstation, it will write a name log entry with a timestamp, the IP address, and the username, or the machine name received from the

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client PC. If the R3000 is in a time zone other than that of the ER performing the NetBIOS queries, results provided in reports may appear inaccurate. The timestamp for an internet request as logged by an R3000 will be consistent with the time and time zone configured for the R3000. The timestamp for IP.ID lookup results will be consistent with the time and time zone of the ER. If the ER is in a different time zone than the R3000 and IP.ID is enabled, there will be a timestamp mismatch and a username/workstation name may be incorrectly associated with a URL request as logged by an R3000.

## Scenario

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A company has installed two R3000's to provide internet filtering for two of their branch offices in Texas. One R3000 is located in the Austin branch and the other is located in the Houston Branch. The company also has an R3000 installed at Headquarters in Los Angeles, California. The company has plans to open another branch office in San Francisco, California within 3 months. When that office opens, the company will deploy an R3000 there as well. The company intends to use the IP.ID feature of the Enterprise Reporter3.0 to obtain username information from their workstations.

## Solution

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Two Enterprise Reporters should be purchased and installed in a regionalized manner. One ER should be installed at headquarters to process logs from the locally installed R3000. When the San Francisco office opens, logs from the R3000 providing the filtering can also be transferred to the ER in Los Angeles for processing. Being that the ER is in the same time zone as the filters, the usernames obtained by the IP.ID process will be more accurately associated with URL requests as logged by the R3000s.

An additional ER should be installed at one of the branch offices in Texas to process logs from the R3000's installed in Austin and Houston.

Data from either ER can be accessed from any workstation located in any Branch Office assuming the ER3.0 Client is installed and the network administrator responsible for the management of the R3000/Enterprise reporter has granted permissions.

NOTE: Usernames may also be logged by the R3000 if the authentication module is used. In this case, the location of the ER will not matter and one ER can process logs from multiple R3000's in any time zone, providing accurate information.