

TECH TOOLS FOR TEACHERS

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Through this newsletter we aim to cater for teachers of all levels and experiences. If you have any ideas on how we can do this better or make improvements to the newsletter, please email us at techtoolsforteachers@gmail.com (or hit the reply button).

INTERNET FILTERING IN VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/elearningsupportservices/www/manage/filtering.htm>

Many of our [Tech Tools for Teachers](#) readers are from Victorian Government Schools. This year, these schools have received a new filtered internet service called *EduSTAR.ISP* from Netspace. We have received feedback from quite a number of readers saying that some of the tools mentioned in previous newsletters are blocked in schools (eg. [Zuitube](#))

We contacted DEECD and Netspace to find out about the filtering that is being implemented and thought it was important to share this research with our readers.

Each school has the ability to allow or block a website at the school level. Schools are provided with a password to allow them to do this which the principal can pass on to a person in control such as an ICT co-ordinator or technician. DEECD recommend that a team of staff members forms a committee to review which sites should be allowed or blocked.

The advice around the inclusion and denial of sites is to be evaluated in terms of *"their educational quality and their potential to impact positively on student outcomes and their level of safety in particular, their potential risks."*

Sites can also be allowed for a set amount of time. This may be useful with sites such as You Tube which has many educational benefits but also a lot of inappropriate content.

Schools can also set up separate lists of allowed sites for different groups of people (eg. students/teachers). This is very useful although does require internet users to log in with a username and password.

CONTACTS

For more information about the making the most of the internet and digital technologies in Victorian Government Schools while minimising risks, visit <http://www.education.vic.gov.au/management/elearningsupportservices/www/default.htm>

If you have any more questions about *EduSTAR.ISP* you can contact Netspace on 03 9811 0076 or education@netspace.net.au

If you have an enquiry that Netspace cannot assist you with, you can contact the Department's Service Desk by calling 1800 641 943.

If you are a government employee or an education worker, you can receive a discount on Netspace for your home internet. [Click here](#) to find out about this offer
<http://www.netspace.net.au/select/vicgov/>

Look out for the next edition of "Tech Tools for Teachers" next week.

Simon and Kathleen

techtoolsforteachers@gmail.com