



## WEBSPY ANALYZER

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The internet is now a common office tool in the workplace, ideal for research, retail, sharing files and communication. However, to the employee it can be a huge distraction, making it possible to waste a whole day doing nothing but browsing the web and checking emails. I am sure you can relate to this if you have the net at work; if you're the boss, you may be asking yourself how it can be stopped.

Many companies have installed firewalls, stopping websites of particular content or nature being viewed at all. To be honest, this is a crude and harsh method of controlling your workforce's internet habits and as it is impossible to block all unsuitable areas of the network, it is never entirely successful.

Another option is to monitor net usage on the network – if the network has a proxy server as its internet gateway, the function is already built in. Common proxy servers such as Squid, MSProxy, WinGate, Netscape and Proxynow all produce log files of internet activity. Ideally, software to search these files for relevant information is needed. WebSpy Analyzer does this, utilising log files from the proxy servers mentioned above and eight others. Information is displayed in a user-friendly way to show internet usage by specific users or computers, of particular website content, websites and file types and on a time scale such as certain dates, days or hours. Reports can also be produced in Word or HTML format, which gives a detailed view of internet activity relating users, profiles or time.

Not every company or organization feels at ease spying on their employees' net activity – it isn't conducive to staff morale – but as the burden of regulations and insurance obligations grows, WebSpy will meet them. It would, however, be polite to mention that you are using WebSpy and describe its capabilities to your staff.

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