

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Service providers filter the Net so you don't have to

By Leslie Miller
USA TODAY

Parents who want to keep their kids away from the seamier side of the Internet no longer have to get Net nannies, cybersitters or other electronic patrol software to install on their home computers.

A growing number of Internet service providers with such wholesome names as MayberryUSA and Dotsafe are offering Net access that's all filtered, all the time.

These on-line communities — call them cybersuburbs — claim to be a safer, cleaner way of surfing the Net because content that the company considers unsuitable is invisibly blocked for every account.

"What's becoming clear to consumers is that they're really not missing anything by not having access to any site on the planet," says Robert Maynard, founder of Dotsafe, which launched this month with a first-month-free promotion at Toys R Us.

Maynard, 37, who was a Green Beret and is the father of two young daughters, is a marketing whiz who made his fortune on the Net as founder of Dallas access provider Internet America (known for its 800-BE-A-GEEK ad campaign) in 1995. He has recruited a senior staff of Net entrepreneurs who are financially well off, thanks to the Net. "None of us have to work again — we chose to do this," he says.

Based on the number of similar services, companies apparently see a huge market of parents who, Internet dummies or not, need an electronic hand supervising Net-savvy kids.

Among recent announcements:

► **this.com**, launched July 21, has an advisory board including William Bennett, former U.S. Education secretary and author of the best-selling *Book of Virtues*; former Christian Coalition head Ralph Reed; and Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Holocaust remembrance organization that monitors hate on line.

► **FamilyClick.com**, created by Tim Robertson, former chief of the Family Channel and son of televangelist Pat Robertson, is reportedly planning to launch in September. He's in negotiations with AT&T for backing.

► **MayberryUSA**, launched in May for folks who want the Net to be a little bit more like the small-town America they remember from 1960s TV. "We have everything the Net has to offer — except the smut, the hate groups, the profanity, the bomb-making and the deviant behavior," says founder Richie Martin, who has advertised on radio and cable TV, largely on Christian-targeted shows.

Providers know better than to claim they're 100% effective. The Web has hundreds of millions of pages, and sites go up faster than filtering companies can add them to lists of what to block. Providers typically try to maximize their reach by using lists from several companies; some also use "intelligent" software that blocks pages on the fly, based on text or, for images, a high percentage of flesh tones.

Call the sheriff!

Companies also rely on users to notify them when pages that should be blocked are not or when one is blocked inadvertently. MayberryUSA has a picture of a sheriff's badge, which users can click to report a problem.

One of MayberryUSA's 10,000 customers is Gerry Dail, a mechanical engineer from West Lafayette, Ind. "I found (Net porn) disgruntling and certainly didn't want my children inadvertently stumbling into it," says Dail, whose four children are ages 10 to 17.

"I was looking for something to protect my kids and, frankly, myself," Dail says. "As a parent, I think I need to set the example."

He knows filtering isn't perfect, but Dail says he had to call the sheriff only once: to ask for access to a religion site that shouldn't have been blocked. The error was soon corrected.

Some parents also have become hyperaware of violence after the national debate this summer over the role of the Internet in teen violence in Littleton, Colo., and elsewhere.

Judith Lederman had no idea she had to worry about violent material on line until she answered the door one day "and my house filled up with policemen," the suburban New York City mom says.

They showed her a pipe bomb and said her son, 13, had built it and sold it for \$5 to a friend, whose parents found it in his backpack.

Lederman, who has written on parenting for magazines and Web sites, says her son readily admitted building the bomb from instructions on the Net. "He said he just thought it would be

cool. I had no clue he was involved in this."

Lederman had been afraid to let him back on line. Then she was reached last month by Brad Daniel of this.com, who saw a column she wrote about the incident. He asked her to be on his advisory board; she'll also write parenting content for the site this fall. Her son will be allowed back on line with a filtered account.

"For me, it was a wake-up call," she says. "I was sitting here in my office while he was downstairs building his bomb. I had seen him on the Internet millions of times and thought, 'Great! He's not watching TV.'"

Despite the sudden interest in family-safe Net services, filtering done on the provider's

end ("server-based") is not new.

But few had jumped into the market before February, when a federal court in Philadelphia blocked Congress' second attempt to pass a law limiting kids' access to Net porn. The Supreme Court overturned the first attempt, the Communications Decency Act, in 1997.

"There will never be any legislation that works — as soon as the United States makes any law, pornographers will move to Canada, and no one would know the difference. So filtered ISPs (Internet service providers) are the only answer," says Richard Jones, a part-time pastor and founder of Integrity Online, which has 35 franchises around the USA.

Integrity Online and Rated-G Online both came on the scene in 1996, and both cater to a largely Christian market. Rated-G is a spinoff of 711.net, which president Chuck Stevens Sr. describes as "the Christian Yahoo!"

But Rated-G is not just for Christian families; "it's for any family," Stevens says. "If you have kids, and I have six, you certainly have to be aware that things are going on in the media that are not appropriate at different age levels."

Another early force in filtering was N2H2, founded by Seattle parents Peter Nickerson and Holly Hill for the school market. Their filter (Bess, named after the family watchdog) is used in 700 school districts nationwide and has been sold to 200 ISPs, a growing number of which offer filtered-only access.

What is blocked?

The material that's blocked varies, but most companies focus on sex, violence, hate and illegal activity, says Liza Kessler of the Center for Democracy and Technology, which recently helped organize a Web site called GetNetWise (www.getnetwise.org), part of an on-line public service campaign. It lists two dozen filtered access providers and 100 filtering categories, from abortion advocacy to free Web pages.

Free-speech groups have mixed feelings about filtering. The American Civil Liberties Union and others have argued in court that filters are valuable for families but can be a tool for censorship in the hands of government entities, including public libraries.

Parents who sign up for filtered access don't seem too concerned. "It's not a free-speech issue — it's not the government doing it," says MayberryUSA subscriber Dail. "I have the choice and can change it at any time. If I'm not satisfied, I'll go somewhere else."

Adds Integrity Online's Jones: "If the Internet is going to work for families, it has to work without parents standing guard."

Helplessness, grief overwhelm shattered city

Survivors dig through rubble with bare hands

By Harmonie Toros
The Associated Press

GOLCUK, Turkey — Desperately waving addresses of their collapsed homes, people in this quake-devastated city ran after a handful of cranes Tuesday, pleading for help.

Throughout Golcuk, people were frantic to save loved ones and friends.

Some refused to lose hope, digging with their hands, hour after hour. Others gave up in despair. And many blamed city officials and the military for failing to give them the help they needed to save hundreds of buried victims.

"My loves, my children are there, my 15-year-old son and my daughter, but no one is fighting to save them," Gulser Onat screamed at the debris of her family's apartment.

Sometimes, help did come. And sometimes it wasn't enough.

Mahir Eryilmaz worked for 12 hours, trying to free his nephew from rubble. When a crane finally arrived, its reach wasn't long enough. Nor were the ladders of the fire brigades battling a nearby blaze.

"The crane couldn't do anything. No one is helping us. Neither the city nor the military," Eryilmaz said as he continued bashing at the concrete that pinned his 21-year-old nephew's feet.

Mayor Ismail Baris said as many as 10,000 people might be trapped in the rubble here. Reaching them, he said, would take massive outside help.

Golcuk, a port city of 75,000 on the Marmara Sea, is the site of one of Turkey's largest naval bases. As many as 200 sailors were reported trapped in the debris of a barracks that collapsed as they slept.

Rescuers, some using their bare hands, clawed through earthquake rubble in a desperate search for the sailors.

Naval guards kept reporters off the base, near the center of town. Woods around the base blocked the view of the devastated building.

An exhausted naval guard, his light brown uniform covered with dust, said people on the base had been struggling to rescue 248 sailors who were initially buried under the rubble.

He said an estimated 20 bodies had been recovered. Twenty-three sailors had been rescued, but were injured.

"We heard a great noise and ran toward the building where our friends were. It was completely destroyed," the guard told a Reuters Television correspondent. "We struggled to dig them out with our bare hands."

The Marmara Sea facilities are at the heart of Turkish navy operations and a regular port for most of the country's warships. The base is located near the epicenter of the quake at Izmit, some 55 miles east of Istanbul.

The injured sailors and the bodies of those killed by the quake were taken to Istanbul by sea, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported.

The Turkish chief of staff, Gen. Huseyin Kivrikoglu, said efforts continued to extricate the remaining sailors. He said those trapped included both serving and retired officers as well as civil personnel. Many admirals and officers were at the base because there had been a ceremony there Monday.

Although some people felt abandoned by authorities, the military hospital took in injured, and sailors were seen helping civilians dig through the ruins.

In many places, cries for help from within the rubble spurred rescuers on.

On the main road, nine men dug through a mountain of debris, all that remained of apartments flattened by the estimated 7.8-magnitude temblor that shook western Turkey at 3 a.m. local time Tuesday.

Officials said more than 100 died in Golcuk, and more than 1,000 were injured here.

Hundreds of people left homeless by

the quake camped in a Golcuk park. Among them was Halil Ibrahim Yilmaz, who lay on a blanket hoping for food and water. None came.

Yilmaz's arms and legs were covered with cuts suffered when he crawled into the ruins of his flattened apartment building to save his 20-year-old daughter, Deniz. Safe but emotionally shattered, she couldn't stop crying. "May God not bring an earthquake like this on

anyone," Yilmaz said.

A few steps away, Ercan Yasar had given up the fruitless search for his brother, exhausted by hours of scratching through piles of wood and concrete.

"What can we do? We are just men with our hands," Yasar said.

Temblor is a no world's strongest

Reuters

LONDON — The earthquake that devastated western Turkey on Tuesday was one of the most powerful in the world in the past 20 years, according to statistics from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

The USGS registered the quake at 7.8 on the open-ended Richter scale, used worldwide by scientists and seismologists to measure tremors.

The only stronger quake recorded in the past two decades was one at 8.1 that killed 9,500 people in Mexico in 1985.

Another was recorded at 7.8 in Luzon in the Philippines in 1990. It claimed 1,620 lives.

Charles Richter, a seismologist at the California Institute of Technology who died in 1985, developed the scale.

Turkish authorities estimated the quake, which struck at 3:02 a.m., at 6.7 on the Richter scale.

Asked to explain the difference, an official of the Kandilli

seismic center in Is

"It is possible to get readings depending on type of seismic equipment used. That applies to what happened here."

Bob Smith, a geophysicist at the USGS in Colorado, calculated an average of 7.8 for one instrument that was reading on a quake that was refined when we get more data later too. I can't access immediate

Dan McKenzie, professor of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge

"The Richter scale is a measure of the size of the quake. Instrumental readings are on the logarithm of the moment and then value is corrected for the distance from the earthquake."

The scale is based on the logarithmic progression of the increase of one whole number means a tenfold increase in the tremor's strength. A 5.0 quake would be 10 times more powerful than a 4.0 quake.

Mine from first World War is sent into Turkish straits

Reuters

ANKARA, Turkey — The earthquake that hit northwestern Turkey on Tuesday stirred up a suspected World War I mine and sent it floating in the Turkish straits, the Anatolian news agency said.

It said the mine was spotted floating in the Dardanelles near Gallipoli by a Turkish captain plying the strait that links the Mediterranean to the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea beyond. The Dardanelles lies on the fringes of the earthquake that was thought to have dislodged the mine, the news agency said.

Turkey mined heavily during the war to prevent the Allies from sending them up to wartime Asia.

Allied determination to open the straits led to the Gallipoli campaign, which more than 400,000 British, Australian and New Zealand soldiers died in bitter fighting.

The straits were closed Tuesday. A Turkish mine sweeper was holding near the mine and ships to steer clear.

The mine probably detonated later, the news agency said.