



## The Citizen Lab

**Research Brief**  
November 2013

### ***Smartfilter: Miscategorization and Filtering in Saudi Arabia and UAE***

Author: Bennett Haselton

What do the [Trinity Davison Lutheran Church](#), the [Filipino American Women's Network](#), the [Tuscon Jazz Institute](#), the [Sacramento Police Activities League](#), the [Pan Iranist Party of Iran](#), and the [Salvation Army of Houston, Texas](#) have in common?

Their websites are all blocked for Internet users in Saudi Arabia, and for most users in the United Arab Emirates. This is not because the governments of these countries disapprove of these websites. Rather, these sites are blocked by ISPs because of their use of the U.S.-made Internet blocking program "[Smartfilter](#)", a program that often mistakenly categorizes these sites and many others as "pornography."

The Smartfilter web blocking product has existed since 1996. In 2008, McAfee acquired Secure Computing, the company that manufactured Smartfilter. McAfee runs a support site at <http://www.trustedsource.org/> that allows users to look up how sites are classified in Smartfilter's rating system. For example, the screen captures [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) show <http://www.trinitydavison.org/>, <http://www.paniranist.org/>, and <http://www.sahouston.org/> categorized as "pornography." The lookup form does not give any reason why the sites would have been categorized as such, and none of these or other sites in our report contained any content that could be viewed as pornographic. The lookup form does, however, provide the option to email feedback to McAfee asking for a site's classification to be changed. We did not submit any requests to change the classifications of any of the sites we found to be blocked.

The screenshot shows the McAfee TrustedSource website interface. The browser title is "TrustedSource - Check Single URL - Windows Internet Explorer". The URL in the address bar is "http://www.trustedsource.org/en/feedback/url". The page features the McAfee logo and "TrustedSource™ An Intel Company". Navigation tabs include Home, Feedback, Research Resources, Threats and Trends, and About. A breadcrumb trail reads: Home → Feedback → Customer URL Ticketing System → Check Single URL.

The main content area is titled "Check Single URL". It contains the following text:
   
McAfee® provides an online tool that enables you to check if a site is categorized within various versions of the SmartFilter Internet Database or the Webwasher URL Filter Database. After you check a URL, this tool also allows you to suggest an alternative categorization for a site. These requests will be addressed within an average of 3-5 business days with some requests requiring additional review and taking longer.
   
Please select the product you are using. Selecting the appropriate product will provide the correct categorization information to be displayed for you.
   
McAfee SmartFilter XL (selected in a dropdown menu)
   
Please type in a URL to look up the categorization.
   
http://www.TRINITYDAVISON.ORG (entered in a text box)
   
A "Check URL" button is visible below the text box.
   
Below the button, the text reads: "Categorization in URL Filter database version '42526'".
   
A table displays the results:
 

URL	Status	Categorization	Reputation
<a href="http://www.TRINITYDAVISON...">http://www.TRINITYDAVISON ...</a>	Categorized URL	- Pornography	Minimal Risk

  
Below the table, there is a note: "To suggest changes you may select up to 3 categories which you feel are a more accurate reflection of the risk and content for this site. Please note: anonymous submissions may or may not get reviewed in a timely manner. To ensure a prompt response, please create an account."

**Figure 1 – An example of a site miscategorized as pornography by Smartfilter**

A previous [OpenNet Initiative](#) report, “[West Censoring East](#)”, focused on the issue of American and Canadian software companies selling Internet filtering programs to government censors in the Middle East and North Africa. Countries like Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Tunisia, and Iran have used Smartfilter at various times for nationwide Internet censorship. Currently, Smartfilter is only known to be used in Saudi Arabia and in UAE for customers of [Etisalat](#), one of the UAE’s two main Internet providers. (The other Internet provider in the UAE, a telecom company known as “[du](#)”, uses the Canadian-made [Netsweeper](#) filter.)

McAfee maintains a centralized database of site categorizations. All Smartfilter customers download periodic updates to the database. If a site is newly categorized or re-categorized in Smartfilter’s database, these updates will be pushed out to customers usually within 24 hours. The Citizen Lab [confirmed in summer 2013](#) that Smartfilter was still in use in Saudi Arabia and on UAE Etisalat by creating new websites and submitting them to Smartfilter to be blocked. The Citizen Lab verified that the sites became blocked in Saudi Arabia and on UAE Etisalat a few days later, while a control group of similar websites created at the same time did not become blocked.

Network administrators can choose the categories of sites to be blocked by Smartfilter. Our current tests indicate that Smartfilter is being used in Saudi Arabia and on UAE Etisalat with the “pornography” category blocked. We tentatively believe that the “nudity” category is also blocked in both Saudi Arabia and UAE since two sites in our sample—<http://www.antgallery.org> and <http://www.midwivesofmaine.org>—were classified under “nudity” (but not “pornography”) on trustedsource.org and were also found to be blocked while testing in both countries. With a sample size of just two sites, however, we decline to draw any definitive conclusions.

Our results also suggest that other related SmartFilter categories—such as “incidental nudity,” “sexual materials,” and “provocative attire”—are probably not blocked, with the exception of “incidental nudity,” which was blocked in UAE but not Saudi Arabia (see below). For each of those categories, we found sites which trustedsource.org classified in that category, but were still available in both countries:

- The sites <http://www.bearyouth.org>, <http://www.harborhouse.org>, and <http://www.naturalbirthcenter.com> are all categorized on trustedsource.org under “sexual materials.” While these are probably errors, the sites themselves do not appear to have any sexual content. The sites are not blocked in Saudi Arabia or on UAE Etisalat.
- The sites <http://www.blog.fr>, <http://www.angelaguevara.org>, <http://www.mccullagh.org> and <http://www.vnvmc-wi.org> were all categorized as “incidental nudity.” These four sites were all accessible in Saudi Arabia in our testing, but were blocked on UAE Etisalat. This suggests that UAE Etisalat has enabled the “incidental nudity” category whereas Saudi Arabia has not.
- The sites <http://www.arabimagefoundation.org>, <http://www.ariana.org> and <http://www.hoopgirl.com/> are all classified under the “provocative attire” category. They are not blocked in either country.

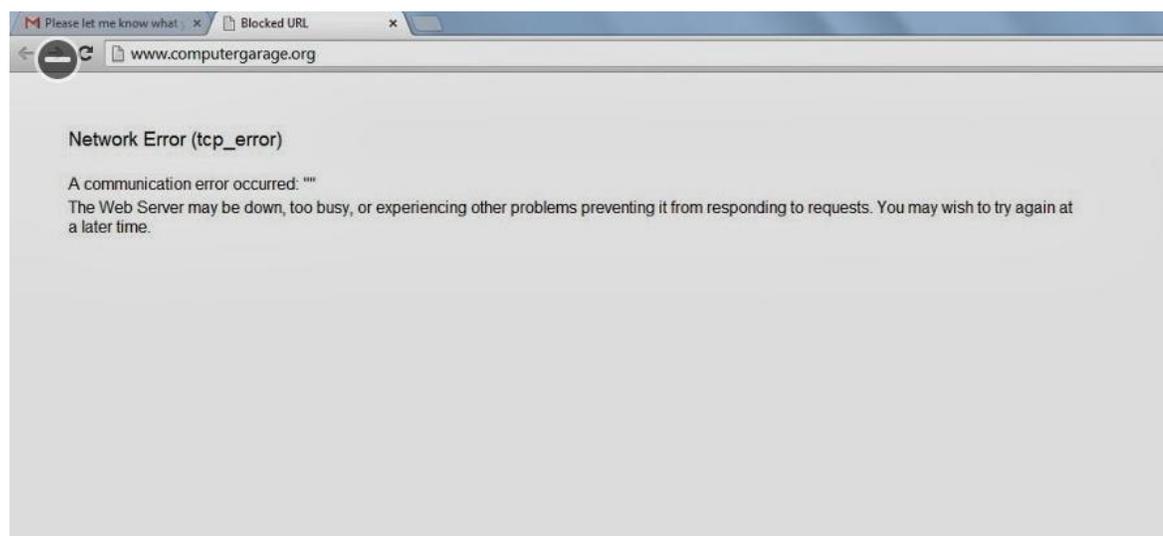
Using an *ad hoc* combination of domain name sampling and automated web spidering, we found over 100 sites that were mistakenly classified as “pornography” by Smartfilter, and hence were blocked in Saudi Arabia and on UAE Etisalat as of writing. As our testing could only sample a small portion of the Web, our list should not be taken to represent more than a fraction of sites misclassified by Smartfilter.

For most domain names, it was impossible to discern why the sites may have been classified as “pornography.” In some cases, however, probable reasons for blocking could be reasonably inferred. Some blocked sites were using domain names that sounded as if they might have previously been registered as pornographic websites. The [Internet Archive’s “Wayback Machine”](#) can be used to check whether any such domains might have hosted pornographic content in the past. Through the site, we checked the history of six domains whose names sounded as if they could plausibly have been used to host pornography: bearyouth.org, bigmatt.com, caseydonovan.org, easyaction.com, gerl.org, and theteacherspet.com. Of these, we found that bearyouth.org, easyaction.com and gerl.org all hosted adult content at some point in the past when the domains had different owners. It is reasonable to assume that most of the other domain names in our sample—such as 14thbrooklyn.org (The Society for the Historical Preservation of the Fourteenth Brooklyn) and FreeInTheAbingtons.org (a guide to low-cost recreational activities in Northeastern Pennsylvania)—are unique enough that it is unlikely they were previously owned by other parties, much less by pornographic websites.

Some sites were likely blocked due to the presence of a “trigger word” appearing in their domain name. The sites <http://www.AgainstPornography.org> and <http://www.SearchingForMySpermDonorFather.org> were presumably blocked because of the occurrence of the words “porn” and “sperm.” [ScunthorpeGilbertAndSullivan.org](http://www.ScunthorpeGilbertAndSullivan.org) (a Gilbert and Sullivan Society based in Scunthorpe, England) was presumably blocked due to the presence of the word “cunt” in the domain name. (This particular word filtering error is so common that it is known as the “[Scunthorpe problem](#)”.) [BigHornBasinSFW.org](http://www.BigHornBasinSFW.org), the website for the Big Horn Basin, Wyoming chapter of Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, was presumably blocked

because of the inclusion of the string “nsfw” (“not suitable for work”), an acronym commonly used to indicate pornographic or otherwise workplace-inappropriate content.

The following is a sample of websites that we found to be blocked in Saudi Arabia and UAE Etisalat as a result of the site being misclassified by Smartfilter as pornography. Testing in Saudi Arabia was performed over October 16-17, 2013 on a [VPN](#) connection using [HideMyAss Pro](#) software, connected through an IP address registered to “National Computer Systems Co.” in Riyadh. We re-tested on November 27th using a connection through the [King Abdulaziz City For Science And Technology](#), and found the sites listed below were all still blocked. Testing from within the UAE was performed on November 3rd, 2013 by an anonymous volunteer. When a blocked site was accessed from within Saudi Arabia, it would display [this page](#) indicating that the site had been blocked. When a blocked site was accessed on UAE Etisalat, it would bring up [this error page](#), displaying the message:



It is not clear whether this page is intended to mislead users into thinking the website is temporarily down (as opposed to being blocked by the ISP). While the error message seems to indicate a temporary failure, the *title* of the error page (clearly visible in the screen capture linked above) is listed as “Blocked URL”. It is also not clear why the error message is displayed in English.

In our list of sites below, each entry is accompanied by a screen capture of the site being categorized on McAfee’s [trustedsource.org](#) site as pornography, along with a screen capture of the site being blocked from within Saudi Arabia. We did not collect screen captures of blocking within UAE, other than the single screen capture linked above, due to the time constraints on our volunteer tester preventing the collection of every site. Smartfilter might change its classifications of these sites after this post is published; the most current classifications can be looked up using McAfee’s form at <http://trustedsource.org/en/feedback/url?action=checksingl>.

For each list entry, the letters “ts” are linked to a screen capture of the site’s categorization on McAfee’s [trustedsource.org](#) site, and the letters “sa” are linked to a screen capture of the site being blocked in Saudi Arabia.

- <http://www.14thbrooklyn.org>(ts)(sa): A historical society dedicated to the history of the 14th Regiment, New York State Militia.

- [http://www.905realestate.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.905realestate.com(ts)(sa)): Website of a real estate agent in the 905 area code of Toronto, Canada.
- [http://www.abve.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.abve.org(ts)(sa)): American Board of Vocational Experts, a professional credentialing body.
- [http://www.accessinfo.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.accessinfo.org(ts)(sa)): A clearing house of information about poverty in Washington State.
- [http://www.adoptaciam.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.adoptaciam.org(ts)(sa)): A Spanish-language adoption information site.
- [http://www.againstpornography.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.againstpornography.org(ts)(sa)): An anti-pornography site.
- [http://www.aialafayette.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.aialafayette.org(ts)(sa)): The Acadiana Indian Association, a Native American cultural organization in the Acadiana region of Louisiana.
- [http://www.alsadiqin.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.alsadiqin.org(ts)(sa)): A site about common heritage of Islam and Judaism.
- [http://www.amitayu.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.amitayu.org(ts)(sa)): The Amitayu Buddhist Society of Taiwan
- [http://www.angularism.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.angularism.org(ts)(sa)): A travel photoblog.
- [http://www.annieoakley.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.annieoakley.org(ts)(sa)): An information site about animal service, therapy, and rescue organizations.
- [http://www.antgallery.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.antgallery.org(ts)(sa)): An art gallery based in Seattle, Washington.
- [http://www.antons.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.antons.org(ts)(sa)): The home page of Jan-Niklas Antons.
- [http://www.aquapurewater.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.aquapurewater.com(ts)(sa)): A water conditioning company.
- [http://www.argun.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.argun.org(ts)(sa)): A Turkish news site.
- [http://www.art-com.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.art-com.org(ts)(sa)): A Polish graphic design company website, including a design portfolio.
- [http://www.askjane.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.askjane.org(ts)(sa)): A corporate training and development firm.
- [http://www.asutra.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.asutra.org(ts)(sa)): A Japanese company selling water from Mount Fuji.
- [http://www.atacess.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.atacess.org(ts)(sa)): A Japanese fortune-teller's website.
- [http://www.auricle.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.auricle.org(ts)(sa)): A UK-based higher education blog.
- [http://www.babele.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.babele.org(ts)(sa)): An Italian site about medieval instruments.
- [http://www.balticsail.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.balticsail.org(ts)(sa)): A site promoting sailing in the Baltic Sea.
- [http://www.barenboimsaidusa.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.barenboimsaidusa.org(ts)(sa)): A youth orchestra featuring musicians from Israel, Palestine, and various Arab countries.
- [http://www.bdc.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.bdc.org(ts)(sa)): The Business Development Bank of Canada.
- [http://www.bellyshots.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.bellyshots.com(ts)(sa)): A photography studio focusing exclusively on portraits of pregnant women.
- [http://www.big-cats.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.big-cats.org(ts)(sa)): A German site about the protection of big cat species.
- [http://www.bighornbasinsfw.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.bighornbasinsfw.org(ts)(sa)): Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife, Bighorn Basin Wyoming chapter.
- [http://www.bigmatt.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.bigmatt.com(ts)(sa)): Home page of Matthew Salazar.
- [http://www.botsis.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.botsis.com(ts)(sa)): Website for an island guest house in Greece.
- [http://www.bpronline.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.bpronline.org(ts)(sa)): A German-language finance magazine.
- [http://www.braai.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.braai.com(ts)(sa)): A site about an effort to create a national common heritage day in South Africa. (Note: This site was blocked in Saudi Arabia but was *not* blocked in the UAE, either on November 4th or on a subsequent test on November 26th, despite the fact that it was categorized on trustedsource.org as pornography on both of those dates. This is an unexplained anomaly, since all other sites classified as pornography were blocked in the UAE. There is no obvious reason why UAE censors would have granted an exemption to this site in particular.)
- [http://www.brainfart.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.brainfart.org(ts)(sa)): An artist's collection of comic drawings and ASCII art.
- [http://www.breit.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.breit.org(ts)(sa)): A German-language website featuring local news from Germany.
- [http://www.broandracy.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.broandracy.org(ts)(sa)): An animal welfare charity.
- [http://www.brunoconferencecenter.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.brunoconferencecenter.org(ts)(sa)): A conference center run by a network of hospitals in Birmingham, Alabama.
- [http://www.canbitxitos.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.canbitxitos.com(ts)(sa)): A Spanish-language cat rescue site.

- [http://www.carenetsect.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.carenetsect.org(ts)(sa)): The Care Net Pregnancy Resource Center, an informational resource about birth control and abortion.
- [http://www.caseydonovan.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.caseydonovan.org(ts)(sa)): The official fan site for a singer from Sydney, Australia.
- [http://www.caviardefrance.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.caviardefrance.com(ts)(sa)): A French caviar company.
- [http://www.ccfci.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.ccfci.org(ts)(sa)): The California Center for Economic Initiatives, a non-profit whose mission is “to encourage environmental stewardship among inner city youth.”
- [http://www.cdlib.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.cdlib.org(ts)(sa)): An informational site about French bulldog breeds.
- [http://www.ceconjoanadarc.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.ceconjoanadarc.org(ts)(sa)): Instituto Joana D’arc (The Joan of Arc Institute), Spanish-language site for an institute fighting the spread of AIDS in Paraguay.
- [http://www.centrodeluomo.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.centrodeluomo.org(ts)(sa)): An international non-profit head-quartered in Italy that promotes volunteer service work.
- [http://www.changeil.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.changeil.org(ts)(sa)): CHANGE Illinois (Coalition for Honest and New Government Ethics), a site advocating for government ethics reform.
- [http://www.chapelle-bellouin.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.chapelle-bellouin.com(ts)(sa)): The official website for Château de La Chapelle Bellouin, a French castle and tourist attraction.
- [http://www.cheneycowles.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.cheneycowles.org(ts)(sa)): An alternate URL for the Northwest Museum in Spokane, Washington, formerly the Cheney Cowles museum.
- [http://www.chinesecrested.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.chinesecrested.org(ts)(sa)): A site about Chinese crested dogs.
- [http://www.choice-music.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.choice-music.com(ts)(sa)): An entertainment firm providing DJs for hire for weddings and other events.
- [http://www.climateaction.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.climateaction.org(ts)(sa)): A site operated by the Green America foundation to raise awareness of climate change.
- [http://www.cmrcm.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.cmrcm.org(ts)(sa)): Central Massachusetts Radio Control Modellers, a hobbyist site for radio control modelling.
- [http://www.computergarage.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.computergarage.org(ts)(sa)): A site publishing tips and tricks for troubleshooting computer problems.
- [http://www.cosega.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.cosega.org(ts)(sa)): A Spanish-language art gallery website.
- [http://www.crbc-cr.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.crbc-cr.org(ts)(sa)): The “Celebrate Recovery” program, operated by the Calvary Road Baptist Church in Alexandria, Virginia, Christian-themed addiction recovery program.
- [http://www.creatingabeautifulworld.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.creatingabeautifulworld.org(ts)(sa)): A site with advice about home improvement and home investment.
- [http://www.cugc.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.cugc.org(ts)(sa)): The Columbia University Games Club, an extra-curricular club at Columbia University in New York City.
- [http://www.cumasch.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.cumasch.org(ts)(sa)): An Italy-based activist site, described as “a movement of young people united by their passion for their land and their culture.”
- [http://www.dancelegacy.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.dancelegacy.org(ts)(sa)): The website for Dance Mirror, an on-line dance magazine.
- [http://www.dawnphil.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.dawnphil.org(ts)(sa)): The Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), supporting human rights for Filipino female migrants in Japan.
- [http://www.defrente.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.defrente.org(ts)(sa)): A Spanish-language LGBT advocacy and activist site.
- [http://www.deliverancetabernacleministries.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.deliverancetabernacleministries.org(ts)(sa)): Deliverance Tabernacle Ministries International, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- [http://www.desertisland.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.desertisland.org(ts)(sa)): Website for a condominium complex in the Coachella Valley
- [http://www.dipendenza.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.dipendenza.org(ts)(sa)): Centro Narconon Il Gabbiano, an Italian institute for combating drug and alcohol dependency
- [http://www.earthritis.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.earthritis.com(ts)(sa)): An informational site about treating and fighting arthritis.
- [http://www.easyaction.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.easyaction.com(ts)(sa)): The professional website of director and editor Ethan Shaftel
- [http://www.edenfarms.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.edenfarms.org(ts)(sa)): Eden Farms, a pork seller owned by 30 farm families in the upper-Midwest United States.

- <http://www.esplab.com>(ts)(sa): The website of Al G. Manning, a parapsychologist promoting astrology and magical spells
- <http://www.europe-telecom.org>(ts)(sa): The French-language website for a European telecommunications firm.
- <http://www.fawnm.org>(ts)(sa): The Filipino American Women’s Network, a volunteer organization advocating for Filipino-American women in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota.
- <http://www.fias.org>(ts)(sa): Website for the International Sambo Federation.
- <http://www.freeintheabingtons.org>(ts)(sa): A non-profit site promoting free and low-cost events in Pennsylvania.
- <http://www.garem.org>(ts)(sa): Grupo de Ayuda y Respuesta en Emergencias, A Spanish-language emergency-response non-profit site.
- <http://www.gaycalgary.com>(ts)(sa): A news and entertainment site for the gay community in Calgary, Canada.
- <http://www.gayfaith.org>(ts)(sa): An on-line religious site for the LGBT community.
- <http://www.gerl.org>(ts)(sa): A blog by a girl named Jamiee from Asheville, NC.
- <http://www.germanhouse.org>(ts)(sa): Max Kade Language House at the University of Virginia for students studying German.
- <http://www.halothemovie.org>(ts)(sa): A fan site about the possible upcoming Halo movie.
- <http://www.hamiltonlegal.com>(ts)(sa): Website of the Hamilton Law Firm in Cumming, Georgia.
- <http://www.hctd.net>(ts)(sa): The “Human Communication and Technology Division” of the [National Communication Association](#), an organization advancing the study of human communications.
- <http://www.healthyfamiliesfair.org>(ts)(sa): A blog about family health tips.
- <http://www.hoop-zone.org>(ts)(sa): A basketball gym in Austin, Texas, established as a non-profit with the goal of bringing life skills to the players who practice there.
- <http://www.hopewellmethodist.org>(ts)(sa): The Hopewell United Methodist Church in Hopewell, New Jersey.
- <http://www.iseals.com>(ts)(sa): Infinity Seal, a manufacturer of gaskets, packaging, and sealing devices.
- <http://www.islandviewent.com>(ts)(sa): Island View Enterprises, a firearms retailer and indoor shooting range in Ventura, California.
- <http://www.innatenonviolence.org>(ts)(sa): Irish Network for Nonviolence Action Training and Education. An umbrella group for Irish groups advocating non-violent conflict resolution.
- <http://www.ituk.org>(ts)(sa): IT Solutions, a British technology solutions provider.
- <http://www.jaom.org>(ts)(sa): Jesus is Alpha and Omega Ministries, a Christian ministry based in Houston, Texas.
- <http://www.karawane.org>(ts)(sa): A German site promoting adventure tourism by camel caravan.
- <http://www.kinghiramslodge.org>(ts)(sa): A Freemason lodge in Provincetown, Massachusetts.
- <http://www.krpga.org>(ts)(sa): Kenai River Professional Guide Association, an organization devoted to protecting and preserving the Kenai River in Alaska.
- <http://www.kscure.org>(ts)(sa): Kansas Cure, a non-profit advocating for the rights of prison inmates in Kansas.
- <http://www.kyrgyzembassyindia.org>(ts)(sa): Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kyrgyzstan) in India.
- <http://www.lebanonreformedchurch.org>(ts)(sa): The Lebanon Reformed Church, in Lebanon, New Jersey, affiliated with the [Reformed Church in America](#).
- <http://www.lemissionnaire.org>(ts)(sa): French-language website for a Christian Methodist mission in the Ivory Coast.
- <http://www.liceomedi.org>(ts)(sa): Italian-language site for a linguistics institute in Italy.
- <http://www.lifelinenetwork.org>(ts)(sa): A network of charities and NGOs located around the world.
- <http://www.medlinefs.org>(ts)(sa): Medline Financial Services, provided by [Baxter Credit Union](#) in Illinois.

- [http://www.midwivesofmaine.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.midwivesofmaine.org(ts)(sa)): An organization for Maine-based home birth midwives.
- [http://www.minchenden.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.minchenden.org(ts)(sa)): A collection of photographs of the Class of 1953-60 of Michenden Grammar School in London.
- [http://www.moriah.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.moriah.org(ts)(sa)): The Moriah School, a Jewish boarding school in Bergen County, New Jersey.
- [http://www.myfamilypedia.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.myfamilypedia.org(ts)(sa)): A Spanish-language genealogy site.
- [http://www.narsvpd.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.narsvpd.org(ts)(sa)): The National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors.
- [http://www.natroop87.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.natroop87.org(ts)(sa)): Boy Scout Troop 87 of North Andover, Massachusetts.
- [http://www.nbrw.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.nbrw.com(ts)(sa)): New Braunfels Republican Women, of New Braunfels, Texas.
- [http://www.netclassics.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.netclassics.com(ts)(sa)): A site about antique toys and classic cars, boats, and collectibles.
- [http://www.nobid.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.nobid.org(ts)(sa)): A site opposing a proposed Business Improvement District (BID) tax in Lawrenceville, Pennsylvania.
- [http://www.paaca.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.paaca.org(ts)(sa)): Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction, a non-profit substance abuse recovery program in New Bedford, Massachusetts.
- [http://www.paniranist.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.paniranist.org(ts)(sa)): Pan-Iranist Party of Iran, a political party supporting the reunification of Iranian people outside the borders of present-day Iran.
- [http://www.pastorafabiana.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.pastorafabiana.org(ts)(sa)): A Spanish-language site featuring news stories about religion and Christianity.
- [http://www.pferdetraining.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.pferdetraining.org(ts)(sa)): A German-language site for trainer Michael Geitner's horse-training services.
- [http://www.pgrofms.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.pgrofms.org(ts)(sa)): Patriot Guard Riders of Mississippi, a volunteer organization devoted to "ensuring dignity and respect at memorial services honoring Fallen Military Heroes, First Responders and Honorably Discharged Veterans."
- [http://www.rediscover-iran.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.rediscover-iran.org(ts)(sa)): A program promoting summer programs in Iran for Iranian-Americans.
- [http://www.reptileconservation.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.reptileconservation.org(ts)(sa)): Reptile Conservation International, a reptile conservation advocacy organization based in Austin, Texas.
- [http://www.reunioncenter.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.reunioncenter.org(ts)(sa)): Reunion Ministries, a religious non-profit organization offering counselling and healing services.
- [http://www.rhinoplex.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.rhinoplex.org(ts)(sa)): A site providing free web space to musicians and artists around Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- [http://www.richardsnotes.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.richardsnotes.org(ts)(sa)): An archive of photographs by Richard Wanderman.
- [http://www.robertmann.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.robertmann.org(ts)(sa)): The personal site and travel blog of San Francisco Bay Area resident Robert Mann.
- [http://www.sacpal.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.sacpal.com(ts)(sa)): Sacramento Police Activities League, a non-profit, comprised primarily of Sacramento Police Department members, helping under-served youth of Sacramento.
- [http://www.sahouston.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.sahouston.org(ts)(sa)): The Salvation Army of Houston, Texas
- [http://www.sanibelcaptiva.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.sanibelcaptiva.org(ts)(sa)): A guide to tourist activities in Sanibel Island, Florida.
- [http://www.satanica.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.satanica.org(ts)(sa)): A music retailer focusing on heavy metal.
- [http://www.sbida.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.sbida.org(ts)(sa)): The Small Business Institute, an organization based in Clinton, Mississippi, dedicated to field-based student consulting and outreach to small businesses.
- [http://www.scunthorpegilbertandsullivan.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.scunthorpegilbertandsullivan.org(ts)(sa)): Scunthorpe Gilbert and Sullivan Amateur Operatic Society of Scunthorpe, UK.
- [http://www.searchingformyspermdonorfather.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.searchingformyspermdonorfather.org(ts)(sa)): A UK-based website for people trying to connect with their sperm donor fathers and other relatives.
- [http://www.secip.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.secip.org(ts)(sa)): "Awesome Information For Everyone," a compendium of random factual knowledge.

- [http://www.sfim.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.sfim.org(ts)(sa)): The St. Francis Institute of Milwaukee, a learning community for spiritual development and formation in the Franciscan tradition.
- [http://www.shs78.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.shs78.org(ts)(sa)): A site organizing the 30th reunion of the Scarsdale (New York) High School Class of 1978.
- [http://www.simpsoncreekfarms.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.simpsoncreekfarms.com(ts)(sa)): Kennels at Simpson Creek Farms, a dog training institute in Springfield, Missouri.
- [http://www.spirillum.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.spirillum.org(ts)(sa)): A German-language site about the spirillum microorganism.
- [http://www.spiritconnections.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.spiritconnections.org(ts)(sa)): The professional website of Sandramarie Boyet, a life coach based in Englewood, Colorado.
- [http://www.st-thomas-play.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.st-thomas-play.org(ts)(sa)): Website for an annual play put on by the St Thomas School in Southington, Connecticut, depicting the last days of Jesus's life.
- [http://www.stcolumbas.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.stcolumbas.org(ts)(sa)): St. Columbas Church in Northern Island.
- [http://www.telcen.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.telcen.com(ts)(sa)): An electronics contractor based in Exeter, Pennsylvania.
- [http://www.theteacherspet.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.theteacherspet.com(ts)(sa)): A company that trains service and therapy dogs.
- [http://www.trinity-lutheran.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.trinity-lutheran.org(ts)(sa)): Trinity Lutheran Church in Bridgeton, Missouri.
- [http://www.trinitydavison.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.trinitydavison.org(ts)(sa)): Trinity Davison Lutheran Church in Davison, Michigan.
- [http://www.troop103.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.troop103.org(ts)(sa)): Boy Scout Troop 103 in Fremont, California.
- [http://www.troop78.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.troop78.org(ts)(sa)): A boy scout troop for in Shiloh, Illinois for Christian home-schooled children.
- [http://www.trotb.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.trotb.org(ts)(sa)): The Repairers Of The Breach (TROTB), a Christian ministry based in India.
- [http://www.tucsonjazzinstitute.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.tucsonjazzinstitute.org(ts)(sa)): The Tuscon Jazz Institute, a music education institute in Arizona.
- [http://www.turkistan.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.turkistan.org(ts)(sa)): An educational resource site about Turkistan and Azerbaijan.
- [http://www.valleymeeting.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.valleymeeting.org(ts)(sa)): A Quakers community in in Wayne, Pennsylvania.
- [http://www.vetica.com\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.vetica.com(ts)(sa)): Vetica, the Ontario-based makers of lesson-planning software.
- [http://www.vidya.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.vidya.org(ts)(sa)): An Italian-language site about the Vidya Bharata spiritual movement.
- [http://www.wildlandinstitute.org\(ts\)\(sa\)](http://www.wildlandinstitute.org(ts)(sa)): The Wilderness Awareness and Education Institute, an organization devoted to raising awareness of natural resources and outdoor recreation.

Most reports on Internet censorship in countries that practice nationwide Internet filtering have focused on the censorship of political content, adult websites, social networking, and media sharing sites such as Facebook and YouTube. This focus is logical since the blocking of these websites is likely to have a far greater impact on users than the blocking of relatively obscure sites. For the sake of thoroughness, however, we should not ignore the large numbers of sites that are blocked in censored countries simply because they have been misclassified by the manufacturer of the blocking program being used.

*The author thanks Adam Senft and Helmi Noman of Citizen Lab for helping to collect data for this report, and thanks the anonymous tester in the United Arab Emirates who helped to test the accessibility of websites through Etisalat.*