

# Go beyond DNS filtering with Securly Filter's Smart DNS

Better than an appliance. More than DNS.  
Find out what makes Smart DNS smart.



Securly Filter uses our proprietary Smart DNS technology in conjunction with SmartPAC and our browser extension to deliver a world-class web filtering experience designed to meet and exceed the needs of any K-12 school or district. As a modern, fully cloud-based alternative to traditional filtering appliances and basic DNS filtering, Smart DNS for Securly Filter offers a range of features and benefits that go beyond what legacy DNS-based solutions offer.

## How does Securly Filter's Smart DNS work?



**1.** When a student, teacher, or staff member attempts to access a website, their device sends a DNS request to resolve the domain name into an IP address. Instead of going to a standard DNS resolver, the request is routed to Securly Smart DNS.

**2.** Smart DNS determines who is making the request (student, staff, guest, etc.) using our captive portal. Based on the user's role, the system applies custom filtering policies instead of a one-size-fits-all blocklist.



**5.** Categorized activity is logged in the cloud, providing real-time insights into web traffic and search behavior. IT admins can review reports, or have them automatically emailed to stakeholders.



**4.** The requested domain is checked against Securly's filtering database. If the site is allowed based on the user's policy, the request proceeds as normal. If the site is blocked, Smart DNS blocks access instantly.

**3.** For search engines and other select sites, Smart DNS decrypts SSL traffic (without breaking privacy-sensitive sites like banking sites). This allows schools to see if students are searching for inappropriate search terms.



**6.** Because it operates in the cloud, there's no hardware to maintain—filtering remains uninterrupted, even as network traffic scales.



## Benefits

### Cost-Effective and Scalable

- Eliminates the need for physical appliances, reducing infrastructure costs and maintenance overhead.
- Scales effortlessly to meet the needs of any institution without requiring additional hardware.

### Simplified Management

- No need for on-site appliance hosting.
- Avoids appliance-specific issues such as hardware failures and dependency on local infrastructure.

### Enhanced Reliability

- Unlike appliances that may require a separate reporting server or fail during cloud outages, Smart DNS relies on robust cloud architecture with a fail-safe design.

## Features

### Advanced Filtering Capabilities

- User-based filtering and reporting: Identifies and applies policies based on user identity rather than just public IP address.

### Unique Selective SSL Decryption

- Supports selective man-in-the-middle SSL decryption for sites like search engines, enabling deeper visibility into search terms while maintaining privacy for sensitive sites (e.g., banking).

### Optimized for BYOD

- Works seamlessly for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) policies when paired with a locked down or Layer 7 firewall.
- Ensures secure filtering even on open or distributed networks.

### Comprehensive Support

- From initial deployment to every step of your customer experience, our support team meets your needs every step of the way.
- You'll be supported by experts with years of DNS and networking experience. When it comes to school networks, there's practically nothing they haven't seen before.

## Why Use Smart DNS?

Smart DNS brings the power of appliance-level filtering to a cloud-first solution, offering schools a practical, efficient, and innovative approach to managing internet access and ensuring student safety online. Its ability to provide robust, scalable, and user-aware web filtering without the complexities of traditional appliances sets it apart as a game-changer in web filtering solutions.

## Make security simple with cloud-based web filtering designed for schools

With easy setup, the highest-rated support, and unparalleled flexibility, Securely Filter streamlines and simplifies web filtering for busy school IT teams. Keep your students safe on all devices, whether at school, home, or anywhere in between.

Register for a demo now. [Click Here](#) or [Scan the QR Code](#)

