



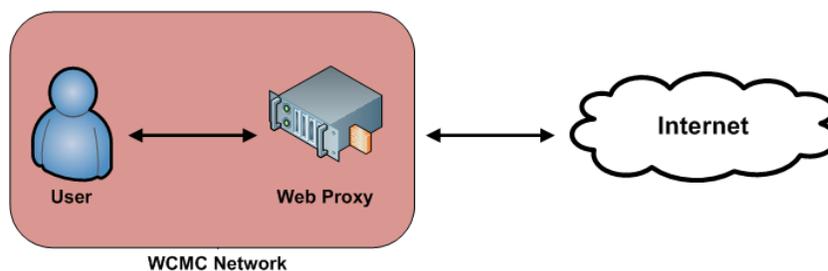
WCMC Web Proxy Basics

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions about the [WCMC Web Proxy](#).

1. What is a “web proxy”?
2. What kinds of sites are blocked by the web proxy?
3. What happens when the web proxy blocks a site?
4. Does this mean that all my web activity is being monitored?
5. Will the network be slower because the proxy is looking at all the sites I visit?
6. I can’t access a site I need because it’s blocked by the web proxy. What should I do?
7. I think a website that I can access contains malware but it’s not being blocked by the web proxy. What should I do?
8. Will I get in trouble for trying to access a site blocked by the web proxy?
9. Can I use any browser I want on the network?
10. Do I need to change any settings in my browser?
11. Does the web proxy do anything else besides block harmful sites?
12. When I browse the internet from NewYork Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) computers, many web sites are blocked. Does NYP use a proxy as well?

1. Q. What is a “web proxy”?

A. A web proxy is a server that sits between the you (the user) and the Internet. It primarily acts as an intermediary to protect you against harmful web content by filtering it before it reaches your computer.



2. Q. What kinds of sites are blocked by the web proxy?

A. The web proxy blocks sites that are categorized as “malicious,” specifically those that host malware that may cause harm to your computer or otherwise operate without your consent. Malware may include:

- Computer viruses
- Worms
- Trojan horses
- Spyware
- Deceptive adware
- Scareware
- Crimeware
- Rootkits

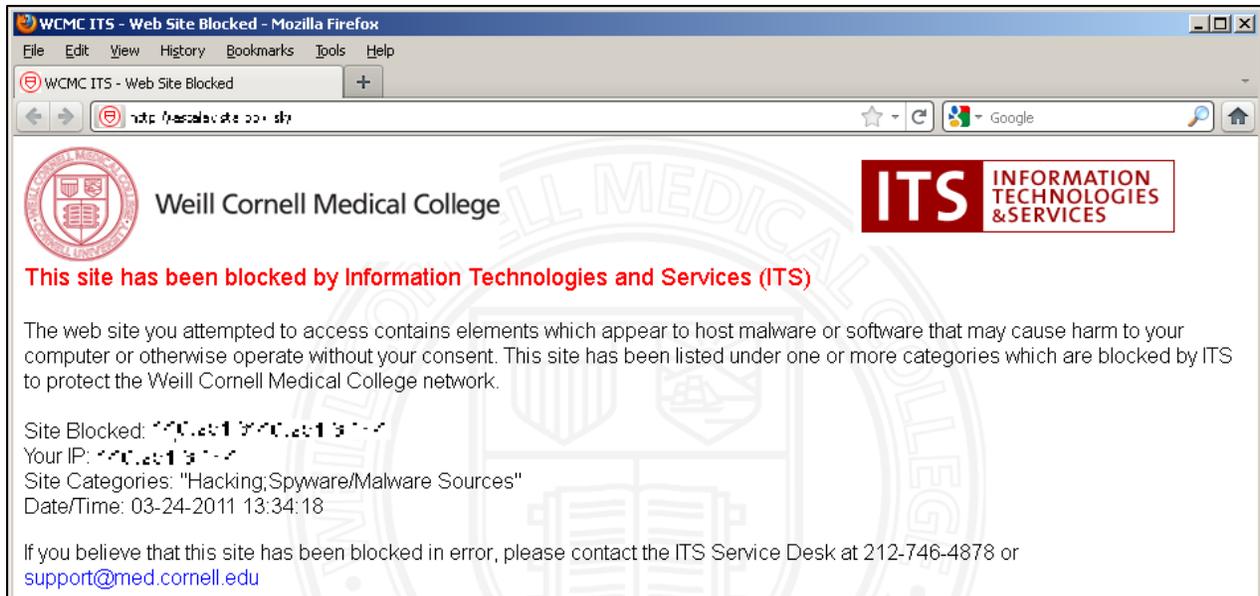
Malware places our organization at risk because it can be used to disseminate confidential information – including ePHI (Electronic Protected Health Information) and financial data – to unauthorized parties in violation of our policies. Oftentimes, you will not be able to tell just by looking at a website that it is malicious,



and the harmful content on those sites may infect your computer without your knowledge. ITS regularly updates the list of confirmed harmful sites that the web proxy blocks to help keep your computer safe.

3. Q. What happens when the web proxy blocks a site?

A. When the web proxy determines that a site you are attempting to access is malicious, you will see a warning screen similar to one below:



The proxy provides you with the following information:

- The website that you were attempting to access
- The reason why it was blocked by the web proxy
- The support@med.cornell.edu address to address any questions or issues about this site being blocked.

4. Q. Does this mean that all my web activity is being monitored?

A. In accordance with WCMC IT security policies, all traffic on the WCMC campus can be monitored by ITS. This is done to protect the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data created, received, stored, transmitted, or otherwise used by the college. If you have any questions or wish you refer to the security policies, please visit <http://weill.cornell.edu/its/policy/>.

5. Q. Will the network be slower because the proxy is looking at all the sites I visit?

A. The web proxy should not negatively affect your network browsing experience. If you believe that there is an issue with the web proxy affecting your network connection, please contact ITS support at support@med.cornell.edu so that it may be investigated.



6. Q. I can't access a site I need because it's blocked by the web proxy. What should I do?

A. If you believe that a site that you tried to access was blocked in error, contact ITS support at support@med.cornell.edu so that it may be investigated.

7. Q. I think a website that I can access contains malware but it's not being blocked by the web proxy. What should I do?

A. Please contact ITS support at support@med.cornell.edu and provide the URL of the site you suspect as containing malware. The IT Security team will investigate and place the site on the list of sites to be blocked if it is determined that the site is harmful.

8. Q. Will I get in trouble for trying to access a site blocked by the web proxy?

A. No, you will not get in trouble for trying to access a blocked site.

9. Q. Can I use any browser I want on the network?

A. ITS supports the following web browsers: Internet Explorer, Firefox, and Safari.

10. Q. Do I need to change any settings in my browser?

A. You will not need to change any settings in your web browser in order to have it work with the proxy.

11. Q. Does the web proxy do anything else besides block harmful sites?

A. The web proxy has several other features, including the ability to cache (store) regularly-accessed websites so that they load faster on your computer.

12. Q. When I browse the internet from NewYork Presbyterian Hospital (NYP) computers, many web sites are blocked. Does NYP use a proxy as well?

A. Both NYP and WCMC use a proxy, but NYP has more restrictive policies, which tend to block sites that are not strictly related to malware (Facebook, Amazon.com, etc.). The rule of thumb is that computers owned or controlled by NYP will use NYP policies for blocking sites, and computers owned or controlled by WCMC will use WCMC policies for blocking sites.