

### AME (Access Management Engine)

#### What it is

The's **Access Management Engine™** or **AME** is a core component of Internet Communications Server. Through the use of simple, Web-based interfaces, this integrated software system ensures that all Internet access remains focused on educators' choice of lesson-, subject-, unit-related Internet content. In addition, the AME affords complete management of Internet communications and services ranging from email to chat and newsgroups.

#### Philosophy

Educators have always held the ability to choose what type of information enters their school environment. Whether selecting textbooks, library books, or materials to support a lesson plan, school administrators and teachers have always been reassured as to the curriculum- and task-related focus of their printed resources. This selection process is made significantly easier by the availability of trusted, education-specific information; while an administrator draws upon the experience and editorial oversight of a book publisher in choosing new textbooks, for example, a teacher in turn chooses from the pre-selected, reviewed, and organized resources found in his or her school library or resource rooms.

In offering the AME, TOSHIBA sought to transfer this same ability – to select information from a pool of trusted resources – to educational use of the Internet. In doing so, we have created a solution that simultaneously addresses all of the major concerns raised upon bringing Internet content into a K-12 educational environment:

- Integrating the Internet with the school's curriculum
- Managing Internet content without limiting students' access to useful resources
- Managing Internet content without reducing teacher choice
- Providing the reassurance that **all** Internet content and communications support the school's objectives
- Providing the flexibility needed to maintain lesson-, subject-, and grade-specific access

- Providing access to a comprehensive selection of reviewed, rated, and categorized content

The result is a solution that offers **curriculum-based management** of Internet content, while also matching the unique classroom dynamics and teaching methodologies employed in K-12 schools.

#### What it does - Features

##### Web Management

The AME grants access to Web sites that have been "allowed," either by your school faculty or through the suggested "Allowed Community" of sites selected by a team of professional, K-12 educators. Even this community, called the Global Chalkboard™, is completely subject to your approval, and can be modified to meet your needs in any way.

An educator can allow any site they wish, simply by typing its address into the easy-to-use, **Allowed Sites** interface. In doing so, they employ the same discretion used to select printed materials for lessons or library resources.

These selections can be applied as a growing supplement



to the Global Chalkboard community – adding them along with its varied topics and categories – or educators can sharpen the focus to meet specific lesson-, unit-, subject-, or grade-related needs. In terms of supporting a lesson plan using Web content, this ability ensures that all

students within a classroom are receiving the same, topic-related Web content, just as if the teacher had selected and handed out a selection of printed materials.

Residing on the Internet Select between you school network and the Internet, the Access Management Engine processes all outgoing requests for Web content and checks them against your school's Allowed Lists. If students request a site that has not yet been allowed, they receive a friendly "Not Allowed" notification Web page. Using one option, teachers can add the site instantly from this page by using an AME password.

**AME eMail Management**

The AME allows schools to employ a safe, educator-supervised form of email communication that harnesses all the collaborative benefits of this medium while ensuring its productive usage. Teachers use a simple, Web-used interface to choose approved addresses for both sending and receiving email; teachers can even approve entire email domains if they choose, so that all email from another school, for example, will be allowed. eMail communication can also be suspended altogether for any period of time.



**Management of Internet Features Services**

In addition to the Web and email, the AME provides for management of other Internet features and communications ranging from chat to newsgroups and FTP. By using the Group Management feature (described below) teachers can offer the research and communications benefits of these resources on a small number of easily supervised workstations, while the rest of the class accesses the Internet through a more focused profile.

**Group Management**

Upon initial set-up, the AME can be easily configured such that each educator applies unique Web, email, or Internet service management settings to the particular

classroom, lab, or library in which they are currently working. Just like the traditional model, this ensures that every room receives Internet material related to its specific topic of study. Whether it's to individual workstations or the entire group, teachers using this function have complete flexibility as to where settings will be applied. A teacher could, for example, simultaneously provide one or more easily supervised, research workstations with unlimited access (by turning the AME "off," using the Master Control Switch) while the rest of their classroom computers access the Internet through any number of Allowed Lists.

**Security**

Coupled with the AME's Allowed List approach, the following features ensure that the AME offers the most secure and reliable approach to Internet content management:

**Server-Based Approach**

Because the AME resides on the Internet Select, the software can not be removed from an individual workstation, nor can its settings be bypassed as with a client- or PC-based package. This approach also removes the need to install any software on individual computers.

**Password Protection**

AME interfaces can only be entered only through the use of unique educator passwords, assigned by the school. As a result, management capability remains in the hands of educators authorized by the school

**Summary**

As a solution designed from the ground up for the K-12 education community, the AME not only addresses unique concerns – ranging from Internet safety to curriculum- and topic-specific focus – but does so in a way that ideally matches teaching dynamics. To maximize classroom productivity, simple interfaces allow teachers to make quick settings changes ... enabling them to keep in sync with the flow of the lesson without losing valuable class time to complex configurations. Overall, the AME provides an instructional foundation that, when combined with network-related features, makes TOSHIBA's Internet Select the only truly education-specific solution to K-12 Internet access.