![Holy Family Catholic High School]

WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT A FIREWALL?

Mr. Perrin-Smith - Technology Coordinator

Key Points:

- CIPA Compliant
- Better protection
- Better filtering
- HTTPS/SSL inspection
- Requires Certificate

For More Info:

Contact me at:

perrinsmithb@hfchs.org

Or students may visit a support blog at:

https://hfchs365.sharepoint.com/StudentComputerSupport/

What does a Firewall do, you might ask?

It is a device and software that protects the school's network, workstations, servers AND users from destructive/unwanted intrusions, events, or behavior. It does this by monitoring, then routing, and if necessary blocking, traffic in and out of the building.

Holy Family has a new Next-Gen firewall that does a better job of complying to several standards by which the school must abide (both CIPA and those set by the Archdiocese) than our previous firewall. In addition to the above standard features, our new firewall gives us protection from external threats such as viruses, phishing and spam at the gateway in case your BYOD units do not have adequate protection, as well as controlling internal threats or poor performance, due to bandwidth and productivity-draining device apps or inappropriate traffic.

How does this work?

Much of this routing is based on various Internet traffic protocols. In particular, HTTPS and SSL traffic which, by nature, is encrypted between client and server. To ensure safe and secure access to the Internet, we need to block certain sites, apps, and protocols in and out of the building.

To gain access to the approved/appropriate items over our WiFi or LAN network, the traffic passes through our Firewall, is scanned for destination, and then routed appropriately (approved destination passes, unapproved gets blocked/or shutoff). Therefore, devices will receive this web page:
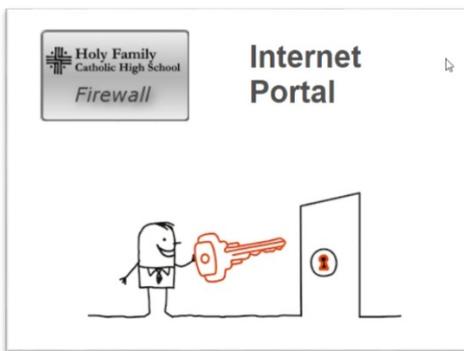
Important - Please Read! You must install a Digital Certificate to access the Internet!

To continue to the Internet, you will need to install the certificate listed below on your computer/device (this will require administrative rights to the device). If you are on an iOS or Android device, please use the manual installer. If you are using a Windows PC, use the Windows Installer. If you do not install the certificate, you may encounter Internet problems. If you are on a school workstation, you should be able to just continue, as they should already have the certificate installed. The Responsible Use Policy (RUP) in the Student Handbook, outlines responsible, acceptable, and unacceptable use of: computer related hardware; networked systems at the School, including any Intranet, Extranet and Internet activities; and any cloud or online social media networks (when used as an affiliate of the School or with a school owned account). It is assumed that all users will abide by these policies and guidelines in an appropriate, responsible, ethical and /or professional manner while paying close attention to both acceptable and unacceptable actions.

Continue

Clicking continue means you agree to our Responsible Use Policy in the Student Handbook.

NOTICE: The server root certificate is not installed on your computer or device. This may cause warnings or errors when connecting to HTTPS web sites.

Click this link to download the root certificate Windows installer.
Click this link to download the root certificate (manual install).

Just clicking continue allows them to pass to the Internet, but any HTTPS / SLL traffic will be blocked (please know this is a good thing, otherwise your children are not protected as we are instructed to do). So some sites and things will work, but many will not.

You need the Certificate to make the allowable sites work.

By installing a root certificate from Untangle (which is securely generated by our firewall device and is unique to that device alone) their devices can safely use encrypted connections to our firewall, be routed appropriately, and pass on to the destination server (in an encrypted state).

Most devices already have many certificates installed doing the same encrypted connection between a device and a sever/website. This certificate allows this process to happen here at Holy Family.

What happens to the traffic while passing our firewall? It may get flagged for reports (how many times a site was visited, how many users are using snapchat, etc.); it may get blocked (being inappropriate content, or gaming, or gambling, etc.); or it passes through on to its destination. The encrypted data is not seen. No one sees emails, chats, Facebook pages, etc. It is just routed against the block or pass policy.