

About

Suffolk Cooperative Library System (SCLS) is a cooperative enterprise including 50 members in Suffolk County, NY. SCLS provides many services to each of its libraries, including coordinated orders in which members can benefit by obtaining online products and services for a reduced price.



Patronus @ a Quick Glance

- Instant Filter Override
- Separate Patron WiFi Network
- Easy Filter Management
- Instant WiFi Hotspot for AUP
- Kids Zone Web Library
- CIPA Compliant
- Firewall & Web Cache

Local Library System Chooses Patronus for Its Flexible Filtering

The Challenges:

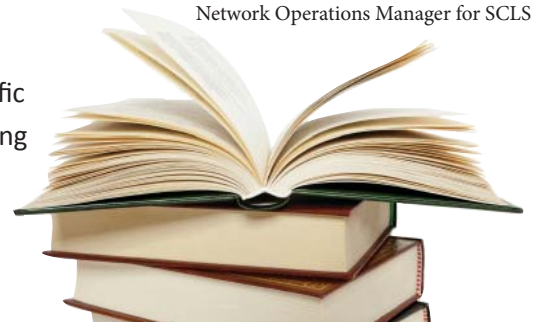
SCLS needs a filtering solution that satisfies both larger libraries with their own computer department and technical staff and smaller libraries that have a single librarian, often someone who demonstrates an aptitude for using computers. Another challenge in our selection process is the philosophy of our member libraries; they oppose censorship and have liberal attitudes towards access to information, so they are against filtering. SCLS held many meetings with both administration and technical staff to find a solution that would protect computers used by children and teen patrons differently than adult or staff computers; the solution must also provide librarians with the ability to instantly turn the filter on and off.

The Solution:

BASCOM's Patronus™, a library Internet filtering appliance with a built-in firewall, is the best solution for our requirements. BASCOM developed their library filter based on feedback from our members, and during the initial development built the most important feature to date: the Filter Override. With this feature, our librarians are now able to easily unblock websites (a CIPA requirement) on a per user basis. The override can be scheduled for a specific period of time, so that filtering is automatically restored for the next patron.

“As an IT manager, BASCOM's support is like having a consultant available who is always looking for new opportunities to improve functionality. I am also eagerly looking forward to using the new Anywhere Filter™ for mobile devices included with Patronus. It was released just as we were unpacking our new iPads™.”

Louis DeRobertis,
Network Operations Manager for SCLS



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Also, the ability to select different profiles by either login type or IP address gives our librarians the ability to customize access for children, teens, adults or staff. Our members are much more receptive to filtering because of this flexibility. Using Patronus, adult computers can now have open access that provides security from viruses and phishing sites. Access to information is not limited while at the same time patrons are safe from online scams and computers are secured from malicious sites.

Patronus also provides an Acceptable Use Policy screen that allows our libraries to create a WiFi hotspot for patrons using their own laptops; this screen requires them to read and agree to our Internet policies before getting online access.

SCLS rarely needs support for Patronus. However, when we do, we speak to either a skilled technician or developer. "As an IT manager, BASCOM's support is like having a consultant available who is always looking for new opportunities to improve functionality," states Louis DeRobertis, Network Operations Manager for SCLS. "I am also eagerly looking forward to using the new Anywhere Filter™ for mobile devices included with Patronus. It was released just as we were unpacking our new iPads™."