



ICALert is a brand new managed device that monitors your schools internet access, targeting users attempting to access illegal content - child abuse images as well as terrorist content.

Ordinarily access to this type of content is simply filtered – whilst helpful this means that the user and their behaviour go unnoticed.

ICALert changes this. Discovering such access, it activates an alert and provides valuable data, enabling a swift resolution, in the interests and protection of your school and children.

Created by a partnership between Plymouth University, SWGfL and IWF and supported by CTIRU, ICALert is a low cost, sealed device that



requires no local configuration or management; simply plug into a school network and forget. Once active, it provides round the clock protection for schools, staff, visitors but most importantly children.

How does ICALert work?

ICALert works by monitoring all internet access (URL) requests and analysing these, in real time, against URL lists provided by both IWF and CTIRU (Counter Terrorism Internet Referral Unit). Both URL lists contain lists of webpages identified to contain images and videos of child sexual abuse (IWF) and unlawful terrorist material (CTIRU). ICALert has an automated update routine that ensures that all devices carry the latest lists. Further information on the IWF URL list can be found at <https://www.iwf.org.uk/join-us/services/url-list1>.

When such attempted access is detected, ICALert immediately alerts the specialist team at SWGfL. Staffed by seconded and serving police officers together with safeguarding professionals, the team will assess the alert and work in conjunction with both local law enforcement and the school (or MAT) concerned. Typically either the local school safeguarding lead and/or Headteacher will be engaged once there is confidence that they are not responsible for the attempted access. Each case will then be managed to resolution. The specialist team at SWGfL has over a decade of experience of managing these incidents.

Security Measures

Given the nature of the purpose of ICALert, the security of the unit is paramount. Designed by the School of Computing at Plymouth University, the devices are not accessible from the Internet and all device data is encrypted. Should the device be disabled, notifications are sent to both the school and team at SWGfL

Limitations of ICALert

ICALert devices are currently suitable for Internet connections up to 100Mb/s. This limitation is a derivative of the technology architecture, although there are plans to introduce support for Gb connections

ICALert does not intrude into encrypted internet traffic (eg messaging services or financial transactions). The URL lists integrated into ICALert only contain unencrypted URLs.