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## PixAlert Monitor FAQ

### **What does PixAlert Monitor do?**

PixAlert Monitor is designed to monitor images being viewed on a PC or Laptop and provides multi-source image detection and analysis. PixAlert Monitor is deployed as an agent from a central administration console to the Desktop environment within an organisation and can monitor and report on the images being viewed, and depending upon the product configuration, will prevent inappropriate and illicit images being viewed.

### **How does PixAlert Monitor work?**

PixAlert Monitor runs continually on a company's network of PCs – whether they are on the network or working remotely. An agent is installed on each PC on the network and reports into central Server application. A separate GUI application is used to view the secure information stored on the Server application. If a suspect image is viewed on client PC screen, which transgresses a set level of sensitivity, a thumbnail copy is made and sent to the Server machine. A Gallery of suspect images is available for review by a trusted officer of the company. These images are then categorised by the reviewer and added to a user case. Several reports are generated automatically, providing both a summary view of images found on the company's network and also a detailed view of images per user.

### **What file types are supported?**

PixAlert Monitor does not rely upon image formats or file types in order to cause a trigger to scan an image. This is due to the fact that PixAlert Monitor is effectively "format agnostic" meaning that images are intercepted at the screen level and assessed based on the image that will be viewed by the User, therefore it can be said that PixAlert Monitor protection against inappropriate images in ALL file types.

### **How accurate is the Image Analysis Engine?**

PixAlert Monitor's Image Analysis Engine has been proven to provide results which are 95-98% accurate. The software has been tested on millions of images. The software can be customised to reflect an organisations environment which may include a configuration to ignore commonly occurring image particular to that organisation.

### **Can PixAlert Monitor detect illicit images in cartoons?**

PixAlert Monitor is designed to detect all images but is optimised to detect pornographic images. As a result PixAlert Monitor will detect life-like cartoon images as being of an illicit nature, however the less life-like a cartoon is, the less likely it is PixAlert Monitor will detect it as being of an illicit nature. It is worth considering that PixAlert Monitor can be configured to detect all images within an environment and thus will detect cartoons, which could then be manually categorised. There will also be the opportunity to create a blacklist of known illicit images, which will then be detected and this could include inappropriate cartoons.

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### **Will PixAlert Monitor affect the performance of PCs?**

Typically, running PixAlert Monitor client is not a very CPU intensive operation. PixAlert Client has little impact on the desktop. The monitoring process typically uses between 1 and 2% of the CPU resources. However, the software will scan every image being accessed for inappropriate material based upon the configuration determined by the Customer. As a result of the software scanning every image file it encounters, it is possible that some Users will experience some minor performance reduction when surfing the web or viewing a large number of images.

### **Is the data that PixAlert Monitor gathers secure?**

Images copied from the target PC to the scanning machine are encrypted and can only be viewed using the PixAlert Monitor Administrator application. Reports generated by PixAlert Monitor Administrator can be created in anonymous format. The file owner can be aliased which means the reports can be circulated to a wider audience without prejudicing employees' privacy, human rights and innocence.

### **How does the software detect the images?**

The monitoring process is constantly performing a 'pre-audit' which splits the screen into quadrants and searches for a number of skin pixels. If a certain threshold is reached which means the probability of skin tones is quite high then the image is fully analysed. Many analysis techniques are used to determine the nature of the image including skin tones, presence of people, foreground, background analysis and luminosity.

### **Can the PixAlert Monitor Client be tampered with?**

The software has been specifically designed with security in mind. The client software cannot be uninstalled. The install directory is protected and the captured thumbnails are encrypted. The processes are protected and if tampered with will restart automatically. If prolonged tampering occurs on the client machine this behaviour is alerted to the PixAlert Server console and appropriate action may be taken.

### **Does PixAlert Monitor provide a reporting facility?**

PixAlert Monitor provides reports a summary report of the company's network as well as a detailed report on images found per user

### **What is the minimum system specification for PixAlert Monitor?**

#### **Hardware Requirements**

##### ***Administrator's Machine***

- P4 Desktop PC;
- 256MB RAM;
- 5 Gb free disk space.

#### **Software Requirements**

PixAlert Monitor software requires Microsoft Explorer 5 or higher

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**Operating System Requirements**

- MS Windows® 2000 Professional SP2;
- MS Windows® XP Professional.
- MS Windows® NT4.0 Server
- MS Windows® 2000 /3 Server

***Client Machines***

- P4 Desktop PC;
- 256MB RAM;
- 5 Mb free disk space.

**Operating System Requirements**

- MS Windows® 2000 Professional SP2;
- MS Windows® XP Professional.

For other questions and enquiries please email [info@pixalert.com](mailto:info@pixalert.com)