



## **EMAIL SOLUTIONS PROVIDER DELIVERS KNOCKOUT BLOW TO PORNOGRAPHY**

Bloomington, IL, June 1, 2005 --- Safe student email. An oxymoron? Not to Gaggle.Net. After trading punches through the years, Gaggle has landed the decisive blow to online pornography with its latest safety feature.

Implemented this past school year, Gaggle's new Anti-Pornography Scanner (APS) automatically detects inappropriate visual content in email and blocks the messages before they reach the students. Based on technology the FBI uses to track online child predators, the APS system analyzes graphical content and forms a unique 'fingerprint' of each image. Evaluating fundamental properties such as color, texture, shape, and composition, the APS assigns each picture a score on a scale from 0 (harmless) to 100 (highly objectionable), and blocks those that exceed a certain threshold.

"If our mission at Gaggle is to provide a safe email experience for students throughout the country, we have to look at the root of that safety issue", says Jeff Patterson, President of Gaggle.Net. "Pornography has infested the Internet, and has created an environment that is unhealthy for our children. We came to realize that filtering of inappropriate words or phrases is only half the battle when it comes to student email. It became clear to us that we had to address pornography head on, and the APS system has given us the tool we needed to accomplish this."

Founded in 1998, Gaggle.Net is in its seventh year of providing safe, teacher-controlled email to K-12 students across the country and worldwide. Currently, over 13,000 schools have signed up for Gaggle's secure e-mail system. Along with protecting students from pornography, Gaggle is dedicated to fighting Spam and Virus problems and monitors all communication for inappropriate language. More than just email, Gaggle also includes student-focused chat rooms, message boards, and digital lockers, all located on its web-based system so that learning and communication can continue anywhere there's an Internet connection.

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