Best Practices for Creating DNS Policies

https://campus.barracuda.com/doc/94540603/

For details on *how* to create DNS policies, see How to Configure DNS Filtering and Policies. See also Best Practices for DNS Filtering Deployment.

Before you configure policies, consider the following:

1. Whether you want to allow most content and only block some categories of domains (which Barracuda Networks recommends), or if you prefer to block most content and only allow certain categories. You can always create *allow* or *block* exceptions for specific domains.
2. You can simulate groups by segregating users by different external IP addresses. This provides the option to apply different policies to different groups. For example, the *Students* group could be assigned a *High* security policy while the *Faculty* group could have a *Low* security policy.

Begin creating a policy as follows:

1. Go to the **DNS Filtering** page.
2. Follow steps 1 and 2 of the instructions under Configure a New Filtering Policy For a Network.
3. In step 3, for **Category Policy**, begin by creating a baseline policy and then add exception policies as needed. The first step can be creating EITHER:
    - A baseline ***Allow* policy**: Barracuda Networks recommends starting with a baseline *Allow* policy using a pre-configured filtering level of *Medium*. This is the default policy. Any category that is checked will be blocked. Next, scroll through the list of categories and check any additional that you want to block. You can then override this policy using exceptions for specific domains you want to block or allow as demonstrated in the examples below.
     – OR –
    - A baseline ***Block* policy**: (not recommended) Select a pre-configured filtering level of *Medium*, also checking categories you want to block in general. You can then override this policy using exceptions for specific domains you want to allow.
4. Barracuda Networks recommends testing your initial selection of block/allow policies using various domains that you know you want blocked, and/or that you know your organization needs to access, and then make updates to your policies as needed.

For large policies where you want to block multiple domains, it is best to block by categories, not just domains.

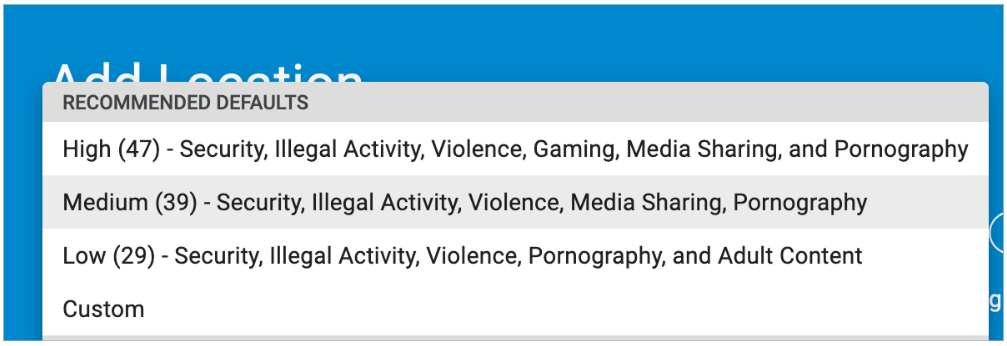
Exceptions to Policy

If you want to block or allow a few specific domains, use Exceptions as illustrated in the examples below. You can create exceptions to policy when you use **ADD LOCATION** or you can edit or add exceptions by clicking **Exceptions** in the **Exception Policy** column of the table on the **DNS Filtering** page.

Example 1: Create an overall Medium level *allow* policy with exceptions.

Barracuda Networks recommends starting with the *Medium* category policy, which allows most categories, but blocks supercategories such as Illegal, Adult Material, Adult Recreation Or Illegal, some Security categories, and few others. In this example, a company sells products that include alcohol and drinking materials. Since the *Medium* policy blocks the Drinking and Alcoholic Products categories, the company may want to make some exceptions to allow certain domains for business use. The company also wants to block Facebook, which is allowed by the *Medium* policy.

1. Go to the **DNS Filtering** page.
2. Follow steps 1 and 2 of the instructions under [Configure a New Filtering Policy For a Network](#).
3. For step 3, select the *Medium* Category Policy.



Add Location

RECOMMENDED DEFAULTS

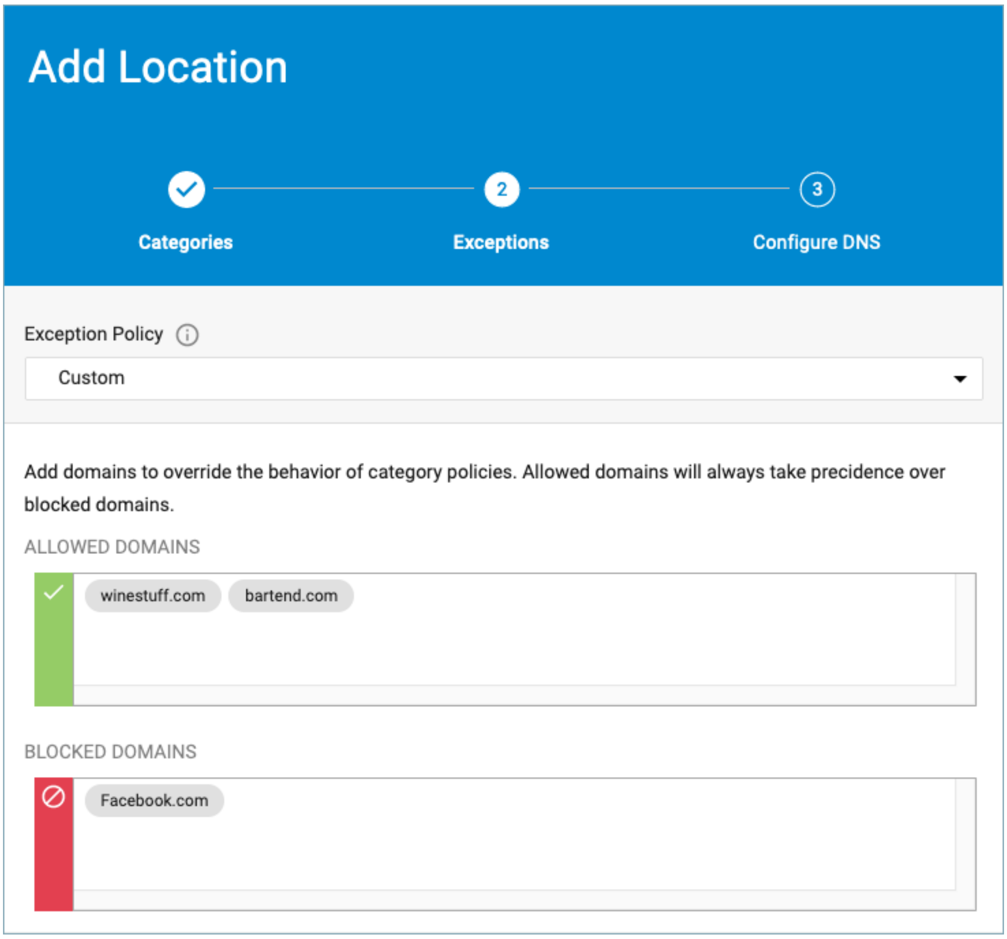
High (47) - Security, Illegal Activity, Violence, Gaming, Media Sharing, and Pornography

Medium (39) - Security, Illegal Activity, Violence, Media Sharing, Pornography

Low (29) - Security, Illegal Activity, Violence, Pornography, and Adult Content

Custom

4. Now you can do either of the following:
   - **Allow the categories**: Scroll down and uncheck the *Alcoholic Products* and *Drinking* categories so sites categorized as such are not blocked. – OR –
   - **Allow specific domains**: Click **NEXT** in the **Add Location** window and select *Custom* in the **Exception Policy** drop-down as shown below. In the **Allowed Domains** text box just below that, enter each specific domain you want to exempt from the policy. For specifics on format for entering domains or subdomains, see [How to Create Exception Policies for DNS Filtering](#).
   - **Block the Facebook domain** : In the **Blocked Domains** text box, enter Facebook.com.



Add Location

Categories · Exceptions · Configure DNS

Exception Policy: Custom

Add domains to override the behavior of category policies. Allowed domains will always take precidence over blocked domains.

ALLOWED DOMAINS

✓ winestuff.com bartend.com

BLOCKED DOMAINS

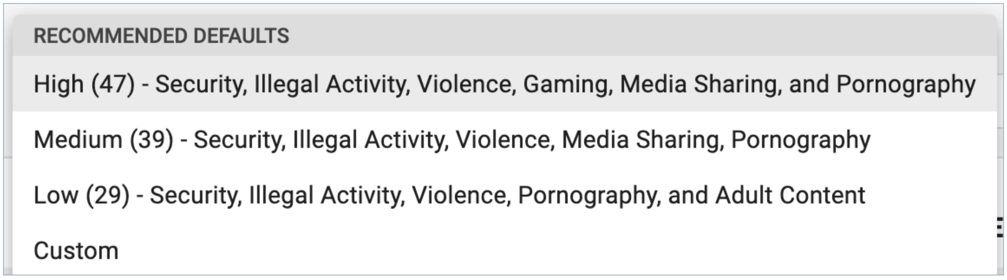
⊘ Facebook.com

5. Click **NEXT** and continue configuring DNS.

Example 2: Create an overall High level *block* policy with exceptions.

Say you want a very strict web filtering policy for best security, so you choose the *High* Category Policy option, which blocks a lot of categories, including *Swimsuits and Lingerie*. However, your company sells swim workout gear and you want your employees to be able to browse competitive product sites. Since the *High* policy blocks the category *Swimsuits and Lingerie*, you would add exceptions for specific product-related domains, or allow that category.

1. Go to the **DNS Filtering** page.
2. Follow steps 1 and 2 of the instructions under [Configure a New Filtering Policy For a Network](#).
3. For step 3, select the *High* Category Policy.



RECOMMENDED DEFAULTS

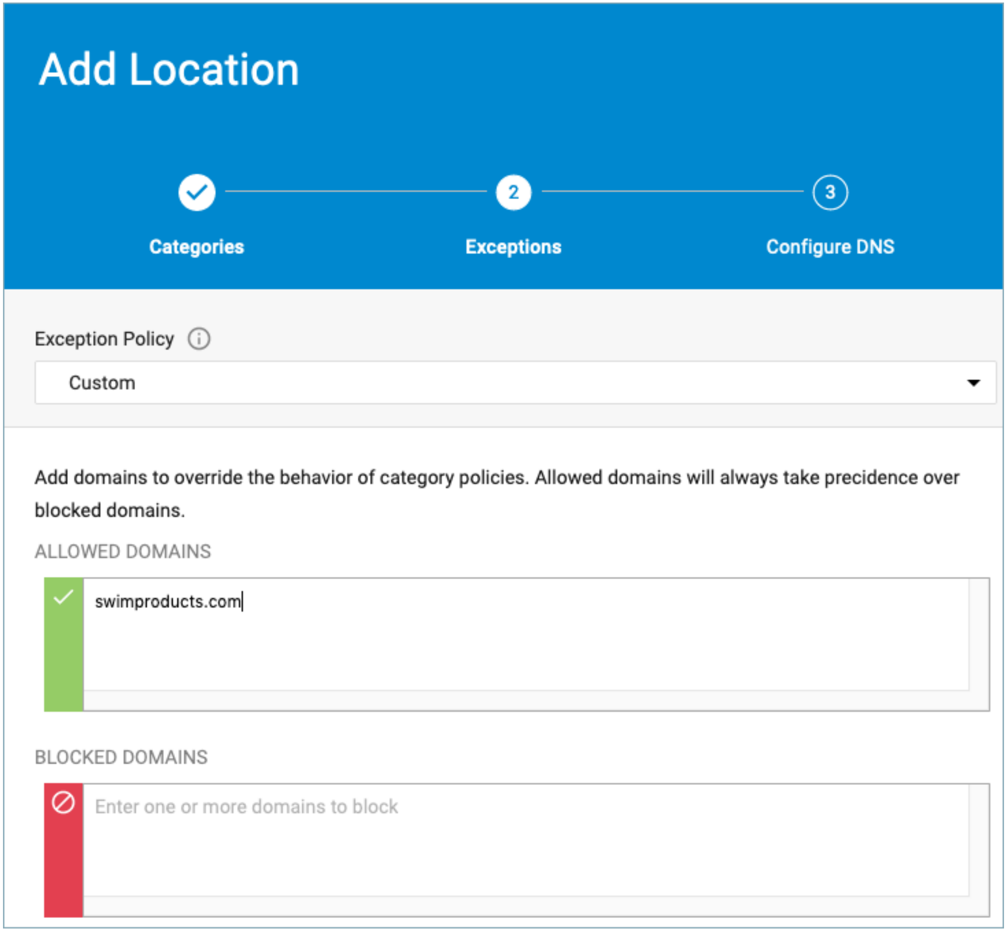
High (47) - Security, Illegal Activity, Violence, Gaming, Media Sharing, and Pornography

Medium (39) - Security, Illegal Activity, Violence, Media Sharing, Pornography

Low (29) - Security, Illegal Activity, Violence, Pornography, and Adult Content

Custom

4. Now you can do either of the following:
    - Scroll down and uncheck the *Swimsuits and Lingerie* category so sites categorized as such are not blocked. – OR –
    - Click **NEXT** in the **Add Location** window and select *Custom* in the **Exception Policy** drop-down as shown below. In the **Allowed Domains** text box just below that, enter each specific domain you want to exempt from the policy. For specifics on format for entering domains or subdomains, see [How to Create Exception Policies for DNS Filtering](#).



Add Location

Exception Policy ⓘ

Custom ▾

Add domains to override the behavior of category policies. Allowed domains will always take precidence over blocked domains.

ALLOWED DOMAINS

✓ swimproducts.com

BLOCKED DOMAINS

⊘ Enter one or more domains to block

5. Click **NEXT** and continue configuring DNS.

Traffic affected by the DNS filtering policies is logged in the [Web Filtering Logs](#).

Figures