



## Technology

### **Appointing a Guardian**

**15.** In hilchos yichud, we find the concept of a shomer, guardian. The general idea is that a person will be afraid to perform a forbidden act in front of a shomer. The same concept applies to internet usage, and is especially relevant for one who uses a general filter (and even more so when, for whatever reason, the filter being used is not the strictest or strongest). One can appoint an upstanding person (such as a boss, friend or mentor) as his shomer who will have the ability to view what he does on the internet. This can be done either by allowing him access to one's internet activity remotely, or by having the shomer receive regular reports of all online activities. This can greatly help keep a person in line.

**Tip:** In order for this system to be taken seriously and for it to work properly, it is a good idea for the boss to be the shomer, rather than a friend or coworker. Many companies have implemented a system in which an app of this sort is automatically installed by the business owner on every worker's computer, allowing the appointed guardian to view all internet

activity. This greatly minimizes the dangers involved in the internet.

In addition to the option of having a technician install a system where a shomer can view one's online activities, there is also a company called "Web Chaver" that offers such a program that one can install himself.

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**Editor's note:**

In reference to the recent email regarding Netfree, it is important to note:

1. NetFree is a strong "filter"; however, having a high-standard whitelist filter from a frum filtering company will, in many cases, still be a better and more reliable option.
2. As mentioned yesterday, while NetFree is considered very reliable, it is not always the most practical option for everyone. Therefore, it is good to point out that other frum filter companies have recently established filters with standards similar to NetFree. Therefore, even if NetFree is not the option for you, find out from your filter company what their best and most ideal option is, which filters on a level that exposes the user to the least nisyonos possible.