



Technology - Feedback Part 3

Hi,

A team member in my office recently researched how to block GIFs in Microsoft Teams, and found the following setting. I was not able to test it myself, but IT was able to set it up.

I hope this is helpful to others.

In the Teams Admin Center > Messaging policies, create a custom policy called No Giphy and apply the following restrictions:

Disable:

Upload custom emojis

Giphy in conversations

Memes in conversations

Stickers in conversations

Thank you!

Dear Doeihu,

Thank you for your great work and awareness of the important Halachos related to the workplace, especially regarding the topic of technology, which you have covered in such a clear, deep, and positive manner. I would like to share a few episodes - real stories related to technology that I read in the “Chayeinu” magazine (Volume 6 | Issue 4 | Nissan/Iyar 5784 | April/May 2024 | No. 29) under the topic “Call for Change” in the workplace; it inspired me, and I believe it will inspire others as well. Here is what they wrote:

Office Filtering

Baruch Hashem, we pride ourselves on the fact that our office is kosher. We are very careful with technology and have strong filters on our computers. Since we service mostly non-Jews, our presence on social media is very important, but, at the same time, we don't want our secretaries going on these platforms to post. Instead, in an effort to avoid social media use, we use a program that posts for us, instead of our secretary needing to go onto the site and do the posting. We hired a non-Jewish woman to take care of all the social media aspects of our business, and we specifically assigned her to work remotely, so she wouldn't even be in-house.

We are also very careful about who joins our office staff. If someone shows up for an interview not dressed properly, she's not for us. *Baruch Hashem*, with these strict *gedarim* in place, we've had lots of *hatzlachah*!

A recent Resolve

I work full-time in a small office. I am happy with my job and always felt the office *hashkafos* were basically up to par. I recently attended the technology event in Lakewood and I felt that there must be something more I can do for Hashem. For a while already, it had been bothering me that I didn't really have a proper filter on my work computer and

was being unwittingly exposed to improper images and content.

That night, I thought for a long time and I cried to Hashem for assistance. It wasn't easy, but I knew this was the right thing to do. The very next morning, before I lost my resolve, I went to my boss and asked if it would be okay with him if I'd upgrade the filter on my computer. I thought posing the request would be so hard, but once I had the courage to ask, it really was so easy.

I wish I could tell more people — daven to Hashem to help you, and He will!

On My Own

Upon entering the workforce after years of learning in kollel, I was determined to keep up my standards as a *ben Torah*, without compromise. I did my homework and made sure to secure a job in what is considered a kosher office. I had *chavrusos* in the early morning and late at night, and I was hoping I would be able to earn a respectable *parnassah*, with limited challenges.

It wasn't even an hour into my first day when I realized that the *yetzer hara* wasn't going to let me off easily. Although I had been told the computers were filtered, it turns out that there was just an IT filter that blocks certain categories, but everything else was left completely open. There was no way

I would be able to accept that, but it seemed that I was on my own in this battle. My co-workers, though uncomfortable with the situation themselves, claimed that they had brought the issue up with the boss numerous times, with no results. I bravely made my way to his office and voiced my concerns, but was told quite emphatically that this line of business requires high-speed connection, and filters would just interfere with the whole system. I knew this wasn't necessarily true, but there was nothing more I could do that

would make a difference. Well, almost nothing.

The next day, I came armed with my own — highly filtered — laptop, and I was able to fulfill my job requirements just fine. It was a statement, and I got comments, but eventually, another few individuals followed suit. My hope is that, over time, the boss will come around and realize that filtering is an option, a must, and ultimately resolve this entire issue.