HTTPS/Certificate Questions

In Passive mode, NetSpective monitors the network for particular signatures much like an intrusion detection product. Since HTTPS tunnels HTTP sessions over SSL, NetSpective detects the SSL connection and takes actions based on the categorization of the HTTPS/SSL server.

If the IP address of an HTTPS/SSL server is categorized and the policy is set to block, then all HTTPS and other SSL connections to it are blocked. Therefore, an objectionable site cannot be accessed via HTTPS (port 443 or otherwise), SSH, or any other protocol based on SSL.

NetSpective also utilizes the adaptive filtering process for public SSL sites. When the appliance detects uncategorized SSL accesses on port 443, the site is temporarily categorized as "HTTPS Unrated" and then uploaded to the Adaptive Filtering Lab for categorization.

The NetSpective Adaptive Filtering Lab will categorize the site based on the following criteria:

1. If the site's SSL certificate is invalid, self-signed, or signed by an untrusted certificate authority, then the site will be categorized as "HTTPS Untrusted".

2. If the site's SSL certificate is valid, signed by a trusted certificate authority, and the site cannot be categorized, then the site will be categorized as "HTTPS Trusted".

3. If the site's SSL certificate is valid, signed by a trusted certificate authority, and the site can be categorized, then the site will be categorized as a specific category (for example, "Mature Content"). Thus, blocking "Mature Content" would block HTTP and HTTPS traffic to the site.