

Title:

Is The Internet Censored?

Word Count:

1099

Summary:

When most people think about Internet censorship, the usual suspects immediately come to mind: China, Iran, and North Korea. However, Freedom House, a non-profit U.S. organization dedicated to spreading human rights and freedom, has identified a new group of countries that are increasingly censoring the Internet.

Keywords:

home loan scams, mortgage equity scams, mortgage refinancing

Article Body:

When most people think about Internet censorship, the usual suspects immediately come to mind: China, Iran, and North Korea. However, Freedom House, a non-profit U.S. organization dedicated to spreading human rights and freedom, has identified a new group of countries that are increasingly censoring the Internet. Some nations control Internet access through government servers that censor incoming news and outgoing e-mails. However, Arab and Communist societies have a long history of suppressing freedom of speech, so the Internet is not immune from censorship. The Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Act 1999, the Australian Internet censorship law, requires that all Internet service providers (ISPs) in Australia enforce the regulation of the Internet is complaint-driven. Individuals, organizations, and government agencies can file complaints with the Australian Broadcasting Authority (ABA). If the "prohibited content" is hosted outside Australia, the ABA will notify the suppliers of the content. A study by Computer Choice (September/October 2000) found that innocuous content, such as medical information, is often blocked. Aside from costing Australians 2.7 million Australian dollars per year and making their country a less attractive place to do business, the prohibited content included content hosted in Usenet newsgroups, which is treated as content. In summary, filtering software products are ineffective, and Australia cannot control websites hosted outside its borders. However, a dangerous precedent has been set, and it is entirely possible that the categories of countries that are increasingly censoring the Internet will expand. Incidents of this nature occurred almost immediately after the introduction of the censorship law. In a 2001 case, Victoria anarchist Matthew Taylor was prosecuted by the Australian Federal Police. In 2002, NSW Police Minister Michael Costa wrote to the Australian Communications Minister, Richard Alston, referring the matter to the Australian Broadcasting Authority, which cleared Melbourne Internet Service Provider (ISP) Melbourne Internet. Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA), an online civil liberties organization, has described the

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