

# GFW: Protection or censorship?

## A brief overview on China's Great Firewall system

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January 11, 2024

## 1 Introduction

The Internet has come a long way today. As a bridge for the flow of information, it carries the thoughts, ideas, opinions and needs of all people. However, because of the value attributes of information, the flow of information may inadvertently touch the interests of certain people or groups. This may lead to theft by criminals, or it may be a threat to national security, but in any case, the network firewall has been built as a result. In China, there also exists such a wall, which is not only able to defend against cyber-attacks from outside the country, but at the same time, and most importantly, prevents the flow of network traffic from within the country to outside the country. This is the subject of this article - The Great Firewall.

## 2 Background

Great Firewall (hereinafter referred to as GFW) is a traffic censorship and attack defense system based on Cisco's intrusion detection system [1].

## References

- [1] Schaack, Beth Van. “*China’s Golden Shield: Is Cisco Systems Complicit?*” Center for Internet and Society, 24 Mar. 2015, [cyberlaw.stanford.edu/blog/2015/03/china%E2%80%99s-golden-shield-cisco-systems-complicit](https://cyberlaw.stanford.edu/blog/2015/03/china%E2%80%99s-golden-shield-cisco-systems-complicit). Accessed 11 Jan. 2024.