

## Internet Censorship

At one point in time, there was no Internet; no way for computers to communicate to with each other. The idea of computers communicating with one another was invented in 1962, when scientists and military leaders were concerned about what would happen if the nation's telephone system happened to be destroyed by an attack made by the Soviet Union. They believed that one missile could destroy the network of wires that made it possible to communicate from long distances. A scientist named Joseph Carl Robnett Licklider from M.I.T. and AFPRC proposed the idea of a "galactic network" of computers that could communicate with each other as a solution to the issue and to allow government officials and military leaders to communicate even if the Soviets managed to destroy the telephone system. About three years later in 1965, another scientist from M.I.T. developed a way that computers could send information to one another - he called this technology "packet switching". Packet switching is when the data is broken down into blocks before sending it to its destination. This prevented the government computer network from being as vulnerable as the telephone system. In the early 1970's the ARPAnet network began to grow by adding computers from different universities around the world, but it was hard for them to integrate into one worldwide network. By the end of the 1970's a computer scientist named Vinton Cerf began to solve this problem by inventing the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP), which allowed all of the computers on the world's network to communicate with each other. In 1991, a computer programmer named Tim Berners-Lee introduced the World Wide Web, which was more than just a way to send files from one computer to another - it was information that anyone could access and retrieve. From there, the Internet

became what we know it as today. With the growing amount of information that can be viewed, accessed, and published on the Internet, it is becoming more dangerous. A novice in this area should be aware of the number of cyber-crimes committed around the world and the amount of information that these criminals have access.

Internet censorship is the control of what may be accessed, viewed, or published on the internet. This censorship can be regulated by the government or a private company on behalf of the government. I believe that with more control over what can be published and accessed on the internet, it would help control the amount of cyber-crimes that are committed. Internet censorship is important because every day, millions of people are entering a lot of valuable, personally identifiable information that can be accessed and viewed by anyone with the proper skills. The control of using the Internet for such activities as online banking, job applications, and online dating would be inconvenient to a lot of people, but it may save them from having their information hacked into, exposed, and published for the world to see. Many people are against censoring the Internet because they believe it infringes on our basic rights as citizens.

I would like Dr. Michelle Liu to be my content advisor for my Capstone Project. She is knowledgeable about my topic and is interested in the uses and impacts of emerging technologies on social activities and behaviors, she may have more of an understanding on the impact that more censorship of the Internet may have on users. I believe she can give me great ideas and critiques to improve my research paper.

To accomplish this project, I need to conduct research on the history of internet censorship, the implications of it, and the controversy involved with it. I will dedicate a

considerable amount of time to my research, and I will dedicate the appropriate amount of time for each deliverable in order to turn it in on time.

## References

- CERF, V. (2012). The Right to Connect and Internet Censorship. *NPQ: New Perspectives Quarterly*, 29(2), 18-23. doi:10.1111/j.1540-5842.2012.01310.x
- The Internet Censorship Controversy. (1996). Retrieved September 14, 2015.