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**Description:**

- **Encryption backdoors:** A way to bypass the necessary authentication, so that companies or manufacturers of the services are able to access data without having the required authentication. Basically, this is a way for someone to be able to have access to our privacy data without our concern.
- **The Earn-It Act:** The EARN IT Act is proposed legislation in the United States Congress that is aimed to amend Section 230, which has historically allowed the service providers an immunity from being responsible for the contents created by their users. The EARN IT act was proposed to alter Section 230's protections and put more onus on website operators. This means that companies can get accountable for whatever their users are posting. This act is forcing companies to ensure that whatever posted by users are 'children-friendly' for the internet, which is a difficult thing and might threaten users' privacy and freedom of speech.
- **Section 230 :** Protecting online service providers from being responsible for what their users say and do. Section 230 is basically a law that mentions that the service provider companies are not able to get a lawsuit for anything their users do. So companies will not be treated as the publisher of the content made by the creator.

**Questions:**

**Does the Earn-It Act have implications for encryption backdoors?**

In short, we thought that encryption would be a threat in the Earn-it act because in order for providers to identify and take down users' posts on their services, it requires either a third party to report the posts content, or the ability of the company to view the content posted by their users. This will force a company to create a vulnerable encryption if they could be held responsible for content they can't see on their platform.

So we thought that the Earn-it act does definitely have an implications for encryption backdoors. Due to the law, it is forcing the company to make sure that they have access to all users' privacy data collection, which here the encryption backdoors started to show up. There will be a way for the company to track down and have access to users' data. Because if companies are not doing this, the companies are very vulnerable to get lawsuits due to what their users are posting.

## **What are some pros and cons of the Earn-It Act?**

### **Pros:**

- The internet might be more 'Children-friendly' since the law will enforce that anything posted on the internet should be filtered to ensure that it is 'children-friendly'.
- Might be helpful for law enforcement to deal with online-related criminal cases since there might be a possibility of encryption backdoors in earn-it act, so the law enforcement might have access to criminal's data.

### **Cons:**

- Threaten Internet users' privacy and freedom of speech since before the user posted anything, it will be 'filtered' in advance. So it might be difficult to post something based on someone's will. And The act will give the Justice Department unprecedented Internet powers.
- Backdoor for One Means Backdoor for All. This resulted in more of our privacy data being spread out to all over places.

### **Reference :**

<https://www.cnet.com/news/why-your-privacy-could-be-threatened-by-a-bill-to-protect-children/>  
<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2020/10/urgent-earn-it-act-introduced-house-representatives>  
<https://www.eff.org/issues/cda230>