<https://www.theverge.com/2021/9/3/22656196/godaddy-texas-right-for-life-abortion-whistleblowing-site>

<https://www.theverge.com/2021/9/6/22659861/protonmail-swiss-court-order-french-climate-activist-arrest-identification>

The concern in question is online privacy and freedom of expression, the “new” technology in question is VPNs. Virtual private networking is far from new, but lately it’s entered the mainstream. With regard to the second article: the Swiss company Proton was forced to hand over a user’s IP information to French courts which led to his arrest, but VPN metadata handled by the company would not be subject to the same requirements.

Companies facing external pressures must choose whether to shield their users, and whether to enable dubious activity on their platforms. An example mentioned in the first article is registrar and name server provider Epik. If I were in the position of deciding whether to host and thereby facilitate activity such as hate speech or worse, I would have to at least make certain that my company wouldn’t be legally responsible for resulting damage. In a 2019 article concerning Epik’s hosting of 8chan (<https://www.theverge.com/2019/8/5/20754943/8chan-epik-offline-voxility-service-cutoff-hate-speech-ban>), Epik CEO Rob Monster justifies the choice by noting that the chans as a whole do have moderation, failing to note that this chan in particular can have endless new boards, thus evading moderation (as far as I can surmise). It seems to me like a lot of faith put into uncertain factors.