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The Right to Internet Access

The internet plays a role in the greater majority of our everyday lives. People have the right to broadband or freedom to connect. Internet access must be broadly available, and access cannot be unreasonably denied. That said, those guilty of crimes involving the internet have had this access restricted.

Our proposed research question is, “Do Convicted Hackers Still Have the Right to Internet Access?” We wish to explore the relationship people have with the internet, and what should be done with convicted hackers. Furthermore, we hope to delve into the internet as a basic necessity as opposed to a luxury.

Hackers, like any other convicted criminal, will have served their time and reached the point of rehabilitation. Should they be discriminated against? An argument could be made that the internet could help those involved in crime organizations reach each other. Should they also be restricted? What are the criteria for a lifetime ban? What does a successful appeal look like? Who has the power to decide that someone doesn't deserve this access anymore? These are all questions we would like to answer.

Two relevant cases are those of Higinio Ochoa III, who was part of an Anonymous-affiliated hacker group and Kevin Mitnick, one of the most notorious hackers. Mitnick was banned from using any communications technology, but he fought this ruling and regained internet access. He now runs a security consultancy firm and runs training sessions. By all accounts, he is a rehabilitated individual. Ochoa has not been so lucky. He still works as a programmer. However, he has to write code without IntelliSense and physically print and mail his work to his supervisor. It's quite difficult to reintegrate with

society when you don't have the resources any other individual is awarded upon release.

Our table of contents will look like something along the lines of:

1. Introduction
2. The Right to the Internet
3. Background of Notable Cases
4. Ethical Standpoint
5. Conclusion

We intend to hold frequent team meetings and remain engaged in compiling the final report. We have begun gathering sources and have discussed the topic at length. We will assign roles and keep a strict schedule. We will watch the The Assertion-Evidence Structure for Slide Design video and take the recommendations into consideration when creating our presentation.