

# mo-tech-mo-problems

## Summary:

The article we chose describes recently proposed legislation from the Australian government requiring tech platforms to pay for news content they show. Facebook and Google, two of the largest such companies, currently relay stories to their users without paying anything for them. The government argues that tech companies benefit from the distribution, while the news agencies miss out on any direct financial payment. In the past, countries such as Spain, France and Germany have also tried their own legal actions only to have Google lower the rankings of stories from their news agencies or withdraw the news link service from their country altogether. Having witnessed the failure of other countries to extract payments for their own news agencies, Australia's government's is trying a new tactic involving copyright laws along with requesting technical information and data that would allow for the agencies to monitor for any reduction in the search ranking of stories from news agencies in their country. Google argues that the legislation calls into question the privacy and security of their users personal data along with that of their proprietary search algorithms and have addressed the Australian public in an open letter warning of the potential invasion of privacy.

The article is interesting because it shows how the emergence of a computer based industry must still traverse the same ethical issues of industries past while raising new ones at the same time.

## Points of Debate:

1. Countries protecting home industries  
The idea of a country practicing "protectionism" in an industry against a foreign company
2. The idea of capitalism vs. monopoly  
Should a company have the power to just deny service altogether and does it break anti-trust laws?
3. Privacy Rights:  
Should the government have the right to access User information and a company's Proprietary information for the sake of the financial wellbeing of another business/industry?

## References:

Article:

<https://www.wired.com/story/can-australia-force-google-facebook-pay-news/>

Proposed Bill:

<https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/Exposure%20Draft%20Bill%20-%20TREASURY%20LAWS%20AMENDMENT%20%28NEWS%20MEDIA%20AND%20DIGITAL%20PLATFORMS%20MANDATORY%20BARGAINING%20CODE%29%20BILL%202020.pdf>

Google's Letter:

[https://about.google/google-in-australia/an-open-letter/?utm\\_source=google&utm\\_medium=hpp&utm\\_campaign=callout-p2](https://about.google/google-in-australia/an-open-letter/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=hpp&utm_campaign=callout-p2)