

Need of Internet Control and Censorship

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ABSTRACT

The internet has become an essential tool for communication, information sharing, and economic growth. However, the prevalence of harmful content and illegal activities has led to debates on the need for internet control or censorship. This paper investigates the need for internet control or censorship and discusses the various types of control or censorship that can be implemented, such as filtering, legal measures, content removal, surveillance, self-censorship, website blocking, and DNS blocking. The paper examines the risks and effects involved in internet control or censorship, including the limitation of free speech, impacts on innovation and creativity, privacy concerns, limited access to information, unequal access, loss of trust, and threats to human rights. The paper highlights the importance of balancing the need for protection with individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms and implementing internet control or censorship with caution to ensure that it does not harm democratic principles or infringe on human rights.

Keywords: Internet, control, censorship, regulation, privacy concerns, misinformation, disinformation, cyber bullying.

I. INTRODUCTION

To ensure adherence to laws, rules, and policies, internet control entails regulating and monitoring online activity. Governments may enact internet censorship measures, for example, to keep an eye on cybercriminals' activities, track terrorists' movements, and stop the spread of offensive material. Contrarily, censorship refers to the suppression or limitation of particular content that authorities or organisations

believe offensive or damaging. Censorship can be used to safeguard public safety, stop the spread of hate speech, and safeguard vulnerable populations like children.

Although internet censorship and control measures can be useful in limiting dangerous online behaviour, they can also be detrimental to freedom of speech and the free flow of ideas. Opponents claim that internet censorship and control can be applied.

People's way of communicating, sharing information, and conducting business has been changed by the internet. People from all over the world can now easily connect and share ideas thanks to the internet, which has transformed the world into a global village. Nonetheless, the freedom and anonymity that the internet offers have given rise to a number of worries about censorship and control. The issue at hand is whether or whether there should be any sort of regulation or censorship over the internet, and if so, how. The purpose of this research paper is to examine the problem of internet censorship and control and to offer suggestions for possible forms of censorship.

Before going into detail on the history of internet censorship and control, let's take a quick look at of what actually censorship means.

1.1. What Censorship Means:

The act of restricting or controlling access to information, viewpoints, or creative expression that is deemed damaging, delicate, or offending by a person or organisation in authority is known as censorship. Speech, writing, or other forms of communication that are regarded offensive or detrimental to public morals, national security, or social standards are suppressed or restricted. Governments, religious organisations, businesses, or even lone individuals can censor speech in a variety of ways, including through the use of laws, physical force, or self-censorship. The discussion of censorship frequently revolves on how to strike a balance between the need to protect society or individuals from harm or offence and the right to free speech.

II. Background

The internet has been a significant driver of social, economic, and political changes in the world. The internet has enabled people to communicate and share information in ways that were not possible before. The freedom and anonymity that the internet

provides have been one of its most significant benefits. However, this freedom has also been a cause of concern for many people. There have been instances where the internet has been used to spread hate speech, incite violence, and promote terrorism. Additionally, the internet has been used to distribute illegal content, such as child pornography and pirated material.

The issue of internet control and censorship is not new. Governments, organizations, and individuals have been trying to control and censor the internet since its inception. The primary aim of internet control and censorship is to protect individuals and society from harm. However, the implementation of internet control and censorship has been a contentious issue, with many arguing that it infringes on people's freedom of speech and expression.

III.Arguments

a. Arguments for Internet Control and Censorship:

Those who advocate for internet control and censorship argue that it is an essential factor for protecting individuals and society from harm. The following are some of the arguments for internet control and censorship:

- a. **Protection of Minors:** The internet contains content that is not suitable for minors, such as pornography and violent material. Internet control and censorship can be used to block minors from accessing such content.
- b. **Protection of National Security:** The internet has been used by terrorists and other criminals to plan and carry out attacks. Internet control and censorship can be used to monitor and prevent such activities.
- c. **Protection of Intellectual Property:** The internet has made it easy to distribute pirated material, which harms the creators and owners of intellectual property. Internet control and

copyright can be used to prevent the distribution of pirated material.

d. Protection of Privacy: The internet contains personal information that can be misused by individuals or organizations. Internet control and censorship can be used to protect individuals' privacy.

b. Arguments Against Internet Control and Censorship:

Those who oppose internet control and censorship argue that it infringes on people's freedom of speech and expression. The following are some of the arguments against internet control and censorship:

a. Censorship is subjective: Internet control and censorship are often based on subjective judgments made by individuals or organizations. This can lead to censorship of content that is not necessarily harmful but goes against the views of those in power.

b. Limitation of Freedom of Speech: Internet control and censorship limit people's freedom of speech and expression. This can stifle creativity, innovation, and dissent.

c. Ineffectiveness: Internet control and censorship can be ineffective as people can still access blocked content using VPNs and other methods.

d. Slippery Slope: Internet control and censorship can lead to a slippery slope where the government or other organizations start to censor more and more content. This can lead to a situation where only government-approved content is available online.

IV. Censorship and Control Techniques on the Internet

It is possible to filter and regulate the internet in a variety of ways. The most popular varieties are listed below:

a. Filtering: This entails denying users access to particular websites or material in accordance with predetermined standards, such as keywords or

domain addresses. Internet service providers (ISPs), authorities, or businesses can filter content.

b. Legal Measures: Governments have the power to enact legislation that makes some internet behaviours illegal, including the dissemination of unlicensed content and the expression of hate speech. Moreover, anyone who participate in illicit internet activity may be prosecuted through the legal system.

c. Content Removal: Removing or deleting information that is judged offensive or harmful is referred to as content removal. The removal of content that transgresses the community standards of social media platforms is frequently done using this method.

d. Surveillance: Monitoring internet activity to spot any unlawful or dangerous information or activity is surveillance. For the sake of national security, governments and organisations frequently employ surveillance to track internet traffic.

e. Self-censorship: Self-censorship is the voluntary restriction of internet information by people or organisations in order to steer clear of conflict or negative legal consequences.

f. Website Blocking: Preventing access to entire websites or online services, sometimes based on their IP addresses, is known as website blocking. Governments frequently employ this technique to prohibit websites that are deemed dangerous or unlawful.

g. Domain Name System (DNS) blocking: DNS blocking includes denying access to a certain domain name, preventing visitors from visiting the related website. Governments frequently employ this technique to restrict access to websites that they see as dangerous or unlawful.

V. Implications for society and politics about the need for internet censorship:

Controlling and censoring the internet has broad social and political ramifications. Consider the following hypothetical consequences:

- a. Effect on freedom of expression:** Internet censorship and control can curtail the capacity of people and groups to express themselves freely by preventing them from exchanging idea and information. As it may stifle criticism and restrict the free interchange of ideas, this may have a substantial effect on democratic society.
- b. Implications of Human Rights:** Human rights may be affected by internet regulation and censorship, including the freedom of association and the right to privacy. Internet filtering can occasionally be used as a tactic of repression by governments to track and regulate online activity of their citizens.
- c. Impact on marginalized groups:** Marginalized populations may be disproportionately impacted by internet filtering, including minority communities and political dissidents. Their capacity to organise and communicate online may be restricted as a result, further excluding them from society.
- d. Effect on international relations:** Because various nations may take different techniques to controlling the flow of information online, internet control and censorship may have an impact on international relations. This may hinder cross-border communication between people and groups or result in international disputes.
- e. Challenges for technology companies:** Technology companies that operate online platforms may be required to comply with internet control and censorship laws in different countries. This can create challenges for these companies, as they may need to balance their obligations to comply with local laws with their commitment to free expression and user privacy.

Overall, the social and political implications of internet control and censorship are complex and multifaceted, and require careful consideration in order to balance the competing interests of different stakeholders.

VI. Risks and Consequences Relating to the Need for Internet Censorship:

The necessity for internet censorship or control may have a variety of hazards and impacts on people as well as society at large. The following are a few of the most important dangers and effects:

- a. Restriction of Free Speech:** The use of internet censorship or control measures can restrict the freedom of communication. This could chill people and make them less likely to voice their opinions online.
- b. Effects on Innovation and Creativity:** Internet restriction or control can restrict the exchange of ideas and information, which inhibits innovation and creativity. Economic development and growth may be harmed by this.
- c. Privacy Concerns:** The implementation of internet control or censorship can involve surveillance, which raises concerns about privacy violations. Individuals may feel uncomfortable knowing that their online activities are being monitored.
- d. Limited Access to Information:** Internet control or censorship can limit access to information, which can have detrimental effects on individuals and society. It can limit the ability to learn, make informed decisions, and participate in democratic processes.
- e. Unequal Access:** Internet control or censorship can lead to unequal access to information and opportunities, particularly for marginalized groups. This can further perpetuate existing social and economic inequalities.
- f. Loss of Trust:** Internet control or censorship can lead to a loss of trust in governments, organizations, and other entities involved in implementing it. This can harm social cohesion and undermine the legitimacy of the authorities.
- g. Threat to Human Rights:** The implementation of internet control or censorship can threaten human rights, including freedom of expression,

privacy, and access to information. This can undermine the rule of law and harm democratic principles.

VII. Future Implications on Need of Internet Control and Censorship

The need for internet control and censorship is a topic of on-going debate and its future implications are uncertain. Here are some potential scenarios:

- a. Increased Government Control:** Governments may increase their control over the internet in order to maintain social stability, prevent terrorism or cyber-attacks, and protect national security. This could lead to more censorship of online content, monitoring of online activities, and even the blocking of certain websites or applications.
- b. Corporate Control:** Private corporations may also seek to control the internet for their own financial gain. They may push for stricter copyright laws, use data mining to target advertising more effectively, and block access to websites or services that compete with their own.
- c. Global Standards:** As the internet continues to grow and evolve, there may be a push for global standards to govern online activities. This could lead to a more uniform approach to internet control and censorship across different countries and regions.
- d. Technology Developments:** Advancements in technology, such as the emergence of block chain and decentralized systems, may make it more difficult for governments or corporations to control the internet. This could lead to a more open and decentralized internet, where users have greater freedom to access and share information.

Ultimately, the future implications of internet control and censorship depend on a variety of factors, including geopolitical trends, technological advancements, and social and cultural attitudes towards the internet. It is likely that there will

continue to be on-going debate and discussion around these issues in the years to come.

VIII. Public Survey:

We first conducted a poll of people through Google form creator and data collection service to acquire information regarding people's awareness.

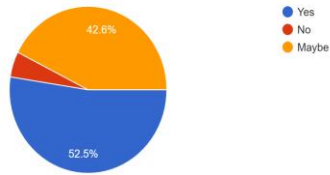
Questionnaire

- Should the government have the power to control and censor internet content?
- Do you believe that censorship is necessary to prevent the spread of false information and hate speech?
- How much do you agree that the internet should be more strictly controlled to limit access to harmful content?
- How much do you trust that the government or social media companies will use their censorship powers responsibly?
- Which types of content do you think should be censored or controlled on the internet?
- Which of the following best describes the impact of internet control and censorship on online communities?
- Which of the following is a potential benefit of Internet control and censorship?
- Should online anonymity be allowed, or should individuals be required to use their real identities online?
- Do you think that internet censorship and control can be used as a tool for political propaganda or to suppress dissenting voices?
- Should individuals or organizations be allowed to bypass internet censorship and access restricted content?

Results

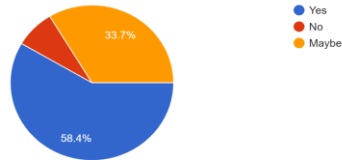
1) Should the government have the power to control and censor internet content?

Should the government have the power to control and censor internet content?
101 responses



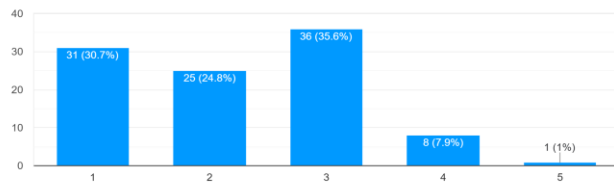
2) Do you believe that censorship is necessary to prevent the spread of false information and hate speech?

Do you believe that censorship is necessary to prevent the spread of false information and hate speech?
101 responses



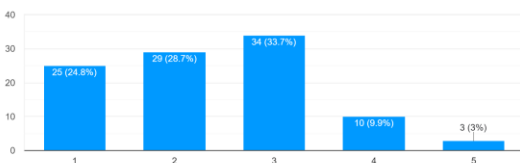
3) How much do you agree that the internet should be more strictly controlled to limit access to harmful content?

How much do you agree that the internet should be more strictly controlled to limit access to harmful content?
101 responses



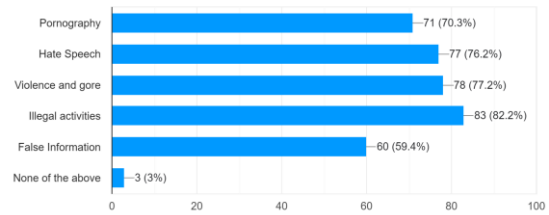
4) How much do you trust that the government or social media companies will use their censorship powers responsibly?

How much do you trust that the government or social media companies will use their censorship powers responsibly?
101 responses



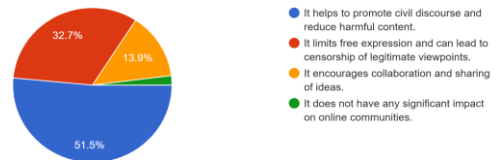
5) Which types of content do you think should be censored or controlled on the internet?

Which types of content do you think should be censored or controlled on the internet?
101 responses



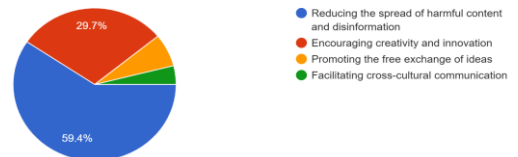
6) Which of the following best describes the impact of internet control and censorship on online communities?

Which of the following best describes the impact of Internet control and censorship on online communities?
101 responses



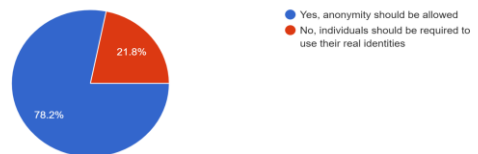
7) Which of the following is a potential benefit of Internet control and censorship?

Which of the following is a potential benefit of Internet control and censorship?
101 responses



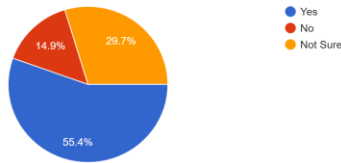
8) Should online anonymity be allowed, or should individuals be required to use their real identities online?

Should online anonymity be allowed, or should individuals be required to use their real identities online?
101 responses



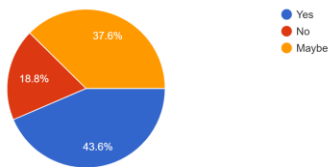
9) Do you think that internet censorship and control can be used as a tool for political propaganda or to suppress dissenting voices?

Do you think that Internet censorship and control can be used as a tool for political propaganda or to suppress dissenting voices?
101 responses



10) Should individuals or organizations be allowed to bypass internet censorship and access restricted content?

Should individuals or organizations be allowed to bypass internet censorship and access restricted content?
101 responses



1.2. Descriptive Statistics:

Descriptive statistics is means of describing features of a data set by generating summaries about data samples. Here are some results which will helps us in finding the actual response of people.

1) Should the government have the power to control and censor internet content?	
Mean	0.90099
Standard Error	0.096212278
Median	4
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	0.995227547
Sample Variance	0.99047787
Kurtosis	0.829335887
Skewness	-1.013724241
Range	4
Minimum	1
Maximum	5
Sum	429
Count	107

2) Do you believe that censorship is necessary to prevent the spread of false information and hate speech?	
Mean	4.009345794
Standard Error	0.096212278
Median	4
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	0.995227547
Sample Variance	0.99047787
Kurtosis	0.829335887
Skewness	-1.013724241
Range	4
Minimum	1
Maximum	5
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Count	107

3) Should online anonymity be allowed, or should individuals be required to use their real identities online?	
Mean	4.009345794
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Median	4
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Standard Deviation	0.995227547
Sample Variance	0.99047787
Kurtosis	0.829335887
Skewness	-1.013724241
Range	4
Minimum	1
Maximum	5
Sum	429
Count	1

4)Do you think that Internet censorship and control can be used as a tool for political propaganda or to suppress dissenting voices?	
Mean	4.009345794
Standard Error	0.096212278
Median	4
Mode	4
Standard Deviation	0.995227547
Sample Variance	0.99047787
Kurtosis	0.829335887
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IX. Findings

- As per survey, internet has been influencing among every generation but the respondents were mostly of the younger generations among them 50% of the users shows a positive sign about giving the control of internet to the government whereas 50% users were unsure of the decision.
- In aspect to the survey, spreading the way of false information and disrespecting anonymous users with hate speech has been a huge scale leading to some personal loss and property as 50% of the respondents believes in monitoring of internet and the other half still are not convinced about the technique of censorship.
- In a wide pool of network resources, now-a-days most of the users make use of their anonymous account to communicate with other users over the internet as most of the respondents were in favour of the anonymity as of not sharing their real identity.
- As most of the respondents were in favour of censorship can be a useful aspect of tool for political propaganda and can be a factor for dissenting voices

- In short, Internet can be a boon or a curse to any organization or an individual depending on their choice of use as some inappropriate websites need to be censored based on their trade of information depending on the influence for the society.

X. Conclusion

The internet has brought numerous benefits to society, but it has also raised concerns regarding control and censorship. While some argue that internet control and censorship are necessary to protect individuals and society from harm, others argue that it infringes on people's freedom of speech and expression. Governments, organizations, and individuals can implement various types of internet control and censorship, such as filtering, legal measures, content removal, surveillance, self-censorship, website blocking, and DNS blocking. Ultimately, the type of control or censorship implemented should balance the need for protection with individuals' fundamental rights and freedoms.

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