

CENSORSHIP

EXAMINING REGULATION AND SECURITY OVER CHILD-TARGETED DIGITAL CONTENT

CHILD-TARGETED ADVERTISING

In September 2019, the **Federal Trade Commission** fined Google **\$170 million** following the agency's investigation into YouTube over **violations of a children's privacy law**.

The settlement requires Google set new policies **requiring creators to label content intended for younger audiences** and halting the data collection on videos targeting minors.

In January 2020, Youtube set new policies that **targeted ads will now be restricted from running on kids' videos**, and kids' videos will **lose access to comments** and some other community features

“ It is estimated that advertisers spend more than \$12 billion per year to reach the youth market and that children view more than 40,000 commercials each year. ”

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

“ Research indicates clearly that advertising exerts substantial influence on children's attitudes and behaviors, and these effects go well beyond moving product desire from one brand to another. ”

AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

LOOPHOLES & PREVALENCE

“ Among parents of 13- to 17-year-olds, 94% own a desktop or laptop computer; 76% own a smartphone; 72% use Facebook; and 84% go online at least occasionally using a smartphone, tablet or device. ”

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Many parents face the challenge of how to monitor their child's behavior, interactions and time spent in online spaces. **Parents today report taking a number of steps to influence their child's digital behavior.**

Technology plays a **central role in the way that teens connect and engage with both friends and romantic partners**. Thus, the parental threat to take away digital devices is a potentially potent form of punishment.

With an increases in prevalence of digital devices; and modernization of technology, users have **various options to regulate content in the settings** of a whole device, or within a specific application

“ Parents of younger teens (ages 13-14) are much more likely to say they limit how long or when their teen can go online – 69% have done so, compared with 46% of parents of 15- to 17-year-olds. ”

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Different techniques and resources are used to bypass Internet censorship, including **proxy websites, virtual private networks, the dark web** and circumvention software tools.

There are risks to using circumvention software or other methods to bypass Internet censorship. Individuals that gain access to otherwise restricted content may be **violating the law and if caught can be jailed, or other punishments**.

NAVIGATING OPTIONS

- * Set age regulations
- * Launch website blockers
- * Know the loopholes

GOVERNMENT CENSORSHIP

Direct censorship of the internet is prohibited by the First Amendment with the exception of obscenity. Several acts were attempted to further regulate such obscenity and children's ability to access such material, but were then found unconstitutional as they overstepped their bounds.

Two acts were the Communications Decency Act of 1996 and the Child Online Protection Act of 1998. Other similar acts were passed including the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 2000 and the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000, protecting the privacy of minors online and requiring K-12 schools receiving Federal assistance for Internet access to restrict minor's access to unsuitable material.

A 2003 study "found that blocking software overblocked state mandated curriculum topics extensively for every web page correctly blocked as advertised, one or more was blocked incorrectly."

ONLINE POLICY GROUP AND ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION

WHAT IS THE RIGHT THING ?

Do kids need government censors?
Am I being a good parent?
How vulnerable are children online?
Should I be cautious over my online access?
Should the government be responsible for child censorship?
Should the parent have responsibility?
How will content be determined as censored?
Should a single algorithm constitute what's safe/isn't safe for children?
Should we control what kid's see or monitor?
Why should content be censored for kids?
What right does the government have to determine what my kids can/can't see?
What's the relationship between censorship and free expression?
What rights do minors have regarding free speech?
How far is too far?

HAVE THE CONVERSATION OVER THE PROPER ACTION TO PROTECT KIDS ONLINE