

EFF issues

1) What is critical to sustaining free speech?

Preserving the internet's open architecture

2) What is Anonymity?

Anonymity is a shield from the tyranny of the majority. It thus exemplifies the purpose behind the Bill of Rights and of the First Amendment in particular: to protect unpopular individuals from retaliation at the hand of an intolerant society.

3) What are the rights of a blogger?

Bloggers are entitled to free speech.

Bloggers have the right to political speech.

Bloggers have the right to stay anonymous.

Bloggers have freedom from liability for hosting speech the same way other web hosts do

4) What is CyberSLAPP?

CyberSLAPP are cases that involve defending people's rights to remain anonymous when they post comments on message boards, as well as making sure that anonymous speakers' due process rights are accepted.

5) What is fair use?

That's what the courts call when you quote someone on your blog, insert clips of CNN into your own video news report, or using a song sample in a music parody, your free speech often depends on incorporating and referencing other people's creations as part of your own.

6) What is innovation?

Innovation is a new way of doing something or new stuff that is made useful.

7) Explain "accessibility for the reading disabled".

New technology has the potential to dramatically improve the lives of those with reading disabilities -- including the blind and profoundly dyslexic, and those with spinal injuries. Information in electronic formats can be made accessible using technologies like text-to-speech and refreshable Braille, opening up whole new worlds to people who have previously been unable to access information.

8) What is broadcast flag?

Today, you can use any device you like with your television: VCR, TiVo, DVD recorder, home theater receiver, or a PC combining these functions and more. But if the broadcast flag mandate is passed, Hollywood and federal bureaucrats will get a veto over innovative devices and legitimate uses of recorded programming.

9) What is Coder's right project?

EFF's Coders' Rights Project protects programmers and developers engaged in cutting-edge exploration of technology in our world. Security and encryption researchers help build a safer future for all of us using digital technologies, yet too many legitimate researchers face serious legal challenges that prevent or inhibit their work.

10) What is digital rights management?

Major entertainment companies are using "digital rights management," or DRM (aka content or copy protection), to lock up your digital media. These DRM technologies do nothing to stop copyright pirates, but instead end up interfering with fans' lawful use of music, movies, and other copyrighted works. DRM can prevent you from making back ups of your DVDs and music downloaded from online stores, recording your favorite TV programs, using the portable media player of your choice, remixing clips of movies into your own home movies, and much more.

11) What is net neutrality?

Net Neutrality is a principle proposed for user access networks participating in the Internet that advocates no restrictions on content, sites, or platforms, on the kinds of equipment that may be attached, and on the modes of communication allowed, as well as communication that is not unreasonably degraded by other traffic.

12) What is a patent?

A patent is a set of exclusive rights granted by a state (national government) to an inventor or their assignee for a limited period of time in exchange for a public disclosure of an invention

13) What is trusted computing?

Trusted computing" initiatives propose to solve some of today's security problems through hardware changes to the personal computer. Changing hardware design isn't inherently suspicious, but the leading trusted computing proposals have a high cost: they provide security to users while giving third parties the power to enforce policies on users' computers against the users' wishes -- they let others pressure you to hand some control over your PC to someone else.

14) What is intellectual property?

Intellectual property is a term referring to a number of distinct types of legal monopolies over creations of the mind, both artistic and commercial, and the corresponding fields of law.

15) What is digital radio?

Digital radio describes radio technologies which carry information as a digital signal, by means of a digital modulation method.

16) What is digital video?

Digital video is a type of video recording system that works by using a digital rather than an analog video signal.

17) What is DMCA?

Digital Millennium Copyright Act, has become a serious threat that jeopardizes fair use, impedes competition and innovation, chills free expression and scientific research, and interferes with computer intrusion laws.

18) What is File sharing?

File sharing is the practice of distributing or providing access to digitally stored information, such as computer programs, multi-media (audio, video), documents, or electronic books.

19) What is Terms of Use/Service?

Using a TOS, online service providers can dictate their legal relationship with users through private contracts, rather than rely on the law as written. In the unregulated and unpredictable world of the Internet, such arrangements often provide the necessary ground rules for how various online services should be used.

20) Explain "international".

The Internet is global and so are threats to online freedom. Learn about how EFF is fighting for your digital rights around the world and support our efforts by donating or becoming a member.

21) What is ACTA?

The Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) is a proposed plurilateral trade agreement for establishing international standards on intellectual-property-rights enforcement throughout the participating countries.

22) What is broadcasting treaty?

It is a protection racket for middlemen in the TV and internet worlds

23) What is the development agenda?

It gives WIPO the opportunity to move beyond the narrow view that they and all IP protection is beneficial, and choose instead to act strategically to spur economic growth, foster innovation, and help humanity.

24) What is EFF Europe?

EFF has hundreds of donors and thousands of active supporters throughout Europe. As part of our expanded international work, EFF has been increasing its participation in European issues, providing publicity and logistical support for combating bad European tech policy in co-operation with the many digital rights groups across Europe to fight effectively for consumers' and technologists' interests.

25) What is FTAA?

Free Trade Agreement of Americas IP chapter contains a provision that would require all FTAA countries to ban the circumvention technological protection tools.

26) What is Global Network Initiative?

The Global Network Initiative is a coalition of information and communications companies, major human rights organizations, academics, investors and technology leaders to produce guidance and oversight for companies facing civil liberties challenges in the ICT industries. EFF has participated in the process since its inception, providing technical and policy advice together with other NGO in the human rights

27) What is WIPO?

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the UN agency responsible for treaties involving copyright, patent, and trademark laws. WIPO can be a force for progressive change, helping the world take into account public interest and development needs.

28) What is privacy?

Privacy is a state in which one is not observed or disturbed by others.

29) What is the purpose of CALEA?

CALEA's purpose is to enhance the ability of law enforcement and intelligence agencies to conduct electronic surveillance by requiring that telecommunications carriers and manufacturers of telecommunications equipment modify and design their equipment, facilities, and services to ensure that they have built-in surveillance capabilities, allowing federal agencies to monitor all telephone, broadband internet, and VoIP traffic in real-time.

30) What is cell tracking?

Cell tracking or mobile phone tracking tracks the current position of a mobile phone even on the move.

31) What is a digital book?

An e-book (short for electronic book, or EBook), also known as a digital book, is an e-text that forms the digital media equivalent of a conventional printed book, sometimes restricted with a digital rights management system.

32) What is locational privacy?

Locational privacy (aka location privacy) refers to the the ability of an individual to move in public space with the reasonable expectation that their location will not be systematically and secretly recorded for later use.

33) What is NSA spying?

The U.S. government, with assistance from major telecommunications carriers including AT&T, has engaged in a massive program of illegal dragnet surveillance of domestic

communications and communications records of millions of ordinary Americans since at least 2001.

34) What is online behavioral tracking?

Online Behavioral Tracking is a new web technology created many unexpected ways for corporations to track your web activity without your knowledge. Countless advertising networks are able to secretly monitor you across multiple websites and build detailed profiles of your behavior and interests.

35) What is pen trap?

Pen trap also known as a pen register is an electronic device that records all numbers dialed from a particular telephone line. The term has come to include any device or program that performs similar functions to an original pen register, including programs monitoring Internet communications.

36) What is Real ID?

The REAL ID Act of 2005 is a U.S. federal law that imposes certain security, authentication, and issuance procedures standards for the state driver's licenses and state ID cards, for them to be accepted by the federal government for "official purposes", as defined by the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Secretary of Homeland Security has defined "official purposes" as presenting state driver's licenses and identification cards for boarding commercially operated airline flights and entering federal buildings and nuclear power plants.

37) What is RFID?

RFIDs — technologies that can be used to pinpoint the physical location of whatever item the tags are embedded in. While RFIDs are a convenient way to track items, they are also a convenient way to do something far less benign: track people and their activities through their belongings

38) What are search engines?

Examples of search engines are Google, MSN, Yahoo, AOL, and other search engines record your search queries and maintain massive databases that reach into the most intimate details of your life.

39) Explain "search incident to arrest".

In the United States, citizens are protected by the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution against unreasonable search and seizure. In most cases, a search warrant is required to perform a lawful search. An exception to this requirement is searches incident to a lawful arrest. This is also known as the Chimel Rule after the case that established it, *Chimel v. California* (1969). This rule permits an officer to perform a warrantless search during or immediately after a lawful arrest. This search is limited to only the person arrested and the area immediately surrounding the person in which the person may gain possession of a weapon, in some way effect an escape, or destroy or hide evidence.

40) What are social networks?

Sites like Facebook and Twitter provide users with a place to share personal information with friends, family, and the public — an activity that's proven to be hugely compelling to Internet users.

41) Explain “travel screening”.

Before you get on an airplane, the government wants to sift through the personal details of your life. If the data analysis says you're a security risk, too bad -- you may have no way of challenging the error. Worse still, that black mark could follow you for the rest of your life, and there may be little stopping the government from using your data for purposes far outside of travel screening.

42) What is transparency?

Transparency, as used in the humanities and in a social context more generally, implies openness, communication, and accountability. It is a metaphorical extension of the meaning a "transparent" object is one that can be seen through. Transparent procedures include open meetings, financial disclosure statements, the freedom of information legislation, budgetary review, audits, etc.

43) What is E-voting?

Electronic voting is a term encompassing several different types of voting, embracing both electronic means of casting a vote and electronic means of counting votes.

44) What is FOIA Litigation for Accountable Government (FLAG)?

EFF's FOIA Litigation for Accountable Government (FLAG) Project aims to expose the government's expanding use of new technologies that invade Americans' privacy. Through Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, the project helps to protect individual liberties and hold the government accountable.

45) What is “test your ISP”?

The Test Your ISP project previously released a much simpler piece of software called pcapdiff. Pcapdiff is a simple command line tool that lets you compare "pcap" packet captures from either end of an Internet communication; it reports when packets are dropped and spoofed between the endpoints ("pcap" packet captures can be recorded with standard packet sniffing tools like tcpdump and Wireshark). Running tests with pcapdiff is a technically involved process; we have a whitepaper outlining the steps involved.