

The Hand book of information and Cyber Ethic

Chapter24: Censorship and access to expression

Amazonlink:

http://www.amazon.com/Handbook-Information-Computer-Ethics/dp/0471799599/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1233037513&sr=1-1

What I expect to learn:

- To know what is censorship
- To know what is access to expression

Quote:

“The benefits we receive from having these interests satisfied (and the harms from not having them satisfied) will not be easily overridden. Second, we have to ask ourselves not what in principle it might be good to censor. We have to ask ourselves what in actual practice would be the consequences of having policies in place that restrict access. It is at this point that “slippery slope” and “chilling effect” arguments might have some force.”

Book Review:

We are now in 21st century and we are now involved in technology. For ancient times, censorship was also applicable. Those who have an authority can order a restriction of a particular issue or event. We are now in the modern times, and we are still doing this act. Of course all of us need privacy. Each individual should be protected at all cost. In order to prevent the exposure of private, the censorship is applied. What is this censorship? Well basically, censorship role is to condemn person's action. In other words, condemn is considering something guilty about a particular act. So in order to avoid guiltiness, censorship is applied.

Without getting clear on what we mean by censorship, this chapter tells us that it is very hard to know exactly what is wrong with a particular act and indeed, it is always wrong. We must find out the real truth about censorship. By finding it, of course, we don't know where to start because it was censored. There is no information about it. For example, there was an illegal transaction between a businessman and a group that sells drugs and it was recorded in the video, it was censored when it was first shown because they don't want to reveal that transaction. When a person who are in the authority who wants to reveal the truth, he/she must make information out of it and try to release this video at all cost. But, the problem is that

it is censored. That's the main point of the problem. That's why it is difficult to release it even if it is an evidence for the case. Without getting clear on what we mean by censorship, it is difficult to get a grip on exactly what is wrong with it, and indeed, on whether it is always wrong.

What I have learned:

- the types of harm and arguments against censorship
- inherently harmful access
- instrumentally harmful access
- creating a market
- hostile atmosphere

Integrative Question:

1. What is censorship?
2. Should censorship be implemented? State at least two reasons.
3. Why are people interested in accessing other people's computer?
4. Give two types of harm against censorship.
5. What is inherently harmful access?