

Cyber Challenges to International Human Rights

Title: A Transnational Business Model to Improve Human Rights, Speech, and Security on the Internet

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Abstract:

At its best, the Internet furthers the commitment to freedom of thought, opinion, and expression in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Unfortunately, the business model of unfiltered communications and inadequate cybersecurity has undermined this promise, creating a tool for hate speech and vehicle for cyber-attacks. This project develops the historical reasons for the current crisis and provides practical business model solutions. The six proposed changes emphasize the ethical obligations and economic self-interests of the ISPs and telecommunication companies to maintain a positive public space. First, use a portal-like system to vet the credibility of the source of content. Second, limit mainstream corporate advertising to vetted sites. Third, incorporate more sophisticated AI software to filter hate-filled comments and malicious software. Fourth, narrow the overly broad statutory immunity provided to ISPs in countries such as the United States. Fifth, engage the financial services sector to refuse to process payments from terrorist organizations, hate groups and their Internet homes. And sixth, incorporate cybersecurity protections and anti-attack filters to make the portals a much safer alternative to other parts of the Internet. With minimal governmental support, these strategies will dramatically improve the experience for most users of the Internet across the globe.