

**Jenna Pond**

**Internet  
Censorship  
and Freedom  
of Speech**

## Overview

1. Central Conflict
2. Background
3. Legal Concepts
4. Ethical Reasoning
5. Computer Role
6. Real-World Events
7. Opposing Sides
8. My Opinion/Future

# 1. Central Conflict

*What is the central conflict to internet censorship and freedom of speech?*

**Central  
Conflict** →

“Internet censorship violates the Internet user’s First Amendment rights.”

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for redress of grievances."

*-First Amendment, U.S. Constitution*

## Central Conflict →

“Internet censorship violates the Internet user’s First Amendment rights.”

- Relatively new and evolving form of technology with many uses
- Place to display and exchange right to free speech
- Magnitude of internet causes discussion of internet regulations
  - Ensuring the safety of minors
  - Policing of illegal activities

## 2. Background

*What is the background related to internet censorship and freedom of speech?*

## Background

- Original use → to serve laboratories in government research
- 1994 → expansion to serve millions of users for many purposes worldwide
- Internet usage increasing rapidly
  - 170% increase from 2000 to 2016
  - 2000: 1,991 million
  - 2016: 3,385 million

2010

2016

Total Internet users: 1,991 M



- Asia & Pacific
- The Americas
- Europe
- CIS
- Arab States
- Africa

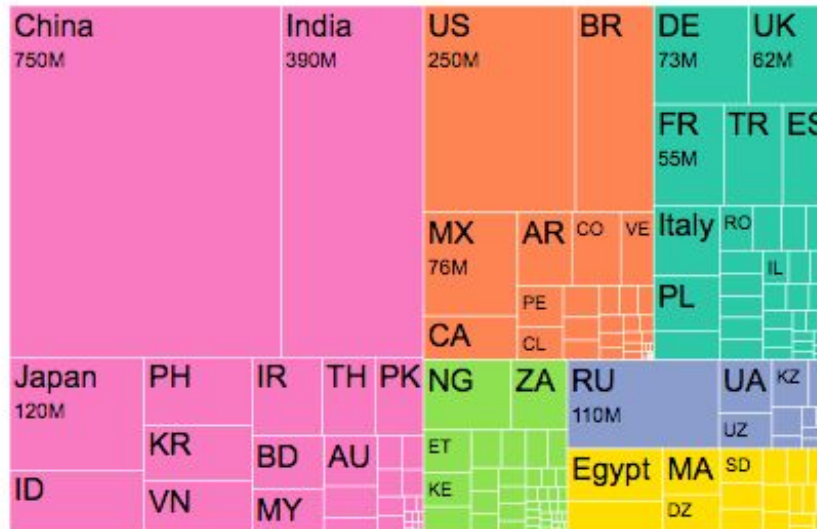
# Background

<http://www.internetlivestats.com/>

2010

2016

Total Internet users: 3,385 M



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- The Americas
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- Africa
- CIS
- Arab States



# Background

- **Recent big evolutions: (1) social web and (2) mobile technology**

## Social Web

- Facebook (2004 creation)
  - 2.1 billion monthly active users
  - Most popular social network worldwide
- Youtube (2005 creation)
  - 1.5 billion monthly active users
- Twitter (2006 creation)
  - 300 million monthly active users
- Instagram (2010 creation)
  - 800 million monthly active users

- Other platforms include: reddit, pinterest, vine, ask.fm, tumblr, flickr, Google+, LinkedIn

## Mobile Technology

- Makes greater reach of internet possible
- Increased number of internet users everywhere

### 3. Legal Concepts

*What legal concepts are related to internet censorship and freedom of speech?*

# Legal Concepts

- ❑ 1986 CFAA: Computer Fraud and Abuse Act
- ❑ 1996 CDA: Communications Decency Act
- ❑ 1998 COPA: Child Online Protection Act
- ❑ 1998 DMCA: Digital Millennium Copyright Act
- ❑ 2000 COPPA: Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
- ❑ 2000 CIPA: Children's Internet Protection Act
- ❑ 2001 PATRIOT Act: Providing Appropriate Tools to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism
- ❑ 2008 TWEA: Trading With the Enemy Act
- ❑ 2015 CISA: Cybersecurity Information Security Act
- ❑ 2015 SAVE: Stop Advertising Victims of Exploitation Act
- ❑ 2017: Net Neutrality Repealed
- ❑ 2018 FOSTA-SESTA: Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act and Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act

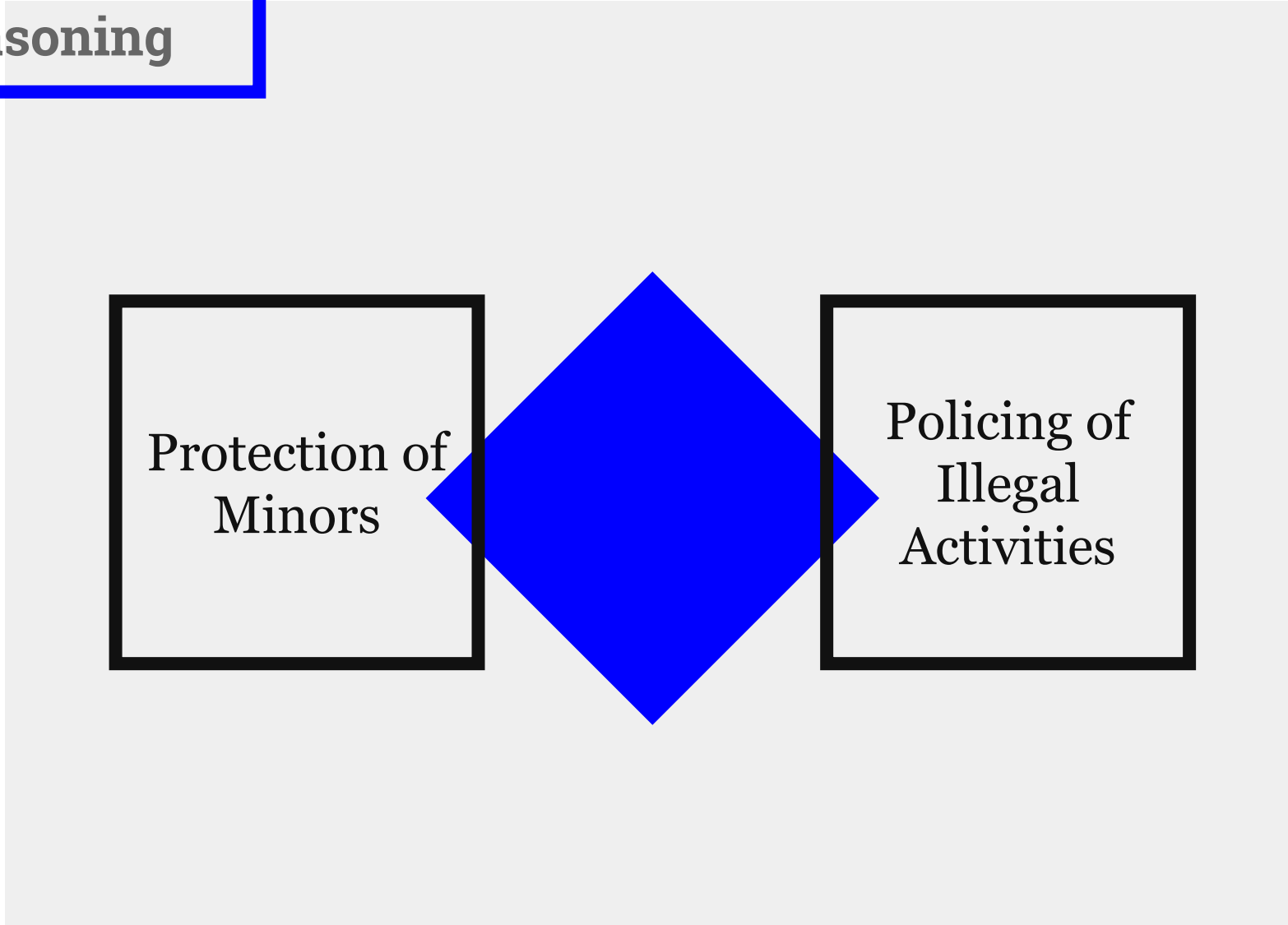
## 4. Ethical Reasoning

*Why is internet censorship and freedom of speech an ethical problem?*

# Ethical Reasoning

Protection of  
Minors

Policing of  
Illegal  
Activities



# Ethical Reasoning

## Protection of Minors

- Non-workable theories
  - Subjective Relativism
    - Internet censorship is wrong
  - Cultural Relativism
    - Internet censorship is wrong
  
- Workable theories
  - Kantianism Categorical Imperative Formulation 1
    - Internet censorship is right
  - Rule Utilitarianism
    - Internet censorship is...?
  - Social Contract Theory
    - Internet censorship is right

# Ethical Reasoning

## Policing of Illegal Activities

- Non-workable theories
  - Ethical Egoism
    - Internet censorship is right
  
- Workable theories
  - Kantianism Categorical Imperative Formulation 1
    - Internet censorship is wrong
  - Rule Utilitarianism
    - Internet censorship is wrong?
  - Social Contract Theory
    - Internet censorship is right
  - Virtue Ethics
    - Internet censorship is right

## 5. Computer Role

*How does the role of computers affect internet censorship and freedom of speech?*



# Computer Role

- Access Internet from computers
- Access Internet from mobile devices
- Software is “computer instructions”



## 6. Real World Events

*What real-world events are happening relating to internet censorship and freedom of speech?*



# Net Neutrality Repealed

- Net Neutrality: the idea, principle, or requirement that Internet service providers should or must treat all Internet data as the same regardless of its kind, source, or destination
- December 14, 2017 US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted 3-2 to repeal
- 83% of Americans do not approve of repeal
- States are already beginning to sign laws protecting net neutrality



# FOSTA-SESTA

- Bill introduced by Representative Ann Wagner on February 21
- Purpose is to prevent Internet sites from facilitating sex trafficking
- Much criticism over the bill
- April 11, Trump signs FOSTA SESTA Bill into law

## 7. Opposing Sides

*What are the opposing sides to internet censorship and freedom of speech?*

## Opposing Sides

- Violates First Amendment rights
- Things you can get on the internet you can get elsewhere
  - Library
  - Movies
  - Television
  - Live News
- Obscene is only an opinion

# Opposing Sides



## 8. My Opinion and Future

*What is my judgement on how internet censorship and freedom of speech was solved and what is the future of internet censorship and freedom of speech?*



## My Opinion and Future

- General intentions of government implementing censorship laws are good
  - How can you handle issues relating to Internet and minor safety?
  - How can you handle issues relating to Internet and illegal activity?
  
- Not done solving issue
  - Internet censorship battle continues
  - The public is reacting largely negatively to new internet censorship news

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