Internet Censorship in the People’s Republic of China

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Most Internet Populated Country

Big Growth Potential
Sustained Growth

Most Severely Censored Country

Largest & Most Sophisticated System
Overview

To maintain its grip on power, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has always controlled all the traditional news media (print media, radio and TV), banning independent news and information and foreign participation.

Overview

The government monitors the Internet by means of skillful mix of filtering technologies, cyber police surveillance and propaganda.

Overview

Government has seen its control eroded by the Internet’s emergence. The Internet is the first medium to offer the public a direct means of expressing itself.

Overview

Censorship hunts down anything to do with Human Rights, Democracy and Freedom of Belief.
Laws & Regulations

There are NO specific LAWS of Internet Censorship, only some regulations that are derived from other basic laws.

Laws & Regulations

No unit or individual may use the Internet to create, replicate, retrieve, or transmit the following kinds of information:

- **Inciting** to overthrow the government or the socialist system;
- **Inciting** division of the country, harming national unification;
- Making falsehoods or distorting the truth, spreading rumors, destroying the order of society;
- Injuring the reputation of state organizations;
- Other activities against the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations.

Opaque Censorship

No specific reason
No transparent regulation
Based on self-understanding
Based on orders from superiors
Sensitive Words

Filtering

The words that the government doesn’t want people to talk about

Sensitive words cannot be searched by search engines (google, baidu, etc.)

Sensitive words may lead articles or comments to be removed

Sensitive Words

**General concepts:** democracy, human rights, dictatorship, communist party

**Events:** June 4, Tiananmen square massacre, cultural revolution, three years of natural disasters, Falun Gong

**Xinjiang & Tibet:** Xinjiang independence, Tibetan independence, Dalai Lama

**Dissidents:** Wei Jingsheng, Liu Xiaobo, Liu Yanbin, Wang Dan, Feng Congde, “Tank Man”

**Politicians:** Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, Zhao Ziyang, Hua Guofeng

**Taiwan:** Taiwan independence, Kuomintang, Republic of China

**Pornography:** Playboy
Machine-Censorship
Websites automatically censor sensitive words while users are submitting articles or comments. Articles or comments may not be posted if they have sensitive words.

Self-Censorship
Internet users replace sensitive words with other words or symbols to avoid their posts or comments being deleted, and other negative legal or economic repercussions.

Manual Censorship
Many websites have a group of people to manually censor the contents of users’ messages.

Manual Censorship censors pictures & videos

Manual Censorship censors specific information of contents which do not contain sensitive words.

Blogs, BBSs, SNSs, and Emails
Censorship does not only include censoring and deleting sensitive information but also include accepting official documents that regard to reprinting specific articles, or unify search results to official websites.

**Announcements:**
- What cannot report
- What should report
- What the headline should be
- What search keywords should be blocked or directed to specified results
- What news should use the unified official articles

China is the only country in the world to have tens of thousands of cyber-police. They have had special sections in every local Public Security Bureau for the past few years. Their activities are a well-kept state secret.

They monitor the speech in Internet, trace and arrest people who publish sensitive speeches.

**Coffee time**

**Jailed**
“50 Cent Party”

Officially designed as Internet commentator. People hired by the Chinese Government to post comments favorable towards the government policies to skew the public opinion on various message boards.

Their role is to steer the discussion away from anti-party articulations, politically sensitive or sensitive content and advance the party line of the Communist Party.

GFW

Great FireWall of China, in reference both to its role as a network firewall and to the ancient Great Wall of China.

The system blocks content by preventing IP addresses from being routed through. It consists of standard firewalls and proxy servers at the Internet gateways. The system also selectively engages in DNS poisoning when particular sites are requested.

GFW

Bypassing:

- Proxy Server
- VPN
- SSH
- PaperBus, Freegate
“Across the Great Wall we can reach every corner of the world”

—— First email sent from China, 1987