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Flash Talk Script

The Internet is a place that is supposed to be available and useable to everyone in the world. Of Course, there is always content online that should not be published. This is when Censoring comes into play. Internet censorship is the control or suppression of what users can access, publish, or view on the Internet, often enacted by a regulator or a government. Ways to censor information can be through either IP address-blocking, Domain name system (DNS) filtering and redirection, packed Filtering, among other approaches. Censorship based on social norms and morality varies according to each country and government. Social filtering is censorship of topics that are placed as unethical by societal norms. Governments can have a right to censor things that harm people with the intent of protecting their people but sometimes governments get out of hand when censoring information.

While Censorship does limit criminal activity, it sets standards for what should not be published, and protects our community from things like pornography, if done by an untrustworthy entity like an authoritarian government, then we may suffer its negative impacts like the lack of freedom of speech, the limited access to information, and we may fall under false news and information placed by our internet provider or regulator. The negative impact of this is that governments may take it too far and use the pretext that something is unethical or immoral and block it to benefit themselves. The report from Freedom House, a pro-democracy think tank, estimated that two-thirds of the world’s internet users are under “regimes” of government censorship and each time governments are becoming less rational when penalizing their citizens. We must compromise when it come to Internet Censorship. Some censorship is ideal but governments should also be required or try to follow some norms to not abuse their power. Vint Cerf’s *The Internet is for Everyone* is a place to start.