Impact of Internet Filtration
Nand Kumar Singh
PHD Research Scholar
Loyola College Kunkuri, Jashpur (C.G.), India

Abstract:
Internet filtration is the control or suppression of what can be accessed, published, or viewed on the Internet. Filtering can be based on relatively static blacklist or be determined more dynamically based on real-time examination of the information being exchanged. There are many individuals, corporations and governments who favor Internet filtration. Internet filtration takes many forms. For example, governments may block regular e-mail services in order to compel citizens to use government e-mail that can be easily monitored, filtered, or shut down. Parents can control the content their minor children access. A university may prevent students from accessing Facebook from the library. An Internet café owner can block peer-to-peer file sharing. Authoritarian governments may censor reports on human rights abuses.

Keywords: Internet Filtration, peer to peer, Blacklist.

I. HISTORY OF INTERNET FILTRATION
As early as the 1990’s when proliferation of the Internet started, countries were already enacting legislation on Internet censorship [1]. The rationale was the desire to protect children, public morals, and public safety and to silence racists and hate speech. Often the real reason was promoting political objectives. Internet censorship increased since 1997 and was marked by disparities in policy, types of governance, and divergent approaches in adherence to international human rights’ treaties, restrictions on Internet access and content affected. Gradually Internet censorship has become more visible, gaining attention from scholars and research institutions in different disciplines including media and communication, information technology, law, political science, and economics. Reports on Internet censorship are also produced by advocacy groups such as the Paris-based Reporters without Borders and the Washington DC-based Freedom House [2]. Internet censorship is complex; it concerns the Internet’s structure and application as well as Internet users’ behavior, state control, and the socioeconomic and political situations of a country [2]. A study of Internet censorship needs to consider the motivations for censorship, concerns for censorship weighed against the abundance of opportunities and benefits offered by the Internet, how it is implemented, who is taking responsibility, means for countering Internet censorship, etc.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW ON INTERNET FILTRATION
Formal, scholarly literature is marked by arguments, concerns, and steps taken regarding Internet censorship. There is a considerable difference between the number of publications appearing in the early years of the Internet and more recent publications (2008-2011) with early days’ output being more prolific. Also, reports are on a limited number of countries only. The Internet can act as a social, cultural, commercial, educational, and entertainment global communications system whose legitimate purpose is to benefit and empower people and lower barriers in access to information. It is the largest global, decentralized communication network with invisible boundaries [3], and owned by nobody [1]. It can enhance the exercising of human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the right to freedom of expression, access to information, right to communication, and the right to assembly [3]. Any person can be empowered [4], communicate instantly with a huge international audience [1], or publish [5]. It is especially important in the academic world [6] and in schools [7]. While governments recognize that the benefits of the Internet far outweigh its negative aspects, they maintain that the negative aspects cannot be ignored [1].

III. ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST INTERNET FILTRATION
As noted earlier the advantages of the Internet and the numerous opportunities offered, as well as the concerns for Internet content need to be noted. The challenge is to grab the opportunities and exploit them to the fullest, while containing, if not eliminating, the threats [8]. Supporters of censorship such as Cohen (1997) argue that information over the Internet is controlled because it carries a certain amount of potentially harmful or illegal content that can instigate criminal activities and terrorism. Johnson (1998) however argues for better training for children and students (rather than censorship) to prepare them to deal with such material. Supporters of censorship also express concerns for cybercrime such as viruses, spying, phishing and botnets [8]. However, those that are against the issue indicate that the primary motivation for censorship is often political [9]. They are concerned about the impact on intellectual freedom [10], and that Internet censorship is often hidden [11]. According to Gorman (2005) any sensible view of the Internet must admit that some sort of censorship or regulation is necessary, and this is put into practice differently by different societies and countries.

The rationale for Internet censorship differs from country to country. Cohen (1997) identified reasons common to many countries:

- National security (information on weapons’ making, illegal drugs and protection from terrorism);
- Protection of minors (information on abuse, forms of marketing, violence and pornography);

• Protection of human dignity (incitement to racial hatred or discrimination);
• Economic security (fraud, pirating of credit cards);
• Information security (malicious hacking);
• Protection of privacy (protection against unauthorized communication of personalized data, electronic harassment, spamming);
• Protection of reputation (defamation, unlawful comparative advertising);
• Protection of intellectual property (the unauthorized distribution of works under copyright such as music, software, books, etc).

IV. CONCLUSION

People have widely varying views about the legitimacy or illegitimacy of these forms. Just as many individuals, corporations and governments see the Internet as a source of dangerous information that must be controlled; there are many individuals and groups who are working hard to ensure that the Internet, and the information on it, is freely available to everyone who wants it. There is a vast amount of energy, from commercial, non-profit and volunteer groups, devoted to creating tools and techniques to bypass Internet censorship, resulting in a number of methods to bypass Internet filters.

V. REFERENCES


