

Mandatory ISP Filter

It won't achieve its stated aim AT ALL

Doesn't protect children from stumbling upon harmful material

A "blacklist" of 1000 to 10,000 is no match for One Trillion URLs, growing by billions per day

Doesn't protect children from paedophiles

Doesn't intercept HTTPS

If it later intercepts HTTPS, Australia's internet banking is at risk of "Man in the middle" attacks

Doesn't intercept peer-to-peer file transfers

The government will say it works

Parents will let their guard down, thinking "The Government is doing my job for me."

Children will be harmed

When the "blacklist" method fails, it will be easy to switch to adaptive filtering techniques because infrastructure will be in place

Overblocking will be out of control

Medical and social support forums will be accidentally blocked because of colloquial language and % of skintone in images

Regular folks will suffer real pain

It's a waste of taxpayer funds

\$40-50m to set up

\$30m per annum to maintain

Money would be better spent on AFP

Every "404 Page Not Found" error will initially be blamed on the filter

IT professionals will waste time trying to "second guess" the secret blacklist

Australia's digital economy will suffer

Australian websites will take longer to load/crawl

Google will give Australian websites a lower Page Rank

It's PROHIBITION

Blacklist is secret

Prohibition always creates black markets, makes undesirable material "desirable"

Blacklist will "leak"

More traffic in undesirable material

RC is ill-defined. Does it include euthanasia? Abortion?

Scope creep is too easy

Special interest groups will turn the blacklist/complaints process into a battleground

Australians will make poor decisions based on only one side of certain topics

Only a matter of time before some future government misuses it.

There is a better way to protect children

In-home filtering software

Not dissimilar to NetAlert
Can be tuned to the age-group(s) of the children

Discontinuing this on 31-Dec-08 without any alternative was dangerous

Parental supervision

Education for parents about "stranger danger" and risks both online and offline

Fewer Aussies will fall victim to scams like "Beijing Olympics Tickets"

It's Bad Policy

Some of us worked very hard to get Mr Rudd elected. He has allowed Senator Conroy to treat us with contempt

It's now very hard to continue as a Labor supporter

Mike Fitzsimon
mike.brisgeek.com