

Advancing Democratic Values in a Digital World

At the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT), we believe in the power of the internet. Whether it is facilitating entrepreneurial endeavours, enabling access to education, healthcare and social development, or creating a platform for free expression and political debate, the internet empowers, emboldens, and equalises people around the world.

CDT is a champion of global online civil liberties and human rights, driving policy outcomes that keep the Internet open, innovative, and free.

CDT is a champion of global online civil liberties and human rights, driving policy outcomes that advocates for an open, innovative, and free internet. As a non-profit organisation, we work to preserve the user-controlled nature of the internet and champion freedom of expression. We support laws, corporate policies, and technology tools that protect the privacy of internet users, and advocate for stronger legal controls on government surveillance.

Based in Washington, D.C., and with a presence in Brussels and San Francisco, CDT works inclusively across sectors and the political spectrum to find tangible solutions to today's most pressing Internet policy challenges.



+ Internet and Technology Policy Advocates in the EU

The European Union exerts influence over the policies of the global internet far beyond its own borders. CDT works actively with the EU institutions, Member States, civil society, and the technology sector to forge outcomes that respect legal, political, and cultural differences while promoting the core values of an open and inclusive internet.

EU Policy Areas of Focus

+ Digital Copyright

CDT supports policies that incentivise and protect creators, without curtailing the unique ability of the internet and digital media to empower users. As the European Commission develops its copyright reform strategy, CDT will continue to advocate for a modernised and simplified copyright framework based on a comprehensive list of limitations and exceptions, and will oppose creation of new neighbouring and ancillary rights.

+ Intermediary Liability & Free Expression

Limited liability for intermediaries has been a fundamental reason for the success of the internet as a platform for commerce, and free expression. Where online speech is intermediated by web servers, news portals, social media platforms, search engines, and ISPs, the threat of liability would create strong incentives for content hosts to remove content, limit access to their services, and restrict ability to communicate freely over their platforms. We caution against attempts to push internet companies to act as extra-legal censors of illegal or undesirable content.

Visit www.cdt.org.

+ Net Neutrality

The European Union is in the process of enacting harmonised rules on net neutrality. The Telecoms Single Market regulation set out the principle of non-discriminatory treatment of traffic, banned blocking, throttling, and paid prioritisation of specific applications or traffic. CDT supported the adoption of the Regulation and is working to shape the detailed implementation guidelines telecoms regulators will use to enforce it.

+ Surveillance & Government Access to Personal Data

Government surveillance programmes and policies must be targeted, proportionate, and respectful of human rights worldwide. CDT has consistently called for a major overhaul of government surveillance practices, and for strong privacy safeguards and effective oversight. We also support reform of the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) system to ensure privacy and enable law enforcement access to data based on clear and consistent processes.



+ Internet Governance

CDT engages in a range of international governance processes that shape the policies and norms for information and communication technologies. We seek to strengthen the voice of global civil society in important governance debates.

+ Data Protection & Privacy

The EU has adopted a new legal framework for Data Protection - the EU General Data Protection Regulation. CDT actively engaged in this process, and published in-depth papers on issues such as the right to be forgotten, pseudonymous data, and international transfers of personal data. CDT has participated in the debate about the EU-US Privacy Shield, the proposed successor to the defunct Safe Harbour, and anticipates continued legal uncertainty about transfer mechanisms.

CONTACT

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