SOCIAL DIALOGUE IN CYBERSPACE

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Abstract

Astonished by this global phenomenon of the Internet, people have begun to argue about how information and communication technologies will shape the world, and, as a more serious concern for many governments, how we could (should) put cyberspace under the rule of law. However, based on intense communications among net users, in the author's opinion, cyber-society might have its own order, although somehow different from the order of the real world.

This thesis tries therefore to answer the following questions: Does cyberspace has a self-regulating tradition? If yes, how was it built? Is cyberspace still capable of making order within itself now? If yes, what is the basis of the autonomy and self-regulation of cyberspace?

Based on the study at the Stanford Program for International Legal Studies, the author found the self-regulating tradition is still alive, despite facing serious challenge, in cyberspace. Therefore, governments should be very careful when trying to regulate the Internet, and sometimes a wait-and-see policy is advisable.
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