



# APRICOT 2019

## APNIC 47



# Internet Content Blocking & Filtering: Challenges and Way Forward (Nepal Case Study)

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# Internet/Content Blocking or Filtering in Nepal



- **In 2005 February**, Then King Gyanendra Blocked/Shutdown all Internet access in the Country for a few days. An ITU study estimated that just 35,000 people were using Internet in Nepal at the end of 1999.
- **In 2010 November**, The Government of Nepal decided to block more than 60 websites containing explicit content and nudity. According to the authorities, those sites were blocked because they violated public decency and courtesy.
- **In 2018 September**, Nepal Government (MOCIT) has issued a notice and ordered the regulator, Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA), to ban porn websites through the ISPs and NSPs by blocking/filtering sexually explicit material.

# News from different Media

https://business.financialpost.com/pmn/business-pmn/nepal-says-it-has-blocked-25000-websites-in-pornography-ban

FINANCIAL POST

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## Nepal says it has blocked 25,000 websites in pornography ban

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BINAJ GURUBACHARYA

October 14, 2019  
8:59 AM EDT

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Comment

KATHMANDU, Nepal — Nepalese internet providers have begun blocking thousands of pornographic websites as part of a government directive aimed at stopping sexual violence, officials said Sunday.

The government issued new criminal and civil codes this year that include regulations against the use, broadcast and publication of pornographic materials with punishment for violators of up to one year in prison.

Min Prasad Aryal of the Nepal Telecom Authority said Sunday that more than 25,000 websites have been blocked under the campaign.

## Official Website of Sex Pistols Banned In Nepal



By Sulabh Shrestha · November 06, 2010

Along with Huffingtonpost.com, Sexpistolsofficial.com fell among the websites were banned in Nepal under the decision of Nepal Telecommunication.

## Porn Impossible to Block in Nepal, ISPs Say



Recently, in a press statement issued by (MOCIT) Ministry of Communication and Information technology has ordered the regulator Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) to ban porn websites.

As per the new Muluki Ain (Aparad Samhita) 2074, it is strictly prohibited to broadcast and distribute offensive sexual content.



## Challenges:

ISPs and NSPs has different types of Challenges, they are as fellows:

- No judicial authorization
- Overarching order from the ministry
- No specific block details from NTA
- Possible violation of principle of intermediary liabilities





When tried to  
open some  
popular porn  
sites its redirect  
to specific sites  
and most of the  
ISPs messages  
display as

# Internet Content Blocking Techniques

- Content Blocking Techniques
- IP and Protocol-Based Blocking
- Deep Packet Inspection-Based Blocking
- URL-Based Blocking
- Platform-Based Blocking  
(Especially Search Engines)
- DNS-Based Blocking



## Way Forward

- Clear rules on intermediary liabilities in upcoming Information Technology Act
- ISPs and NSPs should not have the burden of active filtering
- Blocking and filtering should be based on judicial authorization, not by executive order
- Provision of notice and take down in the law
- Appeal mechanism should be introduced

Is blocking and filtering is an answer when most of the thing is accessible through VPN/ IPFS/ Google translate?

What's your take?





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**Thank you !**

