

Safer Internet Plus

End-user empowerment

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Bits of Freedom (NL)
board European Digital Rights
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European Digital Rights

- Founded in 2002
- Not for profit association, 17 member organisations in 11 countries
- Permanent representative in Brussels
- Bi-weekly newsletter EDRI-gram
- www.edri.org



Digital Civil Rights in Europe

Reminder! Please contribute to the [EU consultation](#) on copyright legislation. The deadline expires on 31 October 2004.

 

EDRI-gram

Subscribe to the bi-weekly newsletter about digital civil rights in Europe.

European Digital Rights was founded in June 2002. Currently 17 privacy and civil rights organisations from 11 different countries in Europe have EDRI membership. Members of European Digital Rights have joined forces to defend civil rights in the information society. The need for cooperation among European organizations is increasing as more regulation regarding the internet, copyright and privacy is originating from the European Union.

News & announcements

EDRI-gram - Number 2.19, 6 October 2004

- [New EDRI website](#)
- [Biometrics experts sceptical about quick introduction](#)
- [Change in Germany's position on data retention](#)
- [7 of 10 NL providers remove public domain text](#)
- [Germany attempts to censor website on censorship](#)
- [RFID workshop FIF anniversary conference](#)
- [EU Parliament Committee approves of Buttiglione](#)
- [Nominations Swiss Big Brother Awards](#)
- [Report about WIPO conference](#)
- [New EU questionnaire on spam](#)
- [Recommended reading](#)
- [Agenda](#)

EDRI-gram - Number 2.18, 22 September 2004

- [Brussels workshop on telecom data retention](#)

Safer Internet Plus

- Excellent focus on awareness raising and end-user empowerment
- More attention needed for transparency and accountability of hotlines, telecom operators and end-user filter software
- Encourage development codes of conduct for schools and libraries, don't forget the workplace

Filtering vs. privacy

- Example NL: school started real-time monitoring of all school terminals. After complaints from students signs were posted 'Big brother is watching you'
- No debate about alternatives: guidance by school staff or fellow students, central blacklisting or whitelisting (only approved websites)
- Both central surveillance and blacklisting generate extensive logfiles, and may violate communications privacy
- Benchmarking: Media Awareness Network (Canada)

Filtering vs. freedom of speech

- End-user filter software often doesn't enable differentiating between illegal, harmful and unwanted content
- Keyword filtering is very crude: may block recipes for chicken breasts and all Swedish websites with nr. 6
- More serious is deliberate blocking of access to medical information, political debate, commercial competitors
- Central filtering by telecom and internetproviders (both websites and spamfiltering) should follow opt-in principle
- Solution: introduce exception to EUCD anti-circumvention provision, allow reverse engineering (as in the US)

Conclusions

- Individual electronic access to information is replacing central transfer via libraries and teachers
- Focus in our knowledge society on debating skills, individual judgement and life-long learning (Unesco)
- This new freedom does not conflict with parental responsibility, but requires multi-faceted approach with personal guidance, moderated chat-rooms, dedicated educational networks and easy and anonymous access to hotlines