



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

SNAP UPSMdate

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UN to Regulate the Internet?

Last week the United Nation's International Telecommunications Union ([ITU](#)) started to discuss changes to a 1988 deregulatory treaty that could place international regulations on the internet. Currently, no governmental body keeps the internet up and running. Instead, businesses and individual groups work together to do so. However, many countries seek to establish ITU control over the Internet.

The new regulations might regulate areas like cyber-security and data privacy; regulate rates, terms and conditions for international traffic and mobile roaming rates and practices; and might give the ITU control over organizations such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ([ICANN](#)). The proposed changes will go up for a vote before the 193 members of the ITU in November. If approved, the regulations would become part of international law.

Many individuals and businesses, including Google, have argued against these proposed regulations. Such groups argue that the Internet is different than the other areas of "telecom" service regulated by the ITU. Many argue that any change, much less radical changes in Internet regulation, would stifle the innovation and economic opportunities the Internet presents to countries around the world. In addition, critics fear that regulations

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would quickly become outdated as technology evolved and therefore stifle technological innovation.

What do you think? Should the ITU be able to regulate the Internet? If so, to what extent?

We welcome your thoughts, please feel free to comment at our interactive [blog!](#)

If you have questions about any of these issues, or if we may be of assistance to you on any other matter, please feel free to [contact us.](#)

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