

Internet Freedoms

The First Amendment of the US constitution protects freedom of speech and press which also extends to internet communications. In 1997 the U.S. Supreme Court concluded that internet and online media should not be regulated any stricter than the print media. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act grants immunity to the platforms on which third parties can post their content, so while private media and social companies should moderate what is being posted online, legally they don't have to as all the charges will be applied to the third parties. However, following the attacks on the September 11th, and consequent adoption of the USA PATRIOT Act Section 215, NSA and FBI do not need permissions to collect business records, which includes private metadata. However, after Edward Snowden's revelation following mass public outrage, USA FREEDOM act has replaced the Section 215 of PATRIOT Act, which ended bulk collection of phone metadata by the NSA, yet they still do collect this information on the grounds of FISA Amendments Act. Following the Capitol Riots of 2021, on the grounds of FISA Section 702, the FBI was able to identify and arrest over third of the protestors based on their metadata, which raised the discussion to which extend does the government "spies" on its own citizens

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Religious Freedoms

According to the first amendment to the US constitution *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."*, *"the government may not establish or favor a religion"*, *"individuals may freely hold and practice religious beliefs, subject to certain limits."* The United States was created on the principles of religious equality, especially given that many settlers were first escaping the religious persecution in Europe. According to the Religious restoration act of 1993, the U.S. government is probated from substantially burdening a person's exercise of religion. However, many states have adopted their own version of the RFRA. The US government, however, may restrict some religious practices which compel public interests such as healthcare, safety and order. Some states embrace their laws based on Christian values rather than on grounds of personal freedoms, banning or restricting LGBT, abortions, disregarding religious discrimination in communities and enforcing religious education in schools

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