Cyberspace & International Law on Jurisdiction

Possibilities of Dividing Cyberspace into Jurisdictions with help of Filters and Firewall Software

by Henrik Spang-Hanssen

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Henrik Spang-Hanssen is Danish Supreme Court attorney-at-law. He has since 1999 done research mainly on Cyberspace Jurisdictional questions at Santa Clara and Stanford Universities in California. The project has since 2002 been founded by the Danish Council of Social Science and done from Europe.

The first chapters deal with the technicality of firewalls and filters on public international computer networks, anti-censorware, censoring and efficiency of filters. The second part deals with public international law on jurisdiction (to prescribe, adjudicate and enforce) and public international computer networks. Further it mentions related court decisions.

Amongst others, it deals thoroughly with the international schism of the Yahoo! Inc. case, which involves a business website accessible in France but made for Americans. A French court has issued an order to Yahoo! in Silicon Valley, California, to reengineer its websites preventing Frenchmen from seeing what France regards as harmful and illegal material on Yahoo!’s American websites. Yahoo! has asked California courts to determine that the French order is not enforceable in the United States. It claims that the French Court had no jurisdiction as the websites is written and stored outside France. Further it is argued that it is technically impossible to fulfill the French order. Thus this case involves problems of the technicality of public international computer networks, international law on jurisdiction, and sovereignty, which are also the main themes of the book.

The book is written in English and contains a large Appendix. Its aim is to bring technicians and lawyers an understanding of the issue.

The book is available through bookstores or www.djoef-forlag

Best regards
Mette Trier
Marketing Manager
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