

## ABSTRACT

The societal models policy makers use in addressing the challenges brought on by new and emerging technologies determine the choice of policy measures – both legal and technological. The research in this work answers three closely connected questions:

- 1) What societal model guides policy makers in formulating policy responses to emerging information and communication technologies?
- 2) How and why does that model fail in addressing the challenges policy makers face?
- 3) Are there alternative models that could improve our policy making process?

By employing policy discourse analysis and de-scripting to both legislation and technology this work shows how policy makers have been guided by an information society model based on a theme of control, and that this model is failing in important policy fields such as copyright and privacy. The main contributions of the work are:

- 1) An analysis of ICT-policy making focusing on societal models and their impact on policy responses.
- 2) An examination of selected legislation and architectures for uncovering underlying societal models.
- 3) An analysis of some breaking points where the societal models used in ICT-policy break down and where these models reach the limit of their usefulness.
- 4) A possible alternative model for policy making that is more aligned with the boundary cases as well as a suggestion of possible emerging discourses for policy makers.

The alternative model proposed by this thesis is one where control over information production, distribution and structure is weak and where the value of information decreases when information is provided in excess. Such a society is termed a *noise* society as opposed to an information society.

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