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## Sri Lankan Internet Related Laws

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In a society people used so many ways & means to express their feelings, fears and aspirations. They used physical and symbolic elements to convey meanings. Cave painting is one method. Historically people developed their devices and this evaluation occurred process of mutual influences whereby social, cultural, economic, political, religious, natural forces affect the means of communication and whereby in returns the means of communication influence shape ideas, values, traditions and institutions. People invented so many devices to communicate. Early inventions created the conditions that made the process of mass communication possible and equally important is the fact these inventions established the early foundation for the current global communication system.

New media is a term meant to encompass the emergence of digital, computerized, or networked information and communication technologies in the later part of the 20th century. Most technologies described as "new media" are digital, often having characteristics of being manipulated, networkable, dense, compressible, interactive and impartial. Some examples may be the Internet, websites, computer multimedia, computer games, CD-ROMS, and DVDs. New media is not television programs, feature films, magazines, books, or paper-based publications.

A generic term for the many different forms of electronic communication that are made possible through the use of computer technology. The term is in relation to "old" media forms, such as print newspapers and magazines that are static representations of text and graphics. New media includes, Web, streaming audio and video, chat rooms, mail, online communities etc.

The problem with trying to define "new media" is that the definition changes every few years. When we go through with the definitions of new media, there are so many definitions.

**(1) *The forms of communicating in the digital world, which includes publishing on CDs, DVDs and, most significantly, over the Internet. It implies that the***



*user obtains the material via desktop and laptop computers, smartphones and tablets. Every company in the developed world is involved with new media. Contrast with old media. See digital convergence.*

*(2) The concept that new methods of communicating in the digital world allow smaller groups of people to congregate online and share, sell and swap goods and information. It also allows more people to have a voice in their community and in the world in general. See social media. (<http://www.pcmag.com/>)*

Castells define Internet is the fabric of our life.(Castells,2001,p.1) It showed how information technology important in present day life. Every people used internet for so many purposes.

Interactivity has become a key term for number of new media use options evolving from the rapid dissemination of Internet access point, the digitalization of the media, and media convergence. In 1984, Rice defined the new media as communication technologies that enable or facilitate user to-user interactivity and interactivity between user and information. Such as Internet replaces the "one-to-many" model of traditional mass communication with the possibility of a "many-to-many" web of communication. Any individual with the appropriate technology can now produce his or her online media and include images, text, and sound about whatever he or she chooses. So the new media with technology convergence shifts the model of mass communication, and radically shapes the ways we interact and communicate with one another.

Castells also used "Internet Galaxy" to define new world of communication. Castells also said the ushering in a new social structure predominantly based on networks, flexible economic management and values of individual freedom and open communication become paramount.

The internet has become important for daily life, education, work and participation in society. A large majority of households and individuals make use of it today. Internet usage increased gradually all over the world. The technology has advanced so fast and has become more and more user friendly; at the same time people around the world have become more and more sophisticated in the use of technology.

Due to the rapid expansion of the Internet common mass get the assistance of Internet more and more in to their day to day life Another significant feature of the internet is not only it has abundant of rewards; it also consists of plentiful of disadvantages also. Advent of the internet create a new path to the criminals to commit crimes. Traditional laws were not adequate to curb these complicated crimes. Hacking, virus, Identification theft, unauthorized access to the restricted information, Trojan, are some of so called sophisticated cyber felonies. The internet is a global network, so its regulation could not be left to the one country or an institute, collaborative effort is a must for prevent the internet crime.

The advancement of technology such as the Internet has provided individuals and organizations with a means to both commit new types of crimes and adopt new methods of requiring crimes. Internet crime is quickly becoming one of the biggest and most threatening problems for both law enforcement and the public at large.

"cyber-crime" has garnered increased attention because computers have become so central to several areas of social activity connected to everyday life, including, but not limited



to, personal and institutional finances, various record keeping functions, and interpersonal communications. Widespread accessibility, the advent of the Internet has further served to facilitate predatory personal crimes and property offenses committed with a computer. Cyber-crime will be the primary challenge for policing in the 21st century.

Cybercrime also define as Internet crime. "The computer is rapidly increasing society's dependence upon it, with the result that society becomes progressively more vulnerable to computer malfunction, whether accidental or deliberately induced, and to computer manipulation and white-color law-breaking. (Weeramantry,1998,p.259)

In Sri Lanka there have been number of cybercrimes reported to the Sri Lankan Computer Emergency Readiness Team and Cybercrime unit in Sri Lankan police. Phishing, Abuse privacy, Malware, E-mail harassment, Fake accounts (Facebook), and Intellectual Property cases reported to the Sri Lankan Computer Emergency Readiness Team. In addition to this E-banking cases, Website hacking, E-mail harassment, Child pornography cases reported to Cybercrime unit in Sri Lanka police.

Most of the cases were about fake accounts in Facebook. But under Sri Lankan law defamation is not consider as criminal offence and it tantamount to a civil matter.

In Sri Lanka there have been four main acts which used in cybercrime prevention.1997 computer crime act was really important. In this act no definition about cybercrime but computer crime is a term used to identify all crimes frauds that are connected with or related to computer and information technology. This act covers a broad range of offences and it can be divided into two categories.

1. Computer related crimes
2. Hacking Offences

In section 3 to section 10 described the key substantive offences under computer crime act. Securing unauthorized access to a computer an offence, doing any act to secure unauthorized access in order to commit an offence, Causing a computer to perform a function without lawful authority an offence, Offences committed against national security and national economy and public order. And also about Dealing with data &c., unlawfully obtained an offence, Illegal interception of data an offence, Using of illegal devices an offence, Unauthorized disclosure of information enabling access to a service also an offense. There is a provision in the act which enhances the scope of Intellectual property provisions contained in the intellectual property act 36 of 2003. An amendment made to the penal code in 2006 introduced an offence requiring all persons providing a computer service like a cyber café etc, to ensure that such a service would not be used for offences relating to sexual abuse of a child.

In addition Information communication and technology act and electronic transaction acts are also specifically deal with internet based crimes. Electronic Transaction act facilitate to formation of contracts, the creation and exchange of data messages, electronic documents, electronic records.

In Sri Lanka there is a challenge in preventing cybercrime. The growth of network-based crime has raised difficult issue in respect of appropriate balance between the needs of those investigating and prosecuting such crime, and the rights of users of such networks. Need to empower the coordination process. Prosecutor, investigator and judges need to work in coordinating manner. Experienced investigators need to deal with cybercrime. Awareness about new media and information technology and the way of the prevention in cybercrime. Sri Lankan legal system need to be modified. Data protection act can be introduced.



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