Cyberspace can be regulated, but at what cost? In our present day, I believe the government will soon put tighter restrictions on the internet due to the issue of cyberterrorism. It has become the most pressing issue for the United States because the State Department feels that terrorist have launched information wars through the dark net in order to recruit terrorists for their fundamentalist groups. The FBI has also launched several investigations into Chinese hacking as well. As the issue of cyberterrorism gets increasingly complicated, we will see the government tackle several issues regarding regulation. Those regulations might include hacking, downloading, tracking, privacy, and the issue of access to explicit material.

            Hacking is a prevalent problem among the United States government. Hacking is a problem because it can compromise a person’s personal cybersecurity. Break-ins happen frequently due to cloud computing. A person can hack your system in a way that is untraceable. It can compromise your identity because hackers can pose as you on Social Media sites. They can also damage email accounts and steal credit card information. The government may have a hard time trying to regulate this aspect of cyberspace because hackers continue to come up with more clever way not to be tracked.  This leads to illegal downloading which is also hard for the government to control or regulate as well.

            Illegally downloading music and movies has become a very big issue in which cyberspace cannot be regulated nor restricted. If you ask anyone if they have watched or listened to illegally downloaded movies or music each one will say yes because each person at some point in their lives have downloaded something illegally. It has become harder to track people who pirate movies and music because camera phones can be sneaked into theaters where they can record and then instantly upload the movie to YouTube, or other streaming services. The emergences of these devices have further complicated the government’s ability to put a stop to piracy.

            Tracking of other people’s devices has become a very controversial activity that the United States government has faced high scrutiny over in the media. The most infamous was the NSA scandal. The NSA scandal proved to American people that their data was not secure and that where they called from can be tracked by the agency. The agency took full responsibility for the tracking when Edward Snowden leaked the information to the public which undermined the security of the nation. But it came at the cost of bringing attention to Americans that the idea of privacy no longer exists in society.

            What does privacy constitute when dealing with Cyberspace? As stated with the NSA scandal being brought to light by Edward Snowden, privacy has become a major concern for Americans. Privacy within cyberspace is important because people have personal information that they want to keep from spreading. Today, pictures and videos that are uploaded can now be used or spread by other people. With all the privacy settings on Social Media we still find that user’s personal videos and photos can be used by third party websites without their knowledge. Personally embarrassing photos that may be depicting sexually explicit can also be leaked on the internet without another person’s knowledge.  This leads to the question of whether or not the government is capable of preventing access to sexually explicit material on the internet.

            The issue of regulating sexually explicit material in the realm of cyberspace has become a very difficult issue to tackle as it relates to government. The issue dates back to the mid 1990’s when the internet was just breaking into the adult entertainment business. The establishing of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 saw tighter restrictions over the access of pornographic material available to minors, but the law was narrowly contested in The Supreme Court because it was a violation of free speech. Regulation would be hard in this situation because the laws run against other laws that grant free speech over cyberspace. With the constant change in technology it would be hard for the government to police sexually explicit material. Many of the laws on the books create a legal gray area, on one side of the spectrum we can keep minors from being exploited over the web but we can’t keep teens from taking nude pics and posting them online because it would be a violation of free speech.