

CI 1516 M Parkes

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Q1:

Q2:

1.) Standardised across formats

2.) Ease of use

3.) Focusing on classifying information, not restricting information

Q3:

No. The content should be treated the same. This will reduce the complexity of the system and help the general public embrace the system.

Q4:

Q5:

A properly designed classification system would mean parents would naturally gravitate to the properly classified content over the non-classified content, because they can be sure that it meets these standards.

Q6:

No.

Q7:

Q8:

Q9:

Q10:

Q11:

Q12:

Q13:

Q14:

The current implementation seems to work well enough. Very little can be done to stop people who are legally allowed to purchase the material from selling it to minors, beyond what is already in place.

Q15:

If the classification rating is available, it should be displayed. Without this rating, the content should be considered "unrated" and the consumer should then make up their own mind as to the suitability of the content for the intended audience (eg children).

Q16:

Q17:

A self-regulated system can work well, as long as everyone plays fair. There are incentives for the industry to "under-classify" their content, eg in the case of a movie, to attract a wider market share, however in these situations, complaints would be lodged and the company could face potential liabilities for mislabelling their content.

Q18:

Q19:

Q20:

Q21:

Q22:

A unified classification system, similar to the one used by film and television would be suitable for most content formats, including books, games, websites, etc.

Q23:

All classification criteria and guidelines should be consolidated.

Q24:

The Internet is just a distribution method and as such, should not warrant any special rules. Prohibited content can just as easily be distributed via optical media, portable storage devices or printed format.

Technically, filtering the Internet is entirely infeasible, without a complete lockdown solution (like the so-called 'Great Firewall of China') and even then, this is easily bypassed with VPNs and other technical systems.

Q25:

The current Refused Classification category is too restrictive and over the years, certain content has received this rating, possibly unfairly.

Q26:

Yes.

Q27:

Q28:

Q29:

Other comments:

I think a self classification system, combined with an Australian classification system would be the best.

Works could be self classified (or left unclassified), and as long as the labelling is consistent, but different from the officially classified labelling, the consumer will be informed as to what they are purchasing.

If the self classification system is similar to the TV classification rating system, with a recommend age range and several labels such as "drug use, nudity, sex scenes, horror, etc" the consumer will be able to determine what is and isn't appropriate.

Ultimately, the consumer would know that this is a self classified piece of content and that the classification may not be as accurate as an officially classified piece.