

My name is Nick P. Bendure and I am a Political Science student at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. I have not only studied this in the course of pursuing my undergraduate degree in Political Science but also from the prospective of a Computer Science and Engineering major. Being a life long consumer of the internet, I think I not only have a small bit of professional perspective on the issue, but one as a consumer as well.

Over the course of COPPA and the various ruling's made by the FTC, I have been in overall favor of the legislation and policy. COPPA has allowed online businesses to provide internet content to children users in a relatively safe and secure manner in accordance with their parents wishes and has not been an undue burden on either the operator or consumers. However what concerns me is the ever increasing appearance of "pass-port" sites which allow users to access many pages with the use of a single login ID. Sites may unwittingly join a network in which the controlling organization may abuse the system and allow children to submit content to the partner who's parents have not given consent. Most major networks using this concept already comply with regulation (MSN) or do not allow children to register (Facebook). This issue should be reviewed for who is at fault if data is collected and operators should be educated if they would or would not be in fault of regulation if this were to occur. Also the inclusion of "child celebrities" and "animated characters" to indicate whether a site should be considered primarily directed at children should be treated with caution. This is again taking the judgment of a site's character into an unquantifiable area and remains very vague. The 20% children's traffic proposition is off mark, but it does take a lead into the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and hope that they have provided at least some small help in this process.

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