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Concerning V-Chips in Personal Computers (CS Docket No. 97-55, FCC 97-34):

I feel that making it mandatory to incorporate V-Chips into personal computers is a bad thing to do. There is a massive difference between televisions and personal computers and how they transmit and receive information. As such, the incorporation of a V-Chip or similar device into a personal computer is not a good idea.

Televisions receive information (data) and then filter out what the viewer wants to see (by changing channels). It is left up to the viewer to make choices as to what he/she wants to watch. A V-Chip in this type of machine only helps the viewer.

In the personal computer (PC), information is received (input) AND transmitted (output) in a variety of ways. There are many input and output devices in a personal computer that work in unlike ways. It would be difficult and expensive to develop a chip that could screen them all.

One of the most common ways that a PC sends and receives information is by connecting to the Internet. A V-Chip or similar device could not filter out 100% of the "bad" content that is on the Internet. This is because the V-Chip is reliant on a "rating system" of some sort. The vast majority of "bad" Internet content comes in the form of World Wide Web pages. These pages can be put into place by the average person AND can be stored on a machine that is located outside of the United States. Only larger organizations located in the United States would comply with a "rating system". The V-Chip would be useless for pages that weren't rated or were outside of U.S. jurisdiction. Plus, there is already software that a consumer can purchase that screens out Internet content effectively. The software actually "reads" the page before it is displayed and filters it accordingly. The makers of these software packages would be severely hindered if a V-Chip or similar device was already in place in personal computers.

In addition, PC's don't have the built-in capability to view television broadcasts. They need to have some sort of "add-in" card that converts television signals into a PC "friendly" format. The V-Chip SHOULD be incorporated onto these "add-in" cards (as they are the devices that actually receive and convert the television signals).

I think that installing V-Chips into "television appliances" is a very good idea. It gives the consumer a good method of screening what they and their children watch on TV. Installing a similar device into a personal computer, on the other hand, is not easy or inexpensive to accomplish nor does it solve the majority of the content problems that are out there.

Thank-You,
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6