

# Who's Afraid of Online Speech? | New America Foundation

By New America Foundation

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Free speech has long been a cornerstone of American democracy, but the ubiquity and intimacy of online content is now challenging our society's once-unshakable belief in the appeal of unfettered speech. In this age of hacks, trolls, fake news, and digital hate speech, lawmakers, citizens, and the tech companies that control our access to the Internet and social media are rethinking how much we should police online content for veracity and for its potential to do harm.

Does the triumph of social media platforms mean we should revisit the protections given to online speech at the turn of the Internet Age? What role should the government play in protecting consumers from disinformation and harassment? Should formidable gatekeepers like Facebook and Google now exercise the type of editorial judgment we expect from *The New York Times* and *Washington Post*?

Join Future Tense as we assess current fears about online speech and the promise and peril of proposals to address to them.

Source: [Who's Afraid of Online Speech by The New America Foundation](#)