Issues In Cyberspace: Communication, Technology, Law, And Society On The Internet Frontier

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How can new interactive communication technology enhance harmonious and functional communities at all scales worldwide? Rapid growth in population and consumption will place unprecedented stresses on natural resources, on the global environment, and on current economic and political systems through the next century. Stable, harmonious communities will be essential for dispersed leadership at all scales as traditional command-type political and economic structures diminish in significance. New interactive communications technology can --and must-- play an essential role in connecting individuals within diverse, dispersed communities. Information Technology Law is the ideal companion for a course of study on IT law and the ways in which it is evolving in response to rapid technological and social change. This ground-breaking new work is the first textbook to systematically examine how the law and legal process of the UK interacts with the modern 'information society' and the fast-moving process of digitisation. To address these issues, this book begins by defining the information society and discussing how it may be regulated. It does not perceive individuals in cyberspace as isolated and passive (literally as "pathetic dot" to quote Lawrence Lessig), but always as active individuals interacting with others in the wider community that has influence on the law, social norms and the market. Cyberspace consists of transactions, relationships, and thought itself, arrayed like a standing wave in the web of our communications. Ours is a world that is both everywhere and nowhere, but it is not where bodies live. We are creating a world that all may enter without privilege or prejudice accorded by race, economic power, military force, or station of birth. We will create a civilization of the Mind in Cyberspace. May it be more humane and fair than the world your governments have made before. Davos, Switzerland February 8, 1996.