

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FN-OMB-IntellectualProperty](#)
Subject: Joint Strategic Plan Comments
Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 12:40:32 PM

Re: Comments on the Joint Strategic Plan

Victoria Espinel
Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Filed via email

Dear Ms. Espinel:

I've watched the internet rapidly become the de facto method of communication, exchange, and information access in my day-to-day life. Increasingly, this has led to alternatives to the internet shutting down (several local branch libraries have closed due to repeated funding cuts, and book and video stores are extinct in my neighborhood, as are several branch banks).

The Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) will apparently chain what has become a fundamentally vital service to an extremely volatile area of law. Long before the internet became generally available to Americans, copyright law was already profoundly complex, with tremendous controversy over what does or does not constitute infringement, and what methods of enforcement are both appropriate and effective.

While proponents on each side of these controversies have presented strong arguments for their positions, both sides also, unfortunately, have strong vested interests, and possess far more technical savvy and resources than I and most other Americans. ACTA would likely turn the internet into a battleground over copyright, with citizens caught in the virtual crossfire.

The potential impact these issues hold for our fundamental rights and livelihoods obliges ACTA to include open discussion and a measure of transparency. Decisions that limit or deny internet service to citizens, or could violate their privacy, should not be made behind closed doors.

Sincerely,
Gary Lange