



MEDIA RELEASE

EFA reiterates concerns about TPP copyright and ecommerce chapters

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As the 11 governments that remain in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) meet on the sidelines of this week's APEC meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam, Australia's leading digital rights organisation, Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA) reiterates its concerns about the TPP's ecommerce and copyright chapters.

The current ecommerce chapter in the TPP will impact negatively on member countries' flexibility to robustly protect individual privacy and security and to establish legitimate safeguards.

The current copyright chapter in the TPP will have serious consequences for access to knowledge, the dissemination of news and cultural exchange in member countries.

In both contexts, the relevant provisions were imposed by the United States, and it is therefore illogical to retain these provisions, which primarily benefit the United States, in a TPP in which the United States is not a member.

EFA Executive Officer Jon Lawrence said, "The United States is by far the largest exporter of ecommerce services and intellectual property in the region. Retaining the current TPP ecommerce and copyright chapters in an agreement that excludes the United States is self-evidently not in the interests of the remaining 11 countries. The only truly acceptable approach to ensure appropriate privacy protections and balanced copyright provisions that promote access to knowledge and innovation in all TPP11 countries is to renegotiate the whole TPP".

Should the remaining TPP countries decide to proceed with these chapters in their current form, EFA calls on the Australian government to adopt the recommendation of the Productivity Commission to conduct "negotiations, as far as their nature makes it possible, in an open and transparent manner and ensuring that rights holders and industry groups do not enjoy preferential treatment over other stakeholders."ⁱ

EFA's previous statements on these issues are available at the following URLs:

- [Ecommerce chapter](#)
- [Copyright chapter](#)

About EFA

Established in January 1994, Electronic Frontiers Australia (EFA) is a national, membership-based non-profit organisation representing Internet users concerned with digital freedoms and rights.

EFA is independent of government and commerce, and is funded by membership subscriptions and donations from individuals and organisations with an altruistic interest in promoting civil liberties in the digital context. EFA members and supporters come from all parts of Australia and from diverse backgrounds.



Electronic Frontiers
AUSTRALIA

EFA's major objectives are to protect and promote the civil liberties of users of digital communications systems and of those affected by their use and to educate the community at large about the social, political and civil liberties issues involved in the use of digital communications systems.

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ⁱ See recommendation 17.2 in: <http://www.pc.gov.au/inquiries/completed/intellectual-property/report>