

From Hong Kong Computer Society

In general, HKCS will support government's policy - not to encourage gambling, but to allow controlled legal gambling outlets. Computer & internet, if they are used as tools or channels for gambling, it should be regulated too.

1. Prevention of internet gambling

In respect to point 22 of Paper No. CB(2)1524/00-01(01) Annex A, we agree that filtering tools are the most effective way to block the access of gambling sites within or outside Hong Kong. We can start with schools, libraries, government cyber centers and all government bureaus and departments.

Later it can be promoted to other companies. We believe that except few companies with business need, most employers do not want their employee to access gambling sites through company internet access.

The last but not the least, ISP should provide this OPTIONAL gambling sites filtering service to subscribers, parents may not want their child to access gambling sites without their guidance.

Legally, people can still access gambling site if no gambling or gambling promotion is conducted. Hence, government should promote gambling site filtering to company and individual as a very desirable practice, but not as a mandatory legal requirement.

The problem of this measure is how to compile a list of hundreds of gambling sites. And this list will be maintained in an on-going manner. Government can take on this task, some ISP and internet tool vendors can also provide this service. Another question is whether there is a single officially endorsed list from government or few different lists provided by ISPs or end users.

2. Prosecution of internet gambling

Accessing illegal gambling web site is NOT a criminal act. Act of gambling or gambling promotion over the internet is illegal instead. Criminal evidence has to be collected down to detail transaction level over the internet. It will fall into the context of the recent Inter-departmental Working Group on Computer Related Crime Report and recent effort of HK Police in computer forensic.

Discussion of mandatory record keeping by ISP and encryption in this recent Report are relevant for searching internet gambling evidence. As stated in our comment on "Inter-departmental Working Group on Computer Related Crime Report" dated on Feb. 1, 2001, HKCS did have concern on how it should be conducted in respect data privacy and actual implementation.

3. Collaboration between Home Affairs Bureau & Hong Kong Computer Society

The association would suggest to create collaborative channels between the Home Affairs Bureau and the Hong Kong Computer Society, especially on the education side. The named two parties could jointly organized some exhibitions and seminars to education the public especially the parents and kids.