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<th>Convergent media and vulnerable values</th>
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CONVERGENT MEDIA AND
VULNERABLE VALUES

Professor Mark R. Levy
Nanyang Technological University and
the University of Maryland
How Can Governments and Industries keep pace and manage Content and Regulations?

Should they try?
Will they be able?
Whose interests will be served?
CONVERGENCE DEFINED

Convergence is the coming together of all forms of mediated communication in an electronic, digital form, driven by computers. [It] paves the way for the development of multimedia products blending text, data, full-motion and sound. - - - John Pavlik
EXAMPLES OF CONVERGENT MEDIA

- **Delivery Systems:** Personal computers, WebTV, "thin panels"
- **Content:** CNN Interactive, *The New York Times Online*, "Interactive radio,"
  Time-Warner's "Pathfinder"
REGULATORY PARADIGMS

- Postal
- Telecommunication
- Computing
- Print
- Broadcast
Sometime in the future, in the context of whatever the home-entertainment center looks like, there will be the ability to go back and forth seamlessly between the TV and the Internet." — Dave Poltrak, Executive V.P. - Research, CBS
SOME MODEST ADVICE FOR INDUSTRY

"Keeping pace" isn't good enough.
Don't believe everything you read in the newspapers.
Study the history of other technologies.
Remember Saffo's 30-year Rule
SOME MODEST ADVICE FOR GOVERNMENTS

- When in doubt, don’t regulate.
- If you must regulate, opt for a “light touch.”
- Always evaluate policies for their impact on “vulnerable values.”
VULNERABLE VALUES AND
MEDIA PERFORMANCE

- Freedom
- Equality
- Order

Adapted from Denis McQuail
"FREEDOM"

Access to Channels

Diversity of Supply

Independent Status
"EQUALITY"

Access for Senders

Diversity of Access and Content

Objectivity of Content
“ORDER”

SOCIAL DOMAIN

CULTURAL DOMAIN
How Can Governments and Industries keep pace and manage Content and Regulations?

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Niching And Cashing
In Through Internet
Commerce & Multimedia
Services

V Balaji
Izumi Aizu