



1987 Membership

While many of our 1986 members have renewed their subscriptions for 1987, there are still about half the individual and corporate members who risk missing copies of this year's planned four newsletters and 1986 Proceedings.

Subscriptions remain at:
\$85 for corporate members;
\$30 for individuals; and
\$15 for students.

Please send your cheques made out to
The NSW Society for Computers and The Law,
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234 George Street,
Sydney 2000

Michael Saunders has been thinking:

Law Council of Australia Affiliation

Most States now have a Society for Computers and the Law. Interest in this area of law, which was recognised as an area of law worthy of specialists in the USA in the early 1970's, would appear to be expanding as the computer revolution gains momentum and the world becomes more computerised.

However, there is no national organisation in Australia to promote the interests of the Societies and computer lawyers.

I therefore suggest the various Societies for Computers and Law affiliate themselves with the Law Council of

Australia and become a sub-committee of one of its business sections.

This would create a national forum and enable at least one meeting annually, in which members could meet members from other States and hear speakers on matters of national interest.

Would any member of any Society who supports a national forum please write to the Editor of the Newsletter accordingly?

Mr. Alan Cameron, the Business Law Section Chairman, has expressed an interest in enabling such affiliations to take place if there is a need for it.

This article is taken from the book of the same name by Walter O'Connor, Vice Chairman International of Peat Marwick Mitchell and Co., New York, published by McGraw-Hill.

Today, a broad array of non-tariff barriers to transborder data flow is starting to show up on the books of some three dozen countries.

Such measures can serve any number of purposes:

- * They may protect the privacy of citizens. In Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg and Norway, privacy laws cover legal persons as well as private individuals, obliging foreign companies to divulge confidential market data.
- * They may aim for "cultural integrity" against subversion through foreign books, motion pictures, advertising and TV/radio via satellite - especially an issue in the third world.
- * They may try to control information affecting the national interest, such as technical, financial and economic data, emergency plans and so on. France, for example, had attempted to restrict international flow of information about natural resources, development plans, government-owned and supported industries and certain economic indicators. Similarly, the discovery that the Malmö fire department's computerised emergency plan operated from a database in Florida prompted Sweden to enact a series of stringent data-protection laws.
- * They may allow state PTT (postal, telegraph and telephone) monopolies to restrict access to sensitive information or to preserve existing cross-subsidies.
- * Finally, they may aim to protect domestic "infant industries" deemed central to future economic development. Thus, Venezuela requires that only locally manufactured computers, software or telecommunications be used in service company operations.

In general, barriers to transborder data flow fall into two categories: restrictions on content and restrictions of conduit.

The main transborder data flow content issue stems from national concerns with security and privacy protection, which have prompted many international firms to restrictions on the types of