

Preface

In March 2014, I had the opportunity to visit Tallinn Law School, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia, as an invited guest lecturer.¹ While there, I was fortunate to meet with several of the authors of the chapters contained in this book. What became clear to me during my visit was that Tallinn Law School is *avant garde* in identifying and addressing legal issues relating ICT and its global applications in eGovernment and related fields. This book was written by a wide range of international Ph.D. students and young scholars who were supervised by Prof. Tanel Kerikmäe and Prof. Katrin Nyman-Metcalf, reflecting the global and integrative nature of the scholarship and academics of Tallinn Law School. This book reflects the authors' keen grasp of the complex technological and legal landscape, as well as their ability to clearly present real-world solutions.

Although Estonia only reestablished its independence in 1991, it has become a leader in eGovernance, and in particular eVoting. Because of its unique position as a relatively small country, establishing itself in the European Union and in the world digital market, it optimized its liveness to swiftly and effectively implement eGovernance technologies, together with associated legal and regulatory schema. Estonia truly is at the forefront of the development of eRegulation, eGovernment, and ePrivacy, in Europe. It has been holding eElections since 2005—the first in the world, and a model for other systems.

This volume of thoughtfully presented and exhaustively researched chapters present both optimistic views of the future of ICT-related technologies in government functionality, as well as often dystopic views of the hazards and potential dangers of the same technologies. The authors carefully lay the groundwork for their discussion (in the chapter entitled, “[The Fragmented Securitization of Cyberthreats](#),” Agnes Kasper gives one of the best accounts of the history of the internet, the world wide web, and cybercrime that I have yet encountered) and methodically reason through the benefits and potential concerns for each topic.

¹ Ms. Powers' visit was co-sponsored by the Center for International Legal Studies, Austria, and Tallinn Law School, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.

What is made clear by this body of work is that ICT and the Internet are rapidly becoming an integral part of worldwide regulation, governance, and business. While the U.S. is perceived as being at the technological forefront of emerging technologies, including e-technologies, the European Union and its more active members, in particular Estonia, is making significant headway into such areas.

This book is a must for anyone working in the legal field of cyberspace. Each chapter is worth contemplating and includes specific recommendations for legal practitioners willing to stand up to the challenges. Further research and regulations are required to enable eGovernance to achieve its multiple goals of accessibility, transparency, and increased participation, while at the same time preserving individual privacy and security. Potential uses as well as potential liability for ICT-based government systems are addressed in this book, and the authors offer specific proposals for ensuring that the rights and privileges afforded by the Internet are preserved without compromise.

Take your time to read these chapters not only for the substantive information, but also to generate new ideas about how to approach contemporary, cutting-edge issues in the Internet era. Then, use this information and these suggestions to make a difference in the world.

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Normative Realities and Trends

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