

The PDF document cannot be downloaded from the IDA website. The error message says:

"Error 404--Not Found

From RFC 2068 Hypertext Transfer Protocol -- HTTP/1.1:

10.4.5 404 Not Found

The server has not found anything matching the Request-URI. No indication is given of whether the condition is temporary or permanent.

If the server does not wish to make this information available to the client, the status code 403 (Forbidden) can be used instead. The 410 (Gone) status code SHOULD be used if the server knows, through some internally configurable mechanism, that an old resource is permanently unavailable and has no forwarding address."

Here are my thoughts on opt-out legislation, which I sent to ST Forum -

I read with alarm that Singapore plans to legislate in favour of an 'opt out' system whereby one has to take the trouble to subscribe to a database to indicate that he does not wish to receive unsolicited mail.

Nobody, apart from the senders, disputes that spamming is a social and economic nuisance. That anti-spamming laws requiring an opt-in system are a hindrance to commerce is a poor excuse and evidence of shallow thinking. It's like saying that media owners like SPH should not charge for advertisements because that hinders commerce!

'Opt-out' is a tool for lazy marketers who cannot think of more compelling reasons to entice people into buying their product or service.

An opt-out law would give legal endorsement to, and will only open the floodgates for, unscrupulous spammers to trawl the net seeking to make a quick buck off some innocent newbie. So what if most of them are based overseas? (We prosecute drug traffickers when they are caught, no matter where they came from.)

The law should not force the innocent public to accept the inconvenience of receiving, or having to make the effort to opt out.

So what if the U.S. has not done it? Singapore has been able to lead the world in other areas, so why not the Internet?

Yours faithfully,

Tan Khoon Whatt

PS: Today's report in Business Time about the misappropriation of mailing lists gives added reason against enforcing the compilation of opt-out lists which can be misused.