

**No Internet 'filtering' in M'sia, Najib proud**  
**MalaysiaKini.com**  
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Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has expressed pride that a recent study on technological filtering on the Internet has found no evidence of this in Malaysia.

NONE“Malaysia compares well!” he tweeted in reference to the OpenNet Initiative (ONI) findings, by the University of Toronto, Harvard University and the Ottawa based SecDev Group.

This was conducted in October and November 2006 on Jaring and TMNet, two of the largest Malaysian Internet service providers (ISPs), and also on Macrolynx, a smaller Malaysian ISP.

“The tests revealed no evidence of filtering for any of the categories tested,” reads the ONI's profile on Malaysia.

However, the ONI study on 74 countries, reported by UK daily The Guardian today, pointed out that the government still has a grip on the Internet.

“Bloggers and independent online news publishers report being investigated and harassed by police on several occasions for posting allegedly offensive or seditious content...,” the ONI stated.

“(The) state frequently runs articles and opinion pieces questioning whether the Internet should be subject to tighter state controls.”

The state also “monitors the content” of websites, said the ONI, citing the investigation against Malaysiakini and bloggers Jeff Ooi and Ahiruddin Atan as examples of official “harassment”.

**'Risky operations'**

It also observed that the Communications and Multimedia Commission Act 1998 “empowers the state with extensive media control”.

Although the government has pledged not to censor the Internet under the Multimedia Super Corridor Bill of Guarantees, the ONI said online content publishers constantly run the risk of violating the law.

NONE“(They also) operate under constant risk that the Act and numerous other laws regulating speech and content in (the) traditional media will be interpreted or amended to extend to Internet publications,” it said.

Last month, Najib had revealed plans to regulate the online media, saying that the government does not want to be seen as “practising double standards in its rules towards print and online media”.



