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Advances in Education, Commerce & Governance

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Preface

During the two years since the initial Internet and Society Conference in 2004 there has been a continued growth of Internet-based technologies and an increased emergence of mobile and wireless high-speed access that allows these technologies to be accessible at anytime and in nearly any place. This development dramatically affects the ways in which we work, learn, communicate, play and even govern our society. The constant availability of information and communication changes our views of ourselves and the social rules that govern our world. We no longer have clear demarcations between work and home or between school and recreation.

The 2006 Internet and Society conference allowed academics, researchers, developers and policy makers to inform and be informed about the latest developments associated with these diverse issues which are united by common technologies and common challenges associated with the themes of Identity (*establishing the identity of digital actors within virtual environments*), Ownership (*establishing the intellectual origin of digital materials*) and Truth (*establishing the accuracy or validity of digital information*). Interdependencies among these three themes as well as issues pertaining to multiple identities, shared ownership and alternative accounts of truth are part of the information revolution facilitated by the Internet.

These key issues and their current state of the art are reflected within this book, which contains contributions from all over world covering the whole range of social and human perspectives associated with these new and emerging communications and information technologies. This book will, therefore, be of value both to newcomers to this area and also to established authorities as a summary of the current state of this important and growing domain.

The Editors
New Forest, 2006

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