

# **Good fences make good networks? The growing challenge of online obstinacy and unauthorized access in social networks.**

**By Jason Schultz**

End-to-end access has long stood as a central principle of the modern Internet. Yet as popular social networks have evolved, many have created insular worlds where private rules apply and outside access is limited at best. When outside people or players have tried to access these worlds, the networks have pushed back both technologically and legally.

A number of recent legal decisions highlight how these networks are attempting to keep user information and activity contained and prohibit outside access and aggregation. This continues the trend toward envisioning cyberspace as "place" where acts of access are outlawed even when there is no consequential harm caused. This paper compares these decisions to similar trends in criminal law toward prosecuting process violations (such as obstruction of justice) and argues that following this trend will ultimately lead to a more regulated and less innovative Internet.