



The Digital World Choice Act

Jurisdiction: The Digital World (www.digitalworld.earth)

Effective Date: December 2024

The Digital World Choice Act

The Problem

Private companies' extranets, databases, and the internet, as it exists today, are broken. For decades, Big Tech companies have controlled social networks and personal data within closed ecosystems, often referred to as "walled gardens." These corporations act as gatekeepers of our interactions, profiting from our data while contributing to societal harm, including the exploitation of personal information and negative impacts on children and society at large.

This centralized control has far-reaching consequences for individuals, entire generations, and democracy itself. It is time to reimagine how we use technology and build a safer, healthier, and more open internet.

The Solution

The Digital World Choice Act proposes to take back control of our online lives from corporate algorithms and create a better, more open internet. This vision prioritizes putting individuals in control of their data, shifting power away from dominant platforms, and fostering competition and innovation.

Key principles of the Act include:

1. **Data Portability:** Strengthening the right to transfer personal data between platforms, including likes, friends, photos, and posts, to reduce barriers to switching services.
2. **Interoperability:** Requiring social media companies to adopt open standards that allow seamless communication and data sharing across platforms, empowering individuals to retain control over their digital presence.
3. **Open Protocols:** Mandating the use of open-source protocols to ensure ongoing, dynamic access to communications and services, similar to how phone companies allow calls across carriers.

The Utah Digital Choice Act

This proposed legislation builds on existing laws, such as the Utah Consumer Privacy Act and the Utah Minor Protection in Social Media Act, to give consumers more control over their data.

Currently, Utah guarantees the right to data portability, but social media companies often limit the ability to transfer all collected data, such as likes, friends, photos, and posts. This creates high switching costs, effectively locking users into a single platform.

The Digital World Choice Act strengthens the right to data portability by requiring social media companies to:

- Allow users to transfer all their data seamlessly between platforms.
- Adopt open standards for interoperability, enabling ongoing communication and data sharing across services.

By mandating open-source protocols, the Act ensures that individuals can dynamically access their data and communicate freely with users on other platforms. This approach mirrors the way phone companies were once required to enable cross-carrier communication, unlocking competition and empowering consumers.

The Vision

The Digital World Choice Act aims to reclaim freedom from Big Tech by creating a digital ecosystem that prioritizes individual rights, fosters competition, and ensures a healthier, more open internet. By putting people back in control of their data and interactions, this legislation paves the way for a digital world that respects privacy, freedom, and innovation.