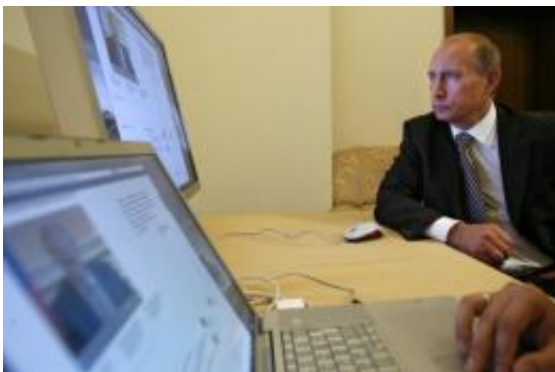


# New Russia internet law deemed censorship by critics

July 30 2012

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Russian President Vladimir Putin looks at a computer in his office in Moscow in 2008. A new law seeking to protect minors from internet sites with harmful content comes into force in Russia on Monday amid criticism that it is a veiled move to increase censorship in the country.

A new law seeking to protect minors from internet sites with harmful content comes into force in Russia on Monday amid criticism that it is a veiled move to increase censorship in the country.

Under the law, which was approved by both houses of parliament in July, websites containing illegal "dangerous content" will be blacklisted on a federal register and forced to close.

Officially, the aim is to protect young people from sites that feature child pornography, promote drugs or offer tips for committing suicide

but [observers](#) say the legislation is another step towards greater control over the population by President [Vladimir Putin](#) since his return to power in May.

In less than three months, parliament has adopted a series of laws labelled oppressive by the opposition.

They include the strict monitoring of political NGOs benefiting from foreign funding and heavy fines for anyone who organises unauthorised demonstrations.

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