

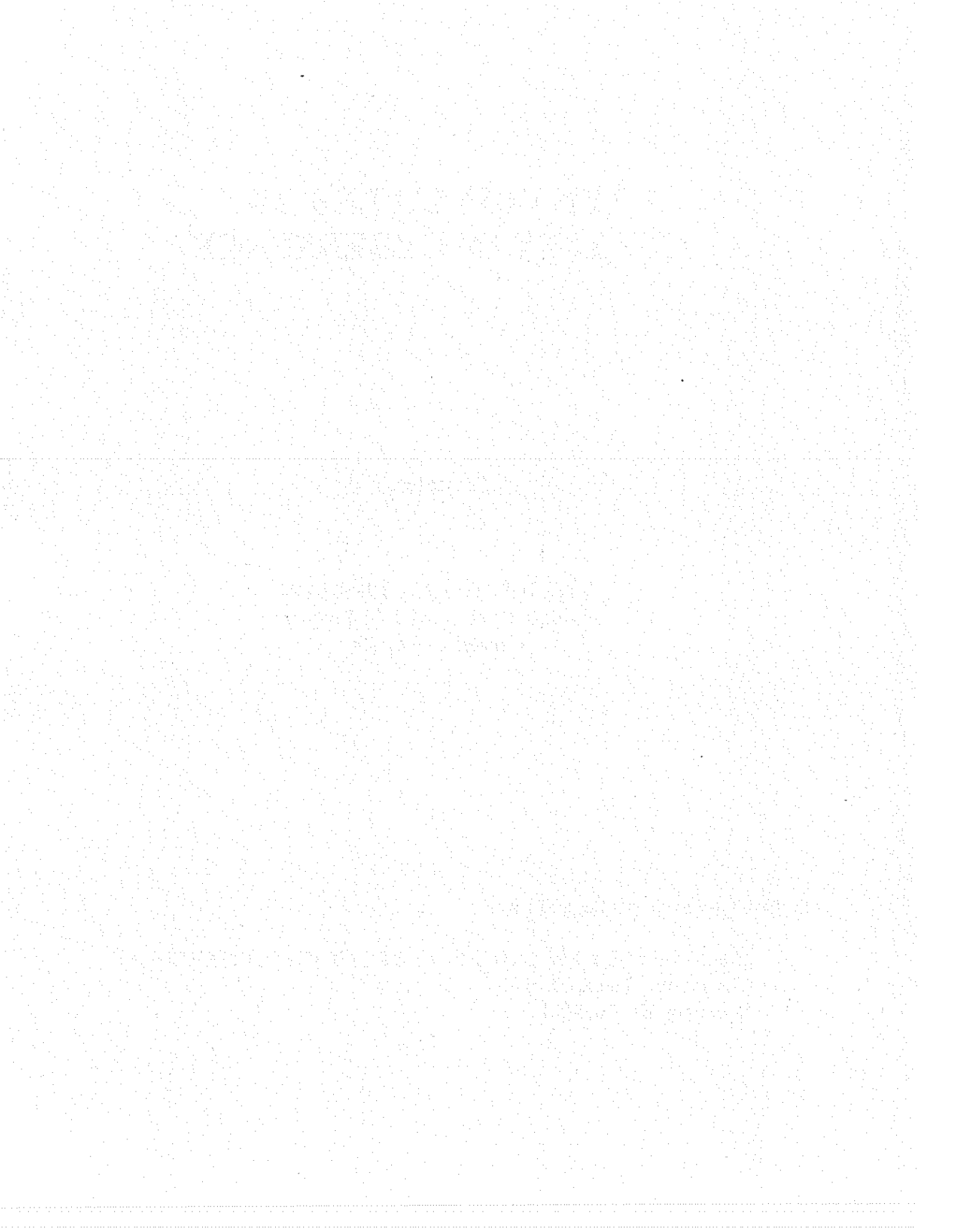
# **TEN PRINCIPLES OF CIVILITY IN CYBERSPACE**

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## The Ten Principles

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### Ten Principles of Civility in Cyberspace

by Marjorie Hodges and Gary Pavela

1. **Promote Human Dignity.**  
The Internet is a human institution, designed to enhance the growth and development of human beings. Every person using the Internet should be treated in ways that respect human dignity.
2. **Uphold the Right to Privacy.**  
Privacy is a component of human dignity. In addition to adhering to pertinent laws, those using the Internet have an ethical responsibility to respect the reasonable privacy of others.
3. **Foster Understanding and Empathy.**  
Human beings make mistakes and have shortcomings. They are accountable for their actions and should be treated with empathy and courtesy.
4. **Know the Limitations of the Medium.**  
Communication on the Internet is not designed to replicate or replace the full range of human interaction. Some direct and subtle attributes of communication are lost in the medium. Anger, hostility, or sarcasm should not be readily assumed or inferred. If they are evident, they are usually best defused by reason, persuasion, and compassion.
5. **Protect Freedom of Expression.**  
The lawful expression of an idea should not be disrupted or censored. Those who have a better option, enhanced by the power of the Internet itself: The dissemination of information.
6. **Respect the Work of Others.**  
The lawful work of others should not be disrupted, altered, damaged, destroyed, or plagiarized. Nor should the work of others be used without proper attribution. Those who steal or plagiarize others' work are not only unethical but also illegal.

Internet should state how it might be distributed by others. If there is a doubt,

7. **Protect and Preserve Network Resources.**  
The Internet is supported by values and virtues that promote individual freedom including self-restraint in the interest of others. The resources of the Internet must be enhanced, and shared
8. **Welcome Newcomers.**  
The Internet is a forum for democracy. New members should be welcomed, and
9. **Discuss and Define Community Standards.**  
The Internet is a large community composed of many smaller communities. The Internet has a responsibility to discuss, define and disseminate reasonable standards to its members. Members of Internet communities have a responsibility to learn, improve pertinent community standards and protocols.
10. **Help Mold the Future.**  
The Internet is uniquely suited to educate, delight, inform, and persuade. Whether in an atmosphere of freedom and responsibility--or is stifled by regulation and upon the integrity, honesty, diligence, and kindness of those who use it.

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