

Ars Technica[Amazon trying to buy 22 cable](#)[TV sports channels, including Yankees network](#)**Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**[Facebook, Instagram go down, and some just can't deal](#)**MediaPost**[YouTube Tests Ad-Supported Movies](#)**Philly.com**[Be wary of these robocall scams](#)**Associated Press**[Acosta's Press Pass Restored, With A Warning](#)**Pennlive**[Midterm voter turnout in Pa. keeps up with historic national levels](#)**Philadelphia Inquirer**[Democratic candidate files court challenge in Bucks County state Senate race](#)

Artificial intelligence technology has the capability to be the most impactful software advance in history and the US government has no idea how to properly regulate it.

The US does know that it doesn't want other countries using its own AI against it. A new proposal published today (Nov. 19) by the Department of Commerce lists wide areas of AI software that could potentially require a license to sell to certain countries. These categories are as broad as "computer vision" and "natural language processing." It also lists military-specific products like adaptive camouflage and surveillance technology.

The small number of countries these regulations would target includes a big name in AI: China. Donald Trump, who has placed tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods as part of a simmering trade war, has long railed against China's alleged theft of intellectual property. This proposal looks like a warning from US officials, just as Chinese president Xi Jinping aims to boost AI in his own country.

"This is intended to be a shot across the bow, directed specifically at Beijing, in an attempt to flex their muscles on just how broad these restrictions could be," says R. David Edelman, a former adviser to president Barack Obama who leads research on technology and public policy issues at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

On two occasions this year, the White House has moved to stop China from receiving tech exports on national-security grounds. The US already regulates certain exports to China, and products capable of military use are required to be licensed before they can be exported, as is the case with North Korea, Syria, and Iran.

Since AI software isn't a device or a physical product, it could prove a difficult task to restrict how the technology flows out of the country, says Jack Clark, policy director at the nonprofit OpenAI. He argues that artificial intelligence, as a dual-use technology, can be utilized as a weapon or tool. Because AI is not tethered to a specific physical device, regulating it must address how a broad technology could function on any computer. "It's like trying to restrict math," Edelman says.

In addition, tech companies regularly post open-source AI software and tools on the internet, in an effort to get more people using their paid services and expanding the reach of AI tools in general. It's still unclear whether open-source code would be called an export. Publicly available code was exempt when the US regulated the export of encryption.

These kinds of hard questions are needed for sensible regulation, Clark says: "I'm happy to see this because it's a conversation that needs to be had. It's going to be a difficult and frustrating process because it's a complicated issue."

Negotiations will be complicated by the 30-day window offered for comments, which Edelman and Clark said is unusually short. - **Quartz**

In a ruling that is sure to prompt another court battle, a Dauphin County judge Monday ordered former state House power broker Mike Veon to pay \$19,000 in restitution on an old corruption conviction. President Judge Richard A. Lewis reinstated that financial penalty even though Veon's lawyer Joel Sansone insisted the state Supreme Court has freed his client from all restitution obligations in the case, which involved misuse of state money tagged for the Beaver Initiative for Growth.

Sansone was referring to [a high court ruling](#) that Veon – and by extension other ex-House members convicted of corruption – don't have to pay restitution because the state can't be a victim of a crime. The case before Lewis on Monday involved only dollar signs. It dealt solely with Veon's 2012 conviction in the BIG case. Veon, the former Democratic minority whip, also was convicted of using public money to give employees raises for political work in another case, the Bonusgate scandal. Veon, 61, served five years in prison for his convictions in both the Bonusgate and BIG cases before being paroled. He is now done serving parole as well, Sansone said.

Chief Deputy Attorney General James Barker urged Lewis to re-impose the \$19,000 restitution on the BIG conviction. It is supported by state law designed to penalize malfeasance in elected office, the prosecutor insisted. Sansone countered that the Supreme Court has definitely nixed any restitution for Veon. "The commonwealth cannot be a victim in these circumstances," he argued. Lewis said he believes reinstatement of the \$19,000 penalty is "appropriate." He also acknowledged the likelihood that his decision will be appealed to the state courts. – *Pennlive*

