

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Why should it matter?

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DEFINITION

The WGIG Definition:-

- Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

The Implication of the Definition(1)

- Reinforces the concept of inclusiveness of Governments, the private sector and civil society in the mechanisms of Internet governance.

Implication of the Definition(2)

- This working definition also acknowledges that with respect to specific issues of Internet governance each group will have different interests, roles and participation, which in some cases will overlap.

Clarification

- Internet governance includes more than Internet names and addresses, issues dealt with by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN): it also includes other significant public policy issues, such as critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet.

Public Policy Areas(1)

- Issues relating to infrastructure and the management of critical Internet resources, including administration of the domain name system and Internet protocol addresses (IP addresses), administration of the root server system, technical standards, peering and interconnection, telecommunications infrastructure, including innovative and convergent technologies, as well as multilingualization. These issues are matters of direct relevance to Internet governance and fall within the ambit of existing organizations with responsibility for these matters;

Public Policy Areas(2)

- Issues relating to the use of the Internet, including spam, network security and cybercrime. While these issues are directly related to Internet governance, the nature of global cooperation required is not well defined;

Public Policy Areas(3)

- Issues that are relevant to the Internet but have an impact much wider than the Internet and for which existing organizations are responsible, such as intellectual property rights (IPRs) or international trade.

Public Policy Areas(4)

- Issues relating to the developmental aspects of Internet governance, in particular capacity-building in developing countries.

THE IGF

- The WGIG recommends the creation of a new space for dialogue for all stakeholders on an equal footing on all Internet governance-related issues.

THE IGF

- Forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on issues related to internet.

THE IGF

- Not a new organization
- Not a decision making body

THE IGF

- Based on “soft governance” approach
- Has the power of recognition
 - can identify issues of concern
 - can draw attention to an issue
 - can put an issue on the agenda of international cooperation
- Can shape public opinion & decision making

THE IGF-Purpose

- Exchanging ideas & information
- Sharing best practices
- Learning from one another
(no one size fits all)

IGF-METHODOLOGY

- Achieving policy coherence through exchanging information
- Sharing of best practices
- NOT through negotiation on a common framework e.g. WSIS

Change of Context

- Emergence of a new economy
- Empowering the citizen

For your attention

- The IP address and e-mail login information of an Internet account holder does not constitute personal information within the meaning of Hong Kong Personal Data Ordinance (Cap 486). ¹ HKC 287 (2007) [hereafter HKC]. In this case, a Mainland China journalist was convicted of a crime of illegally providing state secrets to foreign entities via e-mail and was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. Before his criminal conviction, the journalist complained before Hong Kong Privacy Commissioner of Personal Data. The Commissioner concluded that there was not violation of privacy laws. The journalist appealed and the appeal was dismissed.

For Your Attention

- LONDON (Reuters) - Police, councils and the intelligence services made more than 500,000 requests to access private emails and telephone records in the UK last year, according to an annual surveillance report.
- The figures, compiled by the Interception of Communications Commissioner, Paul Kennedy, found that about 1,500 surveillance requests were made every day in Britain.
- That is the annual equivalent to one in every 78 people being targeted. It included 1,500 approved applications from local councils.

For your Attention

- The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency is best known for its role securing the United States' physical borders against drug and human smugglers and traffickers.
- But it is now playing a role policing the nation's "virtual frontier" against a surge in child pornography, sex tourism and trafficking in minors carried out over the Internet.
- "Bad things, harmful things, dangerous things, criminal things are crossing unseen electronically," said special agent Don Daufenbach, speaking over the hum of computer servers at ICE Cyber Crimes Center, or "C3," a few miles outside Washington D.C.
- "Our job is to stop bad things coming into the country."

For Your Attention

- WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The top U.S. communications regulator plans to unveil proposals Monday for ensuring Web traffic is not slowed or blocked based on its content, sources familiar with the contents of the speech said on Friday.
- Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski will announce plans to ask his fellow commissioners to adopt as a rule net neutrality and four existing principles on Internet access issued by the agency in 2005, one of the sources said.
- Net neutrality pits open Internet companies like Google Inc against broadband service providers like AT&T Inc, Verizon Communications Inc and Comcast Corp, which oppose new rules governing network management.
- Advocates of net neutrality say Internet service providers must be barred from blocking or slowing traffic based on its content.

For Your Attention

- WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Obama administration unveiled new rules on Thursday for searching computers and other electronic devices when people enter the United States, attempting to address concerns about violating privacy and constitutional rights.
- At the same time, the Department of Homeland Security defended such searches as necessary to detect information about potential terrorism plots as well as other crimes such as child pornography and copyright infringement.
- "The new directives announced today strike the balance between respecting the civil liberties and privacy of all travelers while ensuring DHS can take the lawful actions necessary to secure our borders," DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said in a statement.

For Your Attention

- LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's High Court ordered its first injunction via Twitter on Thursday, saying the social website and micro-blogging service was the best way to reach an anonymous Tweeter who had been impersonating someone.
- Solicitors Griffin Law sought the injunction against the micro-blog page www.twitter.com/blaneysblarney arguing it was impersonating right-wing blogger Donal Blaney, the owner of Griffin Law.

For Your Attention

- BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The European Commission is to hold a hearing on September 7 for interested parties to comment on Google's deal with publishers to make millions of books available online and its impact on EU writers' rights.
- "Participants were invited to it three weeks ago," Commission spokesman Oliver Drewes said on Monday of the September 7 hearing.
- The European Union executive had said in May it would study Google's book deal after Germany complained the company had scanned books from U.S. libraries to create its Google Books database without prior consent of rights holders.
- Britain and France also backed Germany.

For Your Attention

- LONDON (Reuters) - Repeat offenders who persist in illegally downloading music from file-sharing sites such as Limewire could be blocked from accessing the Web under British government proposals issued on Tuesday.
- The government said it was publishing new ideas to speed up the process of tackling unlawful peer-to-peer file sharing to prevent damage to the content industries.
- Proposals include requiring Internet Service Providers to take action against individual repeat infringers, including blocking access to download sites, reducing broadband speeds or by temporarily suspending an individual's Internet account
- Governments around the world have been trying to find a solution to the problem of Internet piracy, with varying levels of success.
- A law backed by French President Nicolas Sarkozy to cut Internet access to those found guilty of downloading music illegally has already been watered down by France's top constitutional court and a vote has been delayed .

For Your Attention

- BEIJING/TAIPEI (Reuters) - The Chinese government has required that personal computer makers bundle software that filters Internet content from July 1, raising concerns over cyber-security as well as Internet freedoms.
- The free "Green Dam-Youth Escort" software, developed by Jinhui Computer System Engineering Co, can effectively filter "unhealthy words and images," according to a Ministry of Industry and Information Technology document seen by Reuters.



Thank You