THE EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

FRAMING THE (RESEARCH) CHALLENGE: IN SEARCH OF A CONCEPT FOR DISTRIBUTED AND COLLABORATIVE INTERNET GOVERNANCE

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INTERNET GOVERNANCE
What is Internet Governance?

- **Early stages** of Internet governance, e.g.
  - 1986 – Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF): rough consensus decision-making, open to the public
  - 1998 – Establishment of ICANN

- 2005: Working Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 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.”

- But, **different interpretations**, for instance:
  - Narrow vs. broad
  - Technical vs. non-technical
  - Decentralized vs. centralized
State of Play 2014

Source: http://www.diplomacy.edu/resources/books/introduction-internet-governance
EVOLUTION
Power Struggles

• Current decentralized Internet governance “ecosystem” reflects values based on which Internet was built: resilience, openness, interoperability
  • Values in tension or conflict with alternative views and governmental interests, for instance;
    • Domestic issues (e.g. economic interests, freedom of expression, national security interests)
    • International issues (e.g. notions of state sovereignty)
  • Geo-political power struggle about control over information
    • Forthcoming, must-read: Shawn Powers, The Real CyberWar: The Political Economy of the Internet
• Symbolized by clash between proponents of multistakeholder vs. multilateral approach to Internet governance
  • Surfaced since 2003/05 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
  • Escalated at 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)
Akers and Fora

**February**
- UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) 22nd Session
  - 7-11 Apr
  - Beijing, People's Republic of China

**March**
- Cyber-Diologue 2013
  - 25 Feb-25 Mar
  - Geneva, Switzerland
- 17-18 Mar
  - Toronto, Canada

**April**
- ICANN 46
  - 7-11 Apr
  - Beijing, People's Republic of China

**May**
- World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF)
  - 13-16 May
  - Geneva, Switzerland
- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum
  - 13-17 May
  - Geneva, Switzerland
- Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Negotiations
  - 15-24 May
  - Lima, Peru
- IGF Open Consultations and MAG Meetings
  - 21-23 May
  - Geneva, Switzerland
- Stockholm Internet Forum
  - 22-23 May
  - Stockholm, Sweden

**June**
- UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) 18th Session
  - 3-7 Jun
  - Geneva, Switzerland
- Freedom Online Coalition Conference 2013
  - 16-18 Jun
  - Tunis, Tunisia

**July**
- ICANN 47
  - 14-18 Jul
  - Durban, South Africa

**September**
- Human Rights Conference (Rightson)
  - 24-26 Sep
  - San Francisco, USA
- UN General Assembly (UNGA) 68th Session
  - TBD Sep
  - New York, USA

**October**
- 3rd Cyberspace Conference
  - When: TBD, Where: TBD, Korea
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2013
  - 21-25 October
  - Bali, Indonesia

**November**
- ICANN 48
  - 17-21 Nov
  - Buenos Aires, Argentina

**December**
- Global Congress on Intellectual Property and the Public Interest
  - 9-13 Dec
  - Cape Town, South Africa

**2014**
- ICANN 49
  - 23-27 Mar
  - Singapore, Singapore
- World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC)
  - 31 Mar-11 Apr
  - Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt
- High-Level Meeting on the Overall Review (WSIS+10)
  - 14-18 Apr
  - Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt
- WSIS Forum 2014
  - 14-18 Apr
  - Geneva, Switzerland
- ICANN 50
  - 22-26 Jun
  - London, UK
- ITU Plenipotentiary Conference
  - 12-16 Oct
  - TBD
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2014
  - 20 Oct-7 Nov
  - Seoul, Korea

*The categorisation is arbitrary – some of the categories may overlap.*

Spotlight 1: NETmundial

- Apr. 2014: NETmundial - **Global Multistakeholder Meeting** on the Future of Internet Governance held in São Paulo
  - Backlash Snowden revelations – Sep. 2013: President Dilma Rousseff’s speech at United Nations

**Main Objectives** of NETmundial:
- Formulate a set of Internet governance principles
- Set roadmap for future evolution of Internet governance ecosystem
- Achieve legitimacy through multistakeholder “rough consensus”

**Bottom-up processes**, incl. work of committees, reference document preparation, participation in and transparency of the meeting, global remote participation.
NETmundial Outcomes

Principles
• Human rights and shared values
• Protection of intermediaries
• Culture and linguistic diversity
• Unified and unfragmented space
• Security, stability, and resilience of the Internet
• Open and distributed architecture
• Enabling environment for sustainable innovation and creativity
• Open standards

http://netmundial.br

Roadmap
• Issues that deserve attention of all stakeholders in the Internet governance future evolution:
  • Multistakeholder environment
  • Enhanced cooperation, capacity building
  • Inclusive policies, people-centered initiatives, better communication
• Issues dealing with institutional improvements
• Issues dealing with specific Internet governance topics
  • Security and stability, cybersecurity initiatives
  • Mass surveillance
  • Capacity building and financing
Spotlight 2: President Ilves Panel

- Diverse group of global stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector, technical community and international organizations, focused on evolving and globalizing the current Internet governance framework

- Convened in Nov. 2013 by ICANN and WEF, chaired by Estonian President Toomas Ilves and vice-chaired by Vint Cerf


- Findings: Series of topline recommendations to inform both the global community's actions, and the evolution of a collaborative, decentralized Internet governance system.
  - Developing new and strengthening existing Internet governance mechanisms, as well as coalescing and supporting broad multistakeholder alliances
President Ilves Panel Outcome

The Collaborative, Decentralized Internet Governance Ecosystem is comprised of Distributed Governance Groups, sustained by Enablers, and guided by Principles.

This Ecosystem enables stakeholders to map issues to the appropriate Distributed Governance Groups. When there is consensus that a new issue needs to be addressed but no Distributed Governance Group exists, the community effectively identifies and engages the relevant institutions, groups, and/or experts then coalesces them to establish a new Distributed Governance Group.

Distributed Governance Groups

Issues
Issues and their resolutions may have technical and/or non-technical components.

Spheres
The four spheres in which to devolve an issue and coalesce a Distributed Governance Group are local, national, regional, and/or global.

Solutions
Solutions can take the form of policy models, standards, specifications, and/or best practices. Solutions may be adopted voluntarily, or when necessary, formalized through other means such as social conventions, regulations, directives, treaties, contracts, and/or other agreements.

Distributed Governance Group
Each Distributed Governance Group is a loosely coupled, collaborative, and mutually-dependent group of organizations and/or individual experts that come together through a set of mutual commitments to address a specific issue.

Governance Enablers

Forums & Dialogues
Enabling online and offline interaction through multiple channels, between stakeholders from business, technology, government, civil society, and academic environments on a broad range of technical and non-technical issues.

Expert Communities
Enabling open and collaborative communities of experts in research and practice to inform and support the Internet governance systems through knowledge-sharing and expertise.

Capacity Development and Toolkits
Enabling and strengthening stakeholders that form Distributed Governance Groups, through development programs and toolkits delivered through multiple channels, to build their capacity to contribute to and actively participate in their Distributed Governance Groups.

Governance Principles

These NETmundial Principles are essential for the operationalization of the Collaborative, Decentralized Internet Governance Ecosystem.

Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms | http://internetgovernancepanel.org | MAY 2014
Global Network of Internet & Society Centers (NoC)

Network of Centers

Centers

Network Participation

In line with the NoC’s guiding principles, the Network continues to be incubated from the bottom-up and will continue to expand over time, building upon existing and future collaborations with the participating centers and collectively evolving its structure and practices. The Network being peer-based and built upon actual collaboration, it has thus far been directed by a steering committee consisting of director-level liaisons of the NoC's founding centers, with governance based on the principle of "rough consensus". The administrative lead, which has been exercised by the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in the NoC’s first two years, periodically alternates among the participating centers. The Nexa Center for Internet and Society at Politecnico di Torino will take the administrative lead starting October 2014.

Center Map

Participating Centers

http://networkofcenters.net/
Context & Task

• Berkman Center, with Global Network of Internet & Society Centers (NoC), committed to contribute systematically and from diverse perspectives to the current policy debate about the future of Internet governance.

• Initial research – “proof of concept” – focused on better understanding of “Distributed Governance (DG) Groups”
  • Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms describes DG groups as: “loosely coupled, collaborative, and mutually-dependent group of organizations and/or individual experts that come together through a set of mutual commitments to address a specific issue.”

• Exploring their formation, operation, and effectiveness through a geographically diverse series of 12+ case studies from in and out of the sphere of Internet governance, with focus on lessons learned and (contextual) good/best practices
Initial Case Studies

• **First round** (national DG groups and information-based enablers):
  - Marco Civil (ITSrio, Brazil)
  - CGI.br (ITSrio, Brazil)
  - Turkish Internet Improvement Board (Bilgi Univ., Turkey)
  - German Enquete Commission (HIIG, Germany)
  - Swiss ComCom FTTH Roundtables (Berkman, US)
  - Israel National Cyber Bureau (HCLT, Israel)

• **Second round**:
  - Aviation Slotting Guidelines (EUI, Italy)
  - Internet Exchange Points (EUI, Italy)
  - NETMundial (CTS/FGV, Brazil)
  - Creative Commons (Nexa, Italy)
  - Water Resource Management in Ghana’s White Volta River Basin (Berkman, US)
  - Bitcoin and Autonomous Systems (Hans-Bredow, Germany)
Deliverables & Next Steps

• **Findings** from draft case studies discussed on Oct 1, 2014 in Turin at NoC Working Meeting; see also “Bottom-Up” Panel on Oct 2 (Public Conference)
  - [http://networkofcenters.net/event/evolution-internet-governance-ecosystem](http://networkofcenters.net/event/evolution-internet-governance-ecosystem)

• **Synthesis paper** (~Dec 2014) identifies models, characteristics, contextual impact, mechanisms, critical factors for effectiveness, and other lessons learned related to formation and operation of DG groups

• Collaboratively define **future broader research agenda** for Internet governance, both in terms of refining our understanding of the ecosystem and specific governance issues
NETmundial Initiative

Basic idea (caveat: evolving):

• Create bottom-up, open, and generative platform for global community to operationalize distributed Internet governance and cooperation models and mechanisms

• Based on NETmundial Principles and Roadmap, fleshing out Ilves panel report; complementary (and supportive of) IGF, where issues are identified and discussed

• Focus on innovative and distributed Internet governance enablers and solutions. Pilot projects include:
  • Issues-to-Solution Mapping Tool (GovLab)
  • Support tools for Distributed Governance (ICANN)
  • National Multistakeholder Models (cgi.br)
  • Distributed Governance Models and Good Practices (Berkman/NoC)

Further details to be announced soon
ENHANCED ROLE OF “ACADEMIA”
Proposal for Discussion

• Dominant framing of academia as a “stakeholder” in Internet governance debates is too narrow and only one mode of engagement

• Need – and opportunity – for an enhanced role of “academia”
  • Generalized vision and strategy regarding the role of academic research, education, and facilitation in the Internet age
  • Emphasis on interdependence, rigor, openness, and global participation
  • Addressing three core challenges: (1) analytical challenge, (2) normative challenge, (3) design challenge

• Serves all stakeholders and initiatives by offering high-quality, real-time expertise, know-how, and capacity, for example:
  • Novel approaches to key factual and normative questions, incl. participation, transparency, accountability, and legitimacy
  • Evidence-based assessment of existing and proposed models, policies, etc.
  • Assisting in identifying and responding to emergent issues
  • Helping to build capacity and foster dialogue
Envisioned Areas of Core Activity

- Research, incl. Data Gathering and Analysis
- Experimentation (“Pilots”)
- Facilitation and Convening
- Education and Communication