Report of the Ninth Edition of the Internet Government Forum in Benin

Theme: « DIGITAL IDENTITY: CHALLENGES, RESOURCES and GOALS »
Date: July 04th, 2020
Venue: Online

Introduction:

The digitalization of public services, one of the main projects of digital sector in Benin is underway. In recent years, various public services have been dematerialized, therefore creating new facilities for the citizens but also raising various questions:

1. What is digital identity?
2. What are the profits/services of a digital identity?
3. How to build a digital identity?
4. What are the security challenges around digital identity?

These various questions led to the choice of the following theme for the current year's FGI:

«Digital Identity: Challenges, Resources and Goals ».

Through these discussions, the 2020 edition of the National Internet Governance Forum in Benin, therefore, enabled the actors of the national internet ecosystem to reflect together and make recommendations to each of the stakeholders on the ways and means to make digital identity, a real tool for internet development in Benin.

Reminder of the objectives:

The general objective of this forum is to clarify shadowy areas around the issues related to digital identity at technical, social, economic and legal levels.

Specifically, this forum helped to:

❖ highlight the scope of the challenge of digital identity in our society;

❖ present a historical, sociological, economic reminder of the major challenges of digital identity;

❖ disseminate the implementation of digital identity projects;

❖ raise awareness to reduce the abuses on the digital identity of Benin citizens.

Reminder of the expected results:

❖ The stakeholders of Benin society have a better understanding of the scope of the content and importance of digital identity.

❖ The concept, challenges and means of implementation of digital identity are understood by the stakeholders;

❖ The stakeholders are able to seize business opportunities built on the bases of digital identity in Benin for people living in Benin;

❖ The stakeholders are made aware of the means to reduce digital identity abuse.

Organizing team:

This year 2020, the National Internet Governance Forum was organized by an organization committee made up with 29 volunteering members from all stakeholders of the digital ecosystem in Benin in collaboration with the Bureau of FGI Benin Association.

This team is an inclusive group of volunteers in the digital ecosystem. The committee is an ad-hoc structure set up intellectual preparation of the FGI Benin 2020.

The Bureau of FGI Benin Association, in addition to its membership status, is in charge of the secretariat of this committee. In this regard, it produces the reports and implements the decisions and report to the committee that reviews and validates the implementation.

Members of this committee must:

- Select the central theme and sub-themes of the forum
- Draft the forum TORs and the concept notes for sessions and themes
- Seek and empower sessions and theme moderators
- Seek additional fund to hold the forum

The list of the organizing committee members and their provenance can be found in the APPENDIX to this report.

The said committee regularly held weekly preparatory meetings from May 2020 to July 2020. For coordination and in order to identify tasks, assign roles and effectively monitor their implementation, several sub-committees have been set up and the members of which can be found in the appendix:

- Sub-committee in charge of drafting the TORs,
- Sub-committee on mobilization of actors and correspondence: Communication,
- Sub-committee on coordination of committees,
- Sub-committee in charge of the search for funding,
- Sub-committee Logistics and Budget.

Forum Day Report:

The bureau of the internet governance forum in Benin has organized in collaboration with the stakeholders of the internet ecosystem in Benin, the ninth edition of the national internet governance forum in Benin.

The central theme of this edition is: **Digital identity: challenges, resources and goals.** Due to the evolution of the Covid 19 pandemic, the 2020 edition of the forum was held on July 04th 2020, entirely online via GoToMeeting platform.

In preparation for this forum, the fourth edition of the school on internet governance was organized for the benefit of the community from 1st to 3rd of July, entirely online still via GoToMeeting platform.

About fifty people from Benin and other countries around the world took part in this forum.

The national forum was structured around two major moments namely:

- Opening ceremony allowing to motivate the choice of the year's theme;
- The presentation of communications followed by debates with the general public around the central theme.

The opening ceremony

FGI 2020 started at 09 AM by the words of welcome of M. Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO, the President of FGI-Benin Association, in which he thanked the participants and personalities present, recalled the program of the day which is about presentations and a general debate. The list of participants representing the stakeholders of the internet ecosystem of Benin is attached. He also highlighted the importance of digital identity, which he compared to a birth certificate issued by a civil registrar. He emphasized the interest of the Internet Governance Forum to choose and discuss this theme in synergy with the actions of the Beninese government in order to dematerialize public services in Benin.

After this introductory word, Africa Vice President of ICANN, M. Pierre DANDJINOU, approved this ninth edition of the FGI-Benin because of the chosen theme, the work that ICANN is doing on digital identity and congratulated the bureau and the organizers for their leadership.

Program of the activities of the National Forum FGI BENIN of 04 July 2020

Time slot	Session	Speakers	
08 :30-09 :00	Arrival and installation of participants and speakers		
09 :00-09 :20	**Opening Ceremony**	P /FGI-Bénin, (G. Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO) MND / CTJ (Fidèle El-Koudous OROU N'GOBI)	
09 :20-09 :40	Introductory remarks	Pierre DANDJINOU (ICANN)	
09 : 40-10 :40	Session 1 : What is a digital identity	Franck KOUYAMI (FGI) Gilles DENADI (MND Cabinet) Fréjus GBAGUIDI (ASSI) Houégnon Géoffroy BONOU (DGENP –MND)	
11 :00-12 :00	**Session 2& 4**: Brief overview of "**use cases**" based on digital identity. What are the profits/services of a digital identity?	ANIP Jean AHOLOU (WURI Coordinator) Gilles DENADI (MND Cabinet)	
12 :10-01 :10	**Session 3**: Benin Government strategic approach for implementing digital identity, PKI and E-SERVICES, Border security (electronic passports and identity cards, gantries at the borders etc.)	Thierry AHOUASSOU (ASSI) Afiss BILEOMA (ASSI) Commissaire MEDAGBE (DGPR)	

02 :20-03 :30	**Session 4**: What are the profits/services of a digital identity ?	Damien MEDEDJI (ARCH) Hermann AGUESSY (PDG Fedapay) Robin ACCROMBESSI (ASSOCIATION des Consommateur)	
03 :30-04 :30	**Session 5**: Security challenges related to digital identity	Ouanilo MEDEGAN (DG ANSSI) Yazid AKANHO (ICANN)	
04 :30-05 :00	General debate and collection of amendments (Open MIC)	Participants	
	Report and final draft communiqué	Muriel ALAPINI (FGI) Ganiath BELLO (FGI) Elias G. GNANCADJA (ISOC C. BENIN)	
05 :00-05 :30	**Final communiqué**	Ganiath BELLO (FGI)	

Presentation of the communications

SESSION 1 : Communication on « What is a digital identity » moderated by Franck KOUYAMI, member of the FGI-Benin and Network Systems Engineer at Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie;

Speakers:
- **Gilles DENADI**, Technical Supervisor of Digital Agencies at Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation; and

- **Fréjus GBAGUIDI**, project manager at ASSI, Agence des Services et Systèmes d'Informations.
- **Houégnon Géoffroy BONOU**, Managing Director at Direction Générale de l'Economie Numérique et de la Poste (DGENP)

Through this session, the participants were trained on the notion, definition and problems surrounding digital identity. According to the speakers, digital identity:
- is a set of attributes captures electronically to a person
- clearly identifies a person or a thing
- is unique in the context of a digital service
- has a life cycle
- plays a role in establishing trust in transactions that involve individuals or between individuals and publics services.

This session also made it possible to highlight the various government initiatives for a successful digital identity.

SESSION 2: **Session 2 & 4: «Brief overview of "use cases" based on digital identity.**
What are the profits/services of a digital identity? »
Moderator: Dr Kossi AMESSINOU (AFRICAN ICT FOUNDATION)
Speakers:
- **Jean AHOLOU (WURI coordinator)**
- **Gilles DENADI (MND Cabinet)**

Session 2 was mainly about use cases to present the profits and services related to digital identity. According to the coordinator M. Jean AHOLOU,
- Everyone should have their personal identification number or personal identification certificate (CIP).
- The CIP does not replace the national identity card.

The personal identification number is the medium that allows the individuals to access a number of government services such as health insurance (ARCH), criminal record, birth certificate, E-visa, insurance contracts, RAVIP, the National Platform of Public Services, etc. This session was also the opportunity to present the work being done through WURI project and ANIP. The importance of the IFU in the digital identity of businesses was also discussed.

SESSION 3: « Benin Government strategic approach for implementing digital identity, PKI and E-SERVICES, Border security (electronic passports and identity cards, gantries at the borders etc.) **»**
Moderator: Abdias ATCHADE (DSI BENIN Club)
Speakers:

- **Fréjus GBAGUIDI (ASSI)**
- **Afiss BILEOMA (ASSI)**
- **Amour ZOUTOUNNOU,** representing Commissioner MEDAGBE from the General Directorate of the Republican Police (DGPR), due to his unavailability.

During this third session, discussions between the organizers, participants and speakers were about the importance of facilities including the PKI National and the national data center. It has been concluded that the data center and the PKI platform are an important part of digital identity. The speakers reassured the audience about the resilience of these systems. There was also an overview of e-services, including the digital passport and the e-services portal on which nearly 70 government services are almost available (birth certificate, criminal record, etc.) through the https://service-public.bj/ platform.

As for M. Amour ZOUTOUNNOU, his presentation focused on General Directorate of the Republican Police projects as far as the ID and Benin boarders are concerned, as well as the work being done regarding biometric and electronic passports.

SESSION 4: « What are the profits/services of a digital identity? »

Moderators: Karine GBAGUIDI KEREKOU and Dr Kossi AMESSINOU

Speakers:

- **Damien MEDEDJI (ARCH)**
- **Hermann AGUESSY (CEO Fedapay)**
- **Robin ACCROMBESSI (ASSOCIATION des Consommateur)**

This session stresses the benefits of implementing digital identity, particularly that of Benin. At the end of the discussions the following can be concluded:

- For ARCH project: the national PKI enables the implementation of digital platforms for the management of ARCH recipients. One-stop micro-credit and health insurance;
- The online payment solution : Digital finance, the major need is that of net ID, in other words : to identify people in a unique way on digital finance platforms;
- It is also important to ensure the security of online financial transactions with the unique ID. This requires the ability to securely store user IDs on digital platforms;

In the cases of use we can list the following practical cases as an example:

- Mobile money and bank cards for the advantage of good traceability of the numbers of mobile money subscribers.
- The security related to IFU (Unique Fiscal Identification), RC (Trade Register) and RCM (Income from Movable Capital)

SESSION 5: Security challenges related to digital identity

Moderator: Karine GBAGUIDI KEREKOU

Speakers:

- **Ouanilo MEDEGAN (DG ANSSI)**
- **Yazid AKANHO (ICANN)**

 Ouanilo MEDEGAN, presented some security aspects related to digital identity, namely:

- The means for securing digital identity: use of SSL certificate, digital signature, digital seal, electronic archiving etc.
- The risks (incidents and impacts) related to abusive use of digital identity.

As for **Yazid AKANHO** spoke about the security of DNS resources, in particular, the security of domain names and some examples of security mechanisms related to the domain name System (presentation of the key elements of the DNS, potential points of attack of the DNS infrastructure, DoT/DoH, DNSSEC, hyperlocal, RDAP, RPKI)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

At the end of the activities the participants made the following recommendations:

- It is necessary to encourage political decision-makers to speed up the current process in order to promote the generalization of the delivery of biometric identity cards to Benin citizens;
- It is necessary to call for a permanent dialogue between the public and private sectors actors and civil society in the framework of providing online services related to digital identity of Benin citizens;
- It is necessary to maintain the international collaboration through WURI project in order to reduce identity control restrictions in ECOWAS region;
- It is necessary to set up a national banking switch to facilitate the unique identification of actors who make digital payment transactions in Benin;
- It is necessary to make available a database to be queried in order to ensure the authenticity of personal data given by a natural person in the case of a digital transaction;
- It is necessary to monitor training and awareness raising of citizens to make them aware of the sensitivity of their digital identity;
- It is necessary to set up security and protection systems of people's digital identity;
- It is necessary to boost the performance of transaction platforms;
- It is necessary to encourage the BJ Registry and subsequently the BJ domain name holders to sign the DNSSEC in order to ensure confidence in cyberspace transactions;
- It is necessary to implement the good practices related to DNS by the operators and the various DSI
- It is necessary to deploy the RPKI by the ISPs and the operators
- It is necessary to encourage Benin public institutions to prohibit the use of private email addresses in the exercise of their responsibility by raising their awareness on the use of professional email addresses.
- It is necessary to encourage GSM operators, ISPs and content providers to interconnect themselves and host their content at the BENIN-IX Internet exchange point in order to maintain the internal local traffic and improve the user's experience.
- It is necessary to encourage Benin authorities to manage digital identity properly in order to benefit from it in the framework of health crises management.

We thank for the technical, financial, logistic support provided for the organization of this edition of the Internet Governance Forum in Benin:

FINANCIAL SONPSORS:

- IGF Support Association (IGFSA),
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- ASSOCIATION IGF BENIN.

OTHER ASPECTS:

The Partners

Public Partners

- Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation (MND)
- Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information (ANSSI),
- Agence des Services et Systèmes d'Information (ASSI),
- Projet d'identification unique pour l'intégration régionale et l'inclusion en Afrique de l'ouest : WURI,
- Direction Général de l'Economie Numérique et de la Poste (DGENP),
- Agence Nationale d'Identification des Personnes (ANIP),

Private Partners

- IT-NUm

Partner Associations

- Association FGI BENIN,
- West African IGF (WAIGF),
- IGBANET,
- Internet Society (ISOC) Chapitre BENIN,
- Club DSI BENIN,
- ABCPN,
- AFRICAN ICT FOUNDATION

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- Gouvernement du Bénin ;
- Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation(MND) ;
- Agence des Services et Systèmes Informatique (ASSI) ;
- Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information (ANSSI) ;
- Projet d'identification unique pour l'intégration régionale et l'inclusion en Afrique de l'ouest : WURI ;
- Direction Général de l'Economie Numérique et de la Poste (DGENP) ;
- Agence Nationale d'Identification des Personnes (ANIP) ;
- Société BéninTélécom Infrastructure (BTI) ;

- Société IT-NUM ;
- Agence Universitaire de la Francophonie (AUF) ;
- Association ISOC Benin ;
- Association IGF support Association (IGFSA) ;
- Secrétariat de l'IGF Monde ;
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) ;
- West African IGF (WAIGF) ;
- African ICT Foundation ;
- ABCPN ;
- Club DSI BENIN.

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We thank the participants and trainers who took part in the fourth edition of the School of Internet Governance in Benin (EGI 2020);

We thank the speakers for their support and availability enabling the smooth execution of this ninth Internet Governance Forum in Benin.

APPENDIX

LIST OF SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the sub-committee in charge of drafting the TORs,

1.   Atchadé Abdias (Club DSI)

2.   Kossi Amessinou (FGI)

3.   Sabin SOGAN (ANSSI)

4.   Frejus GBAGUIDI (ASSI)

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1.   Fawaz Sylvestre (ACPBN, ASMA GROUP)

2.   Deyilon Aubin Hounsounou (SOBEBRA)

3.   Karine GBAGUIDI KEREKOU

4.   Rachad SANOUSSI

5.   Tiphaine M. AMOUSSOU

Members of the sub-committee on coordination of committees

1.   Atchadé Abdias (Club DSI)

2.   Kossi Amessinou (FGI)

3.   Sabin SOGAN (ANSSI)

4.   Frejus GBAGUIDI (ASSI)

5.   Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO

6.   Karine GBAGUIDI KEREKOU

7.   Franck KOUYAMI

Membres of the sub-committee in charge of the search for funding

1.   Elias GNANCADJA (ISOC)

2.   Frejus GBAGUIDI (ASSI)

3.   Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO (Bureau FGI BENIN)

Members of the Logistics Subcommittee in charge of room search and logistics (Budget)

1.   Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO (BTI SA, Bureau FGI)

2.   Fabrice TOHIONON (IGBANet)

3.   Rodolphe AGANI (NOCIBE)

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF FGI BENIN 2020

Index	Title	First and Last Name	Organization	Professional Affiliation	Stakeholder Group
1	President /Association FGI BENIN	G. Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO	BENIN TELECOMS INFRASTRUCTURES SA	BTI SA, Eng. Technical /Consultant	Technical Community
2	Member Advisor	Wilfried QUENUM	IT-NUM Director	General Director /CO	Technical Community
3	Vice-President /Association FGI BENIN	Muriel S. ALAPINI	Freelance	Communication Consultant	Civil Society
4	Member	Fabrice TOHIONON	IGBANET		Civil Society
5	Member	Adé BADA	ACSIS		Civil Society
6	Member	Malorie AMOUSSOU	ISOC BENIN	Member /Chapitre ISOC BENIN	Civil Society
7	Member	Elias Gildas GNANCADJA	ISOC BENIN	Member/Chapitre ISOC BENIN	Civil Society
8	Member	Rachad SANOUSSI	ISOC BENIN	Volontaire/Membre/Chapitre ISOC BENIN	Civil Society
9	Member	Fawaz MOUSSOUGAN	ABCPN		Civil Society
10	Treasurer/Association FGI BENIN	Franck B. KOUYAMI	AUF	Eng. Technical / Consultant	International Organization
11	Member Advisor	Kossi AMESSINOU	AFRICAN ICT FOUNDATION	AFRICAN ICT FOUNDATION	International Organization

12	Member	Alban AMAMION	UNFPA BENIN		International Organization
13	Secretary / Association FGI BENIN	Ganiath BELLO	Media / Lescahiersdeganiath	Blogger	Group Media
14	Member Advisor	Karine GBAGUIDI	SAPHIR 365	Manager	Group Media
15	Member	G. Ulrich Vital AHOTONDJI	Educ'Action General Director	General DirectorEduc'Action	Group Media
16	Member Advisor	Jacques P. HOUNGBO	IMSP	Doctor Teacher Technical	Academic
17	Member	Ataa-UnsinCodjo Patrick FANOU	Student	Student	Academic
18	Member	David AHANDESSI	Student	Student	Academic
19	Member	Frejus GBAGUIDI	ASSI	Doctor /Technical	Public Sector
20	Member	Roland AIKPE	ANSSI / Government		Public Sector
21	Member	Marius DJOSSOU	City Department of PORO-NOVO (Mairie de PORTO-NOVO)		Public Sector
22	Member	Amedée DOSSOU	Freelance	Retired from the Public Service DGCEP/ Ministère du Numérique et de la Digitalisation	Public Sector
23	Member	ADJE MARCEL KOUCHERO	General Direction of the Treasury and Public Accounting	DGTCP	Public Sector

24	Member	Sabin SOGAN	ANSSI	Representative DG/ANSSI	Public Sector
25	Member	Sossoukpe Séraphin	Sosseraph Services	Director Purchase and Sale device	Private Sector
26	Member	Rodolphe O. A AGANI	NOCIBE SA		Private Sector
27	Member	Sonia DOSSA			Private Sector
28	Member	Chabi Cyrille WOROU	GRD GROUP Environmental Study Cabinet	GRD GROUP (Environmental Study Cabinet)	Private Sector
29	Member	Deyilon HOUNSOUNOU	SOBEBRA (Société Béninoise de Brasseries)	SOBEBRA	Private Sector