



Internet Governance Forum Deutschland (IGF-D)

"Trust, Responsibility, Networking: Internet Governance in uncertain times"

10th September 2025

Who we are

Since 2008 the German Internet Governance Forum (IGF-D) addresses issues of network policy and internet regulation. In April 2024, 34 people from the German internet governance community came together to found a supporting association – the Internet Governance Forum Deutschland e. V. – in addition to our steering committee and Secretariat. The supporting organisation is registered with the German registry court since the beginning of December 2024. The steering committee consists of four members of each stakeholder group (Government, Parliamentarians, Technical Community, Business, Civil Society, Academia and Youth) that consult the IGF-D in its aim to bring more attention to issues of internet regulation in Germany politics and the public sphere. It is supported by the secretariat, led by DENIC eG since the beginning of 2023.

Annual Meeting Preparation

In April the Steering Committee decided on forming a Programme Committee for the IGF-D 2025 which had its first meeting at the end of April. The call for proposals opened in May and the Programme Committee reviewed and consolidated the submitted proposals over the month of July. Members of the Programme Committee stayed in close exchange with the session organisers to track progress and potential problems.

While the agenda-setting was fostered by the Programme Committee, the Secretariat oversaw finding a suitable location, organising the technical support, the communication strategy as well as supporting the Programme Committee.



Annual Meeting Overview

The IGF-D 2025 was held in the Representation of the Free State of Saxony to the Federation with the option of remote participation. Over 150 persons registered for the IGF-D 2025 with a no-show-rate of about 30 %.

Programme

IGF-D 2025, 10th of September

Introduction & Greetings

- Markus Franke, Representative of the Free State of Saxony to the Federal Government
- Peter Koch, DENIC eG/ IGF-D Secretariat
- Sophia Longwe, Youth IGF-D

Cables, chips and satellites: What infrastructure do we need?

From fibre optic cables to satellite networks: digital infrastructure is increasingly becoming the scene of geopolitical power struggles. At the same time, new areas of social tension are emerging – from the energy consumption of data centres to surveillance from space. Germany and the EU want to strengthen their digital capacity to act. But what infrastructure do we really need? Which goals should be prioritised? And who should ultimately retain control? Multi-stakeholder perspectives on the facets of physical digital infrastructure and the strategy of digital sovereignty.

Format: Combined lightning talks followed by a panel discussion

Speaker:

- Klaus Landefeld (eco)
- Aline Blankertz (Rebalance Now e. V.)
- Dr. Katja Muñoz (DGAP)
- Hailan Wang
- Ben Burmeister (moderation)

Surveillance vs. the rule of law? Police work in a networked world

Secure communication is a fundamental right. However, a high-level group of experts is proposing to lift encryption for law enforcement at European level. The corresponding strategy (Protect EU) is now available, and the technical implementation is to be finalised next year. Together with automated data processing, including biometric data – which is also controversial – security authorities could significantly increase their information capabilities. Civil society groups, lawyers and cybersecurity researchers counter that these plans not only destroy business models, such as those of VPN providers, and create more uncertainty, but also violate fundamental rights and have no place in a



democracy. What is new about the current debate on surveillance and privacy? How does the issue affect internet governance and what position should Germany take?

Format: There will be an introduction by Dr Alexander Klimburg (The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies), followed by a fishbowl panel with the following speakers:

- Klaus Landefeld (eco)
- Dirk Kunze (Managing Director Cyber Resilience Lab)
- Kolja Weber (FlokiNet, CEO)
- Alena Epifanova (moderation)
- Justus von Daniels (Correctiv.org)

German digital policy in this legislative period

Keynote speech + Q&A session with Parliamentary State Secretary Thomas Jarzombek (BMDS)

Update WSIS+20

Brief overview of the status of the WSIS+20 review process and informal exchange with the IGF-D community on questions, feedback and input.

Speaker: Swantje Jäger-Lindemann (BMDS)

Visible. Vulnerable. Protected? Personal integrity in the digital space

Digital violence, algorithmically controlled visibility and weak protection mechanisms jeopardise the right to free development and participation in the digital space. Vulnerable people are particularly affected. The concept of personal integrity offers an approach to combining responsibility, protection and digital self-determination. In the fishbowl, we discuss how digital protection and interaction spaces can be effectively designed.

Format: Fishbowl (4 fixed panel seats, 2 open seats for the audience, fluid seat changes possible)

Speakers:

- Kathrin Morasch (Landesmedienanstalt Baden-Württemberg)
- Michael Terhörst (Stelle zur Durchsetzung von Kinderrechten in digitalen Diensten (KidD))
- Grit Lange (netzforma* e.V.)
- Moderation: Torsten Krause (Stiftung Digitale Chancen)



Self-protection out of action – domain security in Germany in 2025: an analysis, an appeal, a way out

Domains are the digital gateways to public authorities, companies and organisations, yet an alarming number of them are unprotected. A recent analysis of over 20,000 domains in Germany reveals serious security gaps: only 2% meet basic standards, while 98% remain vulnerable. This lightning talk will show why domain security is often neglected despite NIS2, GDPR and IT baseline protection, and what risks this poses for society and digital sovereignty.

It also serves as a teaser for a small series of webinars by IGF-D to follow in the autumn, which will deal with further questions and problems relating to DNS and Transport Layer Security (TLS), among other things.

Lightning Talk: Daniel Strauß (InterNexum GmbH | Lecturer at Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences & Saxony Cooperative State University)

Towards sustainable computer criminal law – security, innovation and legal certainty

Ethical hacking strengthens cyber security and is a key component of digital security in our society, but legal grey areas often hinder responsible IT security research. This session discusses how modern computer criminal law can create a clear framework and enable innovation by 2030. International best practices and concrete reform proposals such as pre-registration, reporting centres and binding standards for companies will be presented. The aim is to create an innovation-friendly environment that legally safeguards and actively promotes security research. This will strengthen digital resilience in the long term and build trust in IT security in Europe.

Format: Panel discussion

Speakers:

- Kara vom Kollektiv Zerforschung
- Florian Hantke (CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security)
- Michael Littger (cyberintelligence.institute)
- Tim Philipp Schäfers (Mint Secure)
- Alena Jakobs (moderation)

Costs

The event could be attended for free. The Free State of Saxony's representative office to the federal government has provided the IGF-D with its premises free of charge. Sponsoring from ISOC Foundation covered the costs for technical personnel and equipment while DENIC eG sponsored catering. Additionally, Hertie School and eco contributed smaller amounts e.g. for travel expenses of speakers.

Statistics

