Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values Activity Report

(Period November 2019 – December 2020)

This report summarises the activity of the DC on Core Internet Values (DC-CIV) since its joint session with the DC Internet of Things (DC-IoT) at the Berlin IGF (November 2019) and until December 2020. IT is an extension of the half yearly report that the DC has published in June 2020.

After the Berlin meeting, plans were in place for two parallel tracks to continue their work:

1. Building on the joint discussions of DC-CIV and DC-IoT by creating a joint working group
2. Continuing Core Internet Values tracking, as per previous years

The fast spread of COVID19 disturbed some of the coordination activities especially relating to the focus of the groups. A coordination meeting that was scheduled to have taken place at the ICANN 67 meeting in Cancun did not take place after the face to face meeting was cancelled. Proposed face to face interactions were transferred online.

Conclusions of the joint DC CIV and DC IoT session in Berlin

The report of the joint DC-CIV and DC-IoT session in Berlin outlined:

3. Policy Recommendations or Suggestions for the Way Forward:

Develop a classification system for IoT devices, raising both potential pros and cons in the future security of the IoT sector. We would propose the consideration of the formation of a sub-working group, comprised of members from both the DC IoT and DC CIV, to further examine the setup of such a system. Amongst other items, this working group could take up a number of the questions presented during the panels.

4. Other Initiatives Addressing the Session Issues:

To support a secure IoT environment, there is a key distinction between what needed to be done to ensure that the devices / supply chain were secure and what needed to be done to ensure the ethical / secure use of those devices. This discussion highlighted the key and unique role that ethical frameworks versus legislation may serve to ensure security by design in future IoT development and deployment. Namely, the potential need for governments to outline the legal contours of accountability and responsibility. Also here the importance of classification of devices and services was emphasized.

5. Making Progress for Tackled Issues:

We would propose the consideration of the formation of a sub-working group, comprised of members from both the DC IoT and DC CIV, to further examine the setup of such a system. Amongst other items, this working group could take up a number of the questions presented during the panels. This should lead to proposals for IGF2020 sessions.

Progress since IGF Berlin

Preparations were taking shape in the months of January until February to get the joint working group on the rails, especially the preparation work into defining the task list in order to attract a wide range of participants – but COVID19, its implications on the use of the Internet as a lifeline for millions of people, on security considerations and on the increased use of automation for supply chains to secure a virus-free environment, caused a paradigm shift that required further study into the goals of the joint

working group. Simply stated: are the topics for discussion still pertinent and in line with today's thinking?

In particular, the question arises on whether the norm for a secure IoT environment has moved, whether the norm for the security of a network has evolved, whether ethical considerations have also shifted in view of the proposals for tracking Apps that have significant impact on Privacy.

Both DCs had arranged for a joint day Zero event at the EuroDIG in June 2020. That conference has now moved online, but the DCs have confirmed the need for their joint event as a way to amend the plans going forward. This meeting therefore took place virtually - as referenced below.

Meetings in 2020

Internet During Shut-Down : Do we need "more" Internet?

This online roundtable event took place on March 26th in association with the Chennai Chapter of the Internet Society and the TiE Chennai Fostering Entrepreneurship Organisation. Participants explored the concept of "Internet" as a network of networks but also as a commodity.

*"With factories, offices, public places, shops, transportation and schools shut down for 3 weeks, and another week or so for normal life to resume, it is the Internet that could make life go on. While it is necessary to keep an eye on fake news and the dangers of fake news causing panic, it is equally important to keep the Internet open, with a heightened awareness that everyone needs the Internet, even to seek medical help, and more to preserve mass psychological well being. " **More** Internet" here implies an approach that is on the other end of the tendency to lock down, it implies a greater willingness to keep more of the people of the world more connected, and to make news, educational, spiritual and entertainment content more available and also to think of more of curated streams for e.g, YouTube curated streams, more of Internet Radio, a better Facebook experience etc...*
*This is also **a good time to collaborate online**. The Internet could bring together groups to collaborate on crisis management, economic reconstruction questions and could generate innovative ideas to solve problems.*
● What could the business community and civil Society do to help the Government manage the crisis of the time?
● What are the post crisis challenges? Not just restoration, but a renewal. In what ways could we make the economy work better than before?"

As a follow-up, an offshoot of DC-CIV Participants plus additional participants that took part in the roundtable, have gathered around a mailing list and further insights into the findings of the roundtable will be share back with the DC-CIV in future meetings.

The COVID situation in India has since stopped any follow-up face to face meeting.

Joint Meeting of DC Core Internet Values (DC-CIV) and DC Internet of Things (DC-IoT): Internet successes and failures to support a world living under COVID19 lockdown

The joint meeting taking place as a virtual day zero pre-event at EuroDIG 2020 has addressed the following problematics:

Internet of Things / Core Internet Values - what characteristics of IoT Good Practice and Core Internet Values have contributed to the success of the Internet and IoT to support a world living under Covid19 lockdown?

Has the Covid19 Pandemic triggered the need to change IoT Good Practices or Core Internet Values because of the paradigm shift that it has caused in the world?

In parallel with the Pandemic, this year has seen the proposal for New Internet 2030 in the New IP group at the ITU. This proposal includes a replacement of most, if not all Core Internet Values, with a new model for the Internet's underlying transport layer, plus all of the Governance Model that the Internet relies on.

Why should this model be, or not be embraced, in the context of Internet of Things Devices, and of Core Internet Values?

Click HERE for full details of the Day Zero session.

Click HERE for a video recording of the session.

Marco Hogewoning (RIPE) has published a Blog post summarising the discussions.

Outcomes:

- *The Internet mostly delivered and did a wonderful job in supporting our lives and economies during the ongoing pandemic.*
- *A large part of the population is still not online, and indeed, even in our developed societies, we should not take for granted that everybody has the means or skills to participate in an online society or activities such as home schooling.*
- *We should also not take TCP/IP for granted. "one size fits nobody".*
- *The flexible and modular set of technologies and protocols that form the Internet was quick to adapt and accommodate our current needs: providing relatively cheap and ubiquitous connectivity to an incredibly large number of people all over the globe, who enjoy the freedom to use that connectivity for what they themselves believe to be important, inventing and modelling their online world.*
- *we can continue to discuss and evolve what we have in an open and inclusive matter. Many saw that as the real core Internet value.*
- *The Internet is fit for purpose and that one of its important features is that you can adapt it to better support current needs.*
- *There might be competing Protocols in the future, for example the proposals for New IP, but the Internet being a Network of Networks, it is likely that these protocols will cohabit - and the Protocol therefore is not as important as the Core Values that surround the Protocol.*
- *Adopt IPv6.*
- *The Internet might not be perfect, but for sure it is good enough."*

Core Internet Values tracking

The global changes caused by the Pandemic to the economy, work flows and society are likely to be significant. The Internet as with its current architecture has been able to adapt surprisingly well to the change in consumer behaviour and traffic flows, including a marked increase in video content delivery and social media. Core Internet Values appear to have not been affected. In fact, it is because of a number of Core Internet Values that the Internet has been able to adapt to changes in traffic flows. Yet a number of countries are now advocating for the replacement of today's network of networks running on TCP-IP by a future network that is claimed will be faster, easier to manage, more secure and more in tune with technological advances like 5G.

The DC CIV has, in past meetings, studied the threat to Core Internet Values by new technologies and services using the Internet. These ranged from IPv6 and Network Address Translation, to content delivery networks, Cloud Services and 5G. The complete replacement of TCP-IP with new technologies is likely to have a large impact that surpasses Core Internet Values – and part of the work of the DC will be to evaluate this. Both the Event at EuroDIG and the IGF 2020 e-meeting DC-CIV sessions addressed this topic.

vIGF 2020 e-meeting

A full Summary of outputs and Transcript & Video of the discussions has already been supplied and posted.

Further Outputs

A statement drafted by members of the Dynamic Coalition and supported by other Dynamic Coalitions was presented at the IGF2020 Meeting. It was formally approved by the coalition and is a public call to all members of the IGf Community. As it is a major output this year, it is reproduced here in its entirely.

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The Internet is architectured as an ecosystem that is Free and Open, Global, Decentralized, End-to-End, User-centric, and Robust and Reliable . As a global network of networks, the Internet is a universal medium meant to be open to all, regardless of geography or nationality. Its interoperability makes it possible for any computer system to run application programs from different vendors, and to interact with other computers across local or wide-area networks regardless of their physical architecture and operating systems. The Internet's technical standards are open standards that enable any (standards-compliant) device or network to connect to the Internet and allow diverse services, applications, or types of data (video, audio, text, etc.). The Internet is meant to be free of any centralized control; its end-to-end and user-centric nature gives control to the end users over the type of information, application, and service they want to share and access. The Internet is robust and reliable.

The Internet owes its success not only to the technology but also to the way it operates – with no single authority directing it, except for its unique addressing system coordinated by ICANN, which is designed for robustness and reliability, and whose policies are developed in an open, multi stakeholder manner.

Internet Governance is a multistakeholder, global, process of furthering the evolution of the Internet as a universally accessible, global, free and open, interoperable, end-to-end, decentralized and loosely coordinated ecosystem; the Internet is free of barriers to connect, communicate and create.The IGF, in particular, is a forum of multi-stakeholder policy dialogue.

Recently, unilateral government actions have undermined public trust in the Internet as a force for good. Such actions do not reflect an international consensus. They do not result from dialogue with stakeholders in the communities affected. They are not endorsed by the IGF, the forum for Internet governance. Such actions include:

● Suppression of political dissent: Despite calls for content moderation in given circumstances, there is no consensus on what constitutes reasonable moderation. On the other hand, there is a consensus that the systematic suppression of political dissent does not qualify as reasonable moderation.

● National firewalls: Global reach is a core principle of best technical practices. It is built on end-to-end communication and interoperability. This principle only works if the Internet is shaped with a view to facilitate free interaction among its users and functions as a network is driven by endpoints of communication, without censorship or controlled routing.

● National shutdowns: By shaping the Internet in ways that lead to fear and confusion in local communities, governments jeopardise international good-will. If there are security concerns, there are technological ways of finding out what specific target is affected, with no reason to shut the entire network down. Shutdowns infringe basic human rights such as freedom of expression and the right to information with harmful consequences for people's lives.

● Fragmentation of the Internet: The blocking of internationally available servers to a portion of the users, including the blocking of applications, or applying provider-discriminatory or content-aware or region-specific traffic shaping policies, causes the fragmentation of the Internet. Fragmenting the Internet offends the principle that all humans are born equal, and therefore, must have equal access to any information and knowledge available to mankind.

● Data prioritization and traffic shaping : The Internet is a global network of networks. By dictating how networks should connect with each other and by splitting traffic, governments undermine the agility, resilience, and flexibility of the Internet. The rules of connection between networks should result from technical rather than political considerations.

The undersigned organisations and groups distance themselves from political actions that distort the inclusive and global nature of the Internet. We, therefore, encourage governments to seek democratic legitimation for their policies. This is only possible by engaging in a participatory dialogue with stakeholders.

This statement of the Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values (DC-CIV) is supported by

Dynamic Coalition on Internet of Things (DC-IoT)
Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles Coalition (IRPC)
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Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values.
Internet Governance Forum 2020
Virtual Event hosted by Poland
November 4, 2020

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