TEU00311

What is the Internet doing to me? (witidtm)

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https://github.com/sftcd/witidtm
https://down.dsg.cs.tcd.ie/witidtm
(Internet) Governance and Human Rights

- Since the Internet is kinda important these days a number of people started wondering how the Internet is “governed” and how it might impact on human rights
- On Thursday, we’ll have an expert in this space coming to talk about this so today we’ll cover some background to help tee that up
Our friendly HR expert...

• Niels ten Oever
  – https://nielstenoever.net/
• Formerly: “head of digital” at Article19
  – https://www.article19.org/
• Currently: a PhD student working on this topic
• Niels spent the last ~5 years trying to get Internet nerds to care more about human rights
(So-called) Internet Governance

• I know a bit about these bodies who are (some of those) involved in developing/maintaining the Internet, and who might be thought of as having some kind of “governance” role:
  - IETF https://ietf.org
    • Note: speaker-bias, I’m involved there a lot and currently on IAB https://iab.org
    • RFC series editor https://www.rfc-editor.org/ Not just for (but 90% for IETF), also IAB, ISE, IRTF
  - ICANN https://icann.org
  - IEEE standards association https://standards.ieee.org/
  - RIRs (RIPE, ARIN, LACNIC, AFRINIC, APNIC)
    • https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regional_Internet_registry

• I know almost nothing about the Internet Governance Forum
  - https://www.intgovforum.org/
  - Could be thought of as an attempt to help governments not interfere too much
  - See also ISO ITU-T ITU-D ITU-R
Some Internet Governance Topics

- Process choices ("rough consensus and running code", "multi-stakeholderism"...)
  - Who gets to play? Who gets to decide what? How?
- Protocol design choices
  - HR related controversy less common, but relates to "tussles..."
  - Don't forget that much technology is not standardised – proprietary and open-source things
  - And, in the IETF context, implementation/deployment details that don't affect interoperability
  - TLS MitM, DoH,...
- Numbers (IANA, protocol numbers, RIRs, ...)
  - Mostly uncontroversial but not always (IP protocol numbers, DNS root-zone updates)
- Names (IANA, ICANN, registries/registrar, ccTLDs...)
  - Typically controversial and much more directly relates to money
- Deployment choices and law
  - “Keep data in-country” desires/requirements, “right to be [forgotten]your thing here”
  - Copyright/trademarks/patents
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

• Read that! It’s short!

• I once read the meeting minutes where they agreed that in 1948 – I found it fascinating! (I guess I’m weird:-)
  - https://research.un.org/en/undhr/chr/1
  - “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by 48 votes, with 8 abstentions.”
    - https://undocs.org/A/PV.183
A thing I had to learn about human rights

- Unlike technical requirements, it is entirely sensible that two human rights might both be valid but (frequently) be in conflict.
- That does not mean the definitions are wrong, as it would with technical requirements.
  - For example: right to privacy vs. right to security.
- Implication: we can’t treat HR exactly the same as technical requirements.
  - ... or can we?
Assignment 2

- I’ll create this in Blackboard in a bit...
- The assignment is to write two pages starting with:
  “One way in which the Internet affects Human Rights is..."
- Plan is to use some of the time on Thursday to talk about that with Niels after he’s given us a talk on the topic
- Deadline will be next week sometime
- Marks: 10%