An Internet for the next generation

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August 2016 | Seoul

To promote the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.

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The Internet Society at Work

Provides leadership in policy issues

Advocates open Internet Standards

Promotes Internet technologies that matter

Develops Internet infrastructure

Undertakes outreach that changes lives

Recognizes industry leaders

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Global Presence

114	**90k**	**143**	**5**	**20**
Chapters Worldwide	Members and Supporters	Organization Members	Regional Bureaus	Countries where ISOC staff are present

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Asia-Pacific Internet Policy Survey 2016

- Annual study of Internet user views on Internet policy concerns in the region

- This year, survey had ~1,800 respondents from 38 economies in APAC

- The top 5 areas of concern for Internet users in 2016 were:
  - Access
  - Cybersecurity
  - Connectivity
  - Privacy
  - Data protection

Source: crn.com

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Findings: Internet policymaking

77% of respondents did not have the opportunity to participate in government policymaking for the Internet in the past year

But the majority (89%) of those who received a call for input provided a response

And they also felt good about the impact of their contribution: 86% of respondents felt that at least some of their input was reflected in the outcome of the policymaking process

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Findings: Internet access

Mobile data connection has become an important—and often primary--
method of Internet access for respondents, especially for rural, low-income
and younger Internet users

Overall, however, the modes of access available to Internet users on a daily
basis remain limited

While there is a growing number of spaces offering free Wi-Fi, the study's
findings suggest that many of these are private establishments

Nearly three-fourths of respondents also use the Internet for business, the
bulk (68%) of whom are between 25 to 44 years old

Findings: Online trust and security

Data protection, along with reliable access, were cited as the two most crucial factors for building trust in the Internet

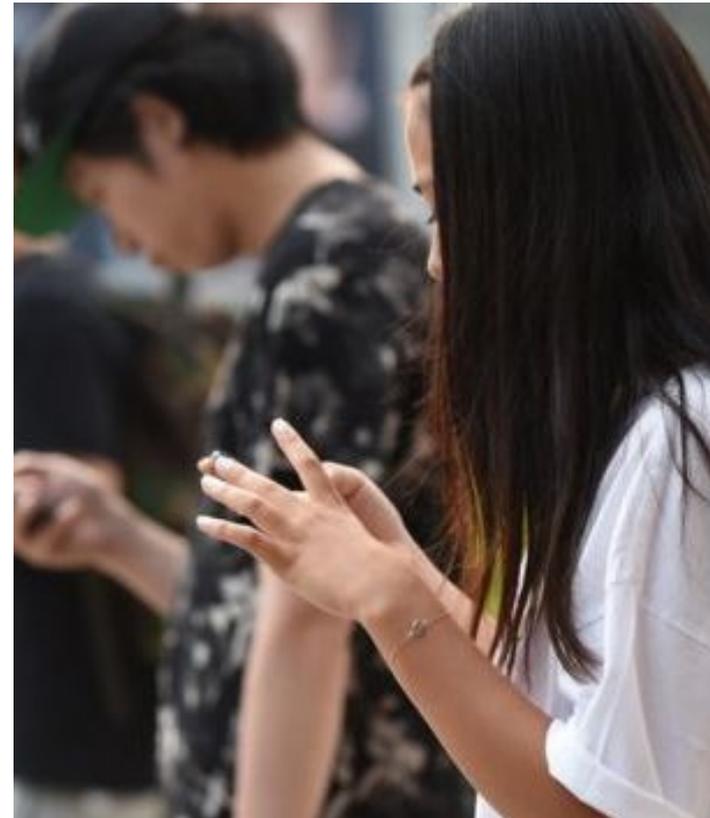For those in Southeast Asia, the ability to communicate confidentially was equally important

More than half of respondents (59%) did not feel that their privacy is sufficiently protected when they use the Internet

Cybersecurity and cybercrime were the two topmost issues that respondents felt needed to be addressed by government

But only 34% agreed that government policies on online security were fully appropriate to the real threats and risks encountered online

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How young people experience the Internet

- Those between 15-24 years old were more concerned with cybersecurity than any other Internet policy issue

- They also placed a higher priority on privacy and over-the-top services as immediate policy concerns

- But had lower opportunities (15%) to participate in public consultations for government policymaking for the Internet in the past year

- For the majority of young respondents, mobile data was the most readily available means of Internet access

Source: BBC/Getty images

Future Internet Scenarios Project

- Collaborative "future-casting" project, drawing on input from ISOC's community and network of global experts

- Work in progress—interviews and survey conducted in ~75 countries with over 250 experts

- Aims to highlight possible paths for the Internet's future, and provide context for today's important challenges

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Emerging Themes

Evolving Internet Benefits and Risks

For many, the growth and ubiquity of the Internet is a beacon of empowerment and opportunity -- especially in the developing world. Others, however, have expressed concern that perceived risks related to the Internet are growing and may cause some to question if the benefits outweigh the risks. Concerns expressed include cyber-bulling of women and minorities, invasion of privacy, surveillance, crime and illegal behaviour, cyber-attacks/security, and negative social and interpersonal impacts.

Growth of Internet Regulation

Across all regions of the world, many see strong forces driving governments to regulate and legislate more at the national level, and many see increased government involvement as an inevitability. Some see increased regulation as a cause for concern in its own right, as well as the potential for policy fragmentation along national lines. Others, however, view the potential for increased regulation as a positive trend, helping to protect citizens and societies from perceived risks.

Growing Connectivity but Changing Nature of the Digital Divide

Respondents agree that there is a trend towards growing connectivity around the world. Some suggest, however, that lack of political will in some countries, low economic incentives to serve hard to reach areas, and lack of suitable content will result in slower growth than expected. Further, some see the nature of the "digital divide" changing and growing in some areas. In particular, the poor, those with access only through smartphones, and regions with lagging Internet skillsets and advanced infrastructure, may fall behind in their ability to use the Internet for opportunity and advancement compared to the wealthy in countries and more developed regions as a whole.

Convergence of the Internet and Physical Infrastructure

Many respondents note the growing convergence between the Internet and the physical world, including in the growth of IoT applications. This will have a range of implications in the next 5-7 years. On the positive side, many note it brings exciting opportunities for new innovations, efficiencies, and economic growth. At the same time, others indicate concern about a further erosion of privacy and increased risk of loss of physical assets or life due to Internet-connected devices. In addition to possible social backlash against an "always on" world, some note that it raises the stakes for government Internet involvement.

Future of the End-to-End, "Public," Global Internet and Open Standards

A number of commentators globally (including technologists, academics, and business stakeholders) have indicated that pressure is being placed on the model of the end-to-end, global Internet and that in 5-7 years time the Internet as we know it may be very different. Some indicate that there are growing incentives to deploy private IP-networks for key services rather than using the global Internet and that it may be difficult for the "best effort" Internet to keep up with technical innovations and demands. Further, some indicated that there is a trend away from using open standards and that may fewer entities may be interested in investing in open standards and industry collaboration.

Fragmentation & Consolidation of the Internet Experience

Commentators indicated a potential growing trend towards growth in siloed service offerings and architecture choices - both in terms of infrastructure and applications. Some express concern that consolidation will result in less independence, less incentives to innovate, and slower Internet development, as well as the focus innovation taking place on top or within walled garden platforms rather than the open Internet itself.

Get Involved

There are so many ways to support the Internet. Explore how you can make an impact.

Become a Member   **Join a Chapter**   **Attend an Event**

This is your Internet. Join it!

www.internetsociety.org

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