

How can we help the Internet reach its full potential?



The Internet has radically transformed our lives for the better. People collaborate and share ideas across borders at the press of a key. The Internet has no central authority: you don't need permission to join it or innovate using its building blocks. It was literally built to be built upon.

This open architecture underpins the Internet's success. It fosters a distinct global culture of collaboration with virtually infinite opportunities for people to work together for the collective good. Because the Internet's cornerstones are an open participation and an open architecture, it can continue to flourish and bring about more innovation.

However, the open architecture that underpins the Internet's strength and success also makes it vulnerable.

Many governments and businesses are making decisions that could harm the Internet – and they might not even know it.

We're protecting the foundation that underpins the success of the Internet

The Internet is defined by a foundational properties that, when combined, offer incredible benefits that arise from working in 'the Internet Way': decentralized control, shared building blocks, a common language of protocols, permissionless innovation, and the organic and open expansion of interconnectivity. The ethos underpinning the architecture of the Internet – which we call the 'Internet Way of Networking' – has contributed to the growth and success of the Internet, and given rise to an ecosystem of organizations and communities that build and operate the Internet.

The Internet Impact Assessment Toolkit

It's up to all of us to defend and enhance the future of the Internet – and keep it working for everyone.

The Internet Impact Assessment Toolkit is a regulatory assessment tool to help policymakers, technologists and Internet users analyze how decisions and trends could impact the architecture of the Internet. It defines the critical properties that underpin the Internet's success and helps us ensure our actions allow the Internet to reach its full potential – and bring connectivity, innovation, and empowerment to everyone.

Get Involved

Get to know the Internet Way of Networking – Learn about the critical properties that underpin the Internet's success.

Use the Toolkit – Conduct an Internet Impact Assessment to analyze a law, policy, business decision, technology or trend.

Grow the Toolkit – Contribute to the growing body of knowledge that helps people protect the Internet's foundation for success.

Spread the word – Share the toolkit with policymakers in your country or region to make sure their work supports an Internet for everyone.

What's next?

In 2021, we will work with policymakers, the Internet Society's chapters and members, and the wider, global Internet community, to develop, amplify, and use the Toolkit and to raise awareness of the Internet Way of Networking.

The Internet is for everyone, and we hope this work will help bring connectivity, innovation, and empowerment to all around the world.



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