

June 2023

Board Update

2023 Year-to-date Progress



Grow



Grow Portfolio Highlights

Connecting the Unconnected

- In Q1, we led a fundraising campaign that secured nearly \$23,000 to build a fiber community network in the villages of Khunde and Khumjung, near Mt. Everest. In May our team worked with local partners on the ground, and the community network was inaugurated on Everest Day (May 29th) with the presence of former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark, and Peter Hillary, son of the first person to reach the Everest's summit Sir Edmund Hillary.
- The project team is facing challenges in raising \$1m for CNs which will impact our ability to reach our target to fund the deployment of 30 CNs in 2023. Given this, we are reviewing the current strategy, actively pursuing several grant opportunities and are also working with Foundation to build a bigger pipeline.

Sustainable Peering Infrastructure

- The impact of the Ethiopia Internet Development Conference held in March 2020 continues to be realized 3 years on with the Addis Ababa Internet Exchange – ADDIX set to be launched soon. Most participants confessed that they did not know what an Internet Exchange was prior to the event and now stakeholders are ready to exchange traffic locally.

Economics of Internet Shutdowns

- At RightsCon, we held a soft launch of the NetLoss calculator to showcase our methodology to “measure” the economic impact of Internet shutdowns. This is the second round of peer review on the calculator, and we’ll be ready for a full launch on June 28. Excellent feedback from partners, industry and government, especially on our transparency about the methodology and willingness to take input.



Grow Portfolio Highlights

Truist Grant 2021-2023

Since 2021, Truist Foundation awarded the Internet Society \$2.5 million in two rounds of grant funding, as part of the Expanding Potential in Communities (EPIC) program to extend broadband connectivity to historically excluded communities in the Southeastern United States. With this grant funding, ISOC has:

- Provided grants in 2021 to 5 recipients from a mix of urban and rural communities located in Alabama, Florida, and North Carolina. Additionally, we provided a second round of grants in 2022 to 6 communities in Texas, Maryland, North Carolina and Washington D.C.
- Ensured the supported community networks are built, owned, and operated by local governments and non-profit organizations. All of which have completed or are mid-way through their respective community network deployments as of May 2023.
- Worked with Truist to monitor and share success stories, like the [Jesup Cyber Wagon in Alabama](#).
- Initiated planning of an upskilling and celebratory event for the 11 grant recipients to be held in October 2023 alongside NANOG 89, supporting the long-term sustainability of grant-funded projects.



Strong



Strong Portfolio Highlights

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Proposal

European Parliament released its impact assessment on the preventing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Proposal and ISOC's [factsheet on client-side scanning](#) was referenced as a resource. The impact assessment included a chapter titled 'Impact of the CSA Proposal on the Internet'. To our knowledge, this is the first time ever that an EU impact assessment has specifically measured Internet impact.

EU digital identity regulation

The European Parliament approved its position on the [eID Proposal \(European digital identity\)](#) after adopting amendments proposed by the Internet Society. These amendments are essential - they assure that no certificates are exempt from the security standards enforced by browser root programs. Prior to amendment, the proposal mandated that browser root programs accept all EU-approved "Qualified Website Authentication Certificates" (QWACS). The forced acceptance of an insecure Certificate Authority is dangerous as it could allow an attacker to compromise user encryption, gain access to user passwords and personal data, and even manipulate or censor web content. The changes came after sustained advocacy by ISOC and our partners that began in 2021.

Routing Security

We saw the strongest public indication the U.S. government will work to improve the routing security practices of their own networks. This is something the MANRS team has been advocating for in the U.S. since 2017. (See [blog post](#) from Bob Cannon at the National Telecommunications and Infrastructure Administration at the U.S. Department of Commerce.)



Defending against Fragmentation - G7



Following our input to this year's G7 meetings, the [G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Declaration](#) very clearly adopted (pp.4-5) our key recommendations in our [contribution](#) on Internet Fragmentation.

On Internet Fragmentation:

- *We reconfirm our commitment to the promotion of an open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet...We also confirm our commitment to the protection and promotion of one global, unfragmented Internet and thus oppose any intention and action toward Internet fragmentation.*

On Internet Shutdowns:

- *We condemn government-imposed Internet shutdowns and network restrictions. We resolve to cooperate in making visible and tackling the tactics of digital authoritarianism, and seek to strengthen cooperation in addressing practices such as Internet shutdowns, network restrictions and digital mass-surveillance that violate international human rights law...We are committed to protect the technical infrastructure essential to the general availability or integrity of the Internet.*



Empowering People to Take Action



Empowering People Highlights

Chapter-led Trainings

- The Mali Chapter launched a face-to-face Designing and Deploying Computer Networks (DDCN) training for 25 women in Bamako, Mali. As the learning component of the project started, the chapter members are now actively working to secure internship opportunities for the participants, in local ISPs and other entities, to match the learning experience with a job opportunity.
- The Zimbabwe Chapter trained 43 high school teachers and university lecturers were trained on DDCN and each of them is expected to train many students moving forward. The chapter goal is to reach 2000+ students every year.

Community-led Advocacy

- To help the Government of Canada learn more about the impact C-18 could have on the Internet, Chapter members in Canada teamed up with policy and technical experts on staff to draft an Internet Impact Brief about the Online News Act.
- Because of this collaboration, the Chapter has now framed their advocacy with the Internet Impact Assessment lens, which they were not able to do before. They included the findings of the assessment into their submission report to the Senate Transport and Communications Committee currently studying C18, along with the Internet Impact Assessment Brief report.

Community Week

- Community Week 2023 was attended by 804 attendees from 119 countries. Feedback from attendees indicates that they enjoyed the event and the related interaction and knowledge sharing across regions, event formats and languages.
- However, we did not meet our attendance target of 1251 (10% increase from last year). Some possible reasons include virtual meeting fatigue, short period of time between the 2022 and 2023 editions of Community Week, late start of event registrations as unexpected tweaks were needed to ensure system readiness.



Thank you.

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