

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
 - <https://irtf.org/hrpc> <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc8280>

(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/registrars, 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!
 - <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html>
 - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Declaration_of_Human_Rights
- 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%