

Description

How big is the connectivity and capability gap between other countries and the United States? I came across this issue in Human Computer Interactive where I had an assignment to see the effect of culture on academic websites. I came across some of Brazil's official websites and saw a dramatic difference compared to those in the United States. I noticed that Brazil's capability and the quality of their website was far behind from the academic website of the United States. As an Information Technology major I take for granted the level of resources I have on a daily basis. I am exposed to fast internet, free Wi-Fi and some of the best websites and applications. I never really thought how easy and how good some of these resources were until I started to compare it to others. In some places in the world people have little to no connectivity to the internet. However this is just a small part of this issue. Being connected to the internet is one thing, it is another thing knowing how to use the resources and being able to probably communicate with the rest of the world. I know major corporations like Facebook and Google are working to increase connectivity to developing countries by providing internet to places that have little to no access.

In this research I want to explore the means of connectivity and the importance of it. I also want to research the importance of the capability of countries that have access to the internet. I believe that I would come to the conclusion that The United States along with a few others are far in advance in both areas. In this new age of the internet it is important to keep all countries connected in an even playing field where all are able to explore and enjoy the advances of being connected.

Testable Hypothesis

I am under the impression that the United States and a few other countries have a major advantage when it comes to being connected to the internet. Although some other developing countries have minimum access their capability has not yet met common standard. In this research I expect to

find a huge gap between connectivity and capability throughout the world. I would primarily focus in developing countries and use the United States as a reference point.

I will measure the different mean of connectivity and standards in the world. I will explore which internet provider have facility outside the United States and check if they provide the same service and meet the same standards. I would also have three specific area of website I would explore to conduct a User Interface Testing. Academic website, official government website and local company website. The goal of this test will be to compare the user interface between all three areas across the world. I would verify if the website allows for proper navigation and functionality. I would also test the design, layout, links, buttons and all the other website behaviors. The test will show the capability of each explored country testing there range of skills. It would show which website show sign of advance webpage development and which do not.

As we move to a world that is more connected, we need to learn which of our brother and sister countries are falling behind in their connectivity and capability and asset them in closing the gap. We should not allow the gap to continue to grow and stand by and do nothing. We need to find more companies like Facebook and Google who are finding solution and learn how to assist them in this fight. We should not stand by and continue to make technological advancement while developing counties are struggling. By doing so we can help connect the world closer together while creating the standard and to ensure we all share common capability.