Final Year Project Plan

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Title: 'Compare Censorship Experienced in Ireland with Another Country'
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SCSS

Background

Internet censorship has become more and more prevalent across the globe under many different styles of governance. Censorship is not exclusive to any particular culture or political ideology, as we see that it can take place in even the 'freest' of places. How a government employs such censorship will be the focal point of this work.

This work will not focus on the suppression of illegal content, such as the sale of illegal drugs, pornography, and so on, but rather information that is hidden from the people of one country as compared to another. In this case, a western and non-western country will be chosen.

While this is still not confirmed, the countries chosen for this project will be Ireland and Iran. The Analysis of the censorship experienced in Ireland will be conduced in collaboration with another student assigned the same project, Chris Casey (ccasey3@tcd.ie)

The bulk of the data collection will be carried out using the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) probe. The OONI is a free software project that began in 2012 as a part of the TOR project. It's goal is to publish evidence of internet censorship worldwide. The OONI probe allows for users to check for website blocking, TCP/IP blocking, DNS tampering, and HTTP header field manipulation. This data can help researchers find patterns of potential censorship.

Goals & Objectives

The goal of this project is to compare internet censorship between Ireland and Iran, along with its social and political impacts. Researching different methods that governments use to implement such censorship will be the core of the paper. The work carried out will include:
1. A literature review to identify existing knowledge on censorship in both countries
2. Research the impact such censorship has on the culture, norms, etc... of both countries
3. Data collection in each country using an OONI probe running on servers locally in the country
4. To achieve a comprehensive analysis of the data collected to identify patterns leading to censorship

Plan of Work

As of the week of January 20th, 2025, there are 13 weeks to the final submission date of this work. As some basic preliminary work has already been finished, the plan will not include basic tasks such as GitHub, latex, and other introductory tasks.

Weeks 1 & 2 – Literature Review
1. Finalize selection of both countries
2. Begin research and identification of existing work on censorship in each country
3. Begin adding and logging sources into latex for future reference

Weeks 2 - 5 – Data Collection
1. Setup server space in each country for testing
2. Outline baseline metrics that will be used during data collection
3. Use the OONI probe to Collect data in each country

Weeks 6 - 8 – Data Analysis
1. Analyze the technical data to find methods of censorship
2. Begin working on the project presentation for March 21st
3. Compare the data found from both countries

Weeks 9 – 11 – Comparative Analysis
1. Compare and contrast the data found in both countries
2. Begin formalizing data into reportable format

Weeks 12 & 13 – Finalization
1. Finalize all information, sources, and data into latex report
2. Submit