Would feminists have built a better internet?

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#imagineafeministinternet

From 2014-2021 (and beyond) a global network of movement leaders in intersectional feminism have set out to define a set of principles for everything from access to governance of the internet, with the aim of influencing its design, development, application, use and imaginations. Fast-forward to now, where globally engaged groups from around the world are building the changes they want to see. This includes experts engaging the engineering and technical community to visualise core internet protocols differently, from routing to security, through illustrations, drawings, charts, images, metaphors and texts, namely at the Internet Research Task Force through the development of a guidelines document for developing internet standards with intersectional feminist considerations.

FEM INIS T
PRINCIPLES
OF THE
IN TER NE T

All Principles

Principles

ACCESS

MOVEMENTS

ECONOMY

EXPRESSION

EMBODIMENT

Latest Resources

- Memory and invisibility:...
- FPIs Arabic
- FPI's French

Browse Resources by type

draft-guerra-feminism-02

Feminism and protocols

Abstract

This document aims to describe how internet standards, protocols and their implementations may impact diverse groups and communities. The research on how some protocols can be enablers for specific human rights while possibly restricting others has been documented in {{RFC8280}}. Similar to how RFC 8280 has taken a human rights lens through which to view engineering and design choices by internet standardisation, this document addresses the opportunities and vulnerabilities embedded within internet protocols for specific, traditionally marginalized groups.

History

1. Presentation of the Feminist Principles of the Internet -- IETF 104
2. Version 00
    a. Identify how user-level threats can be related to internet protocols
    b. Identify how gender is embedded in the design of protocols in the IETF.
3. Version 01
    a. If RFC 8280 looks at the UDHR, draft-feminism looks at the FPIs
    b. Focus on process.
4. Version 02
    a. New introduction
    b. Broaden to literature review beyond FPIs
    c. Shift to one goal of identifying user-level impacts of internet protocols as guidelines for design.

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Do we include data-driven research?

The use of Big Bang on the open data sources of the IETF may be a useful tool in the exploration and publication of relevant trends in internet governance, so as to better understand key research sub-questions, such as:

- Diversity of participation in internet governance,
- Influence and marginalization in internet governance,
- Alignment between expressed governance values and feminist principles, and potentially many more.

Open discussion question #1

Can Big Bang measure diversity of participation in internet governance?

If so, how?

And how often?

Open discussion question #2

Can Big Bang measure influence and marginalization in internet governance?

If so, how?

And how often?

To what end? (eg will data make a difference?)

Open discussion question #3

Should a research project interrogating the alignment of feminist principles with the governance principles of the IETF be driven by data?

Or is that another draft?

Pointers

Draft-feminism: https://github.com/mallory/feminism/blob/main/draft-feminism.md

List discussion: https://www.irtf.org/mailman/listinfo/hrpc

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