

Bottom-up Broadband: the User-Centric Internet

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Abstract—A new generation of networks is flourishing: Bottom-up networks. These networks take different forms, grow in different places and use different technologies. Still, they have something in common which is that they have their origins in the users.

The users own and manage the network following community practices. This particularity confers bottom-up networks unique properties. For example, they can grow in underserved areas, offer an additional layer of resilience against privacy invading practices and circumvent censorship.

Index Terms—bottom-up broadband, community networks

I. INTRODUCTION

THE sustained growth of community networks represent an interesting phenomena in the Internet ecosystem. They have their origins in reduced groups of experts and enthusiasts that built them as an experiment or for self-provisioning Internet access. Over the years, they have proved their viability and validity as a complement to existing commercial Internet offering.

The fact that independent and unrelated initiatives have appeared around the globe points to the fact that their existence is just a natural part of the Internet.

II. FROM CONSUMER TO PARTICIPANT

III. BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

IV. RESILIENCE AGAINST PRIVACY INVADING PRACTICES AND CENSORSHIP

V. THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF BOTTOM-UP NETWORKS

VI. GLOBAL CO-ORDINATION

VII. THE BOTTOM-UP BROADBAND INITIATIVE IN EUROPE

VIII. RELATED WORK

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IX. CONCLUSIONS

REFERENCES

- [1] A. Bogliolo, "Urbino wireless campus: A wide-area university wireless network to bridge digital divide," in *Access Networks & Workshops, 2007. AccessNeits' 07. Second International Conference on*. IEEE, 2007, pp. 1–6.

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