

Re-invigorating a National Forum on Internet Governance in Australia



A GROUP OF US MET ...

More than 55 people across civil society, technical/academic community, government and private sector

- Met to review, critique and collaborate on an initial draft 1.0 of a plan to rebirth a Community around internet governance
- We started the day with “why” a Community for Internet Government matters is so important
- We spent time learning about other initiatives around the world to help us get a feel for what and how an Australian initiative could evolve



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- We broke into four groups in the afternoon to work on different parts of v1.0 of the plan with the intention of creating v2.0
- Mid afternoon Group Facilitators synthesised what their group had brainstormed and discussed
- Version 2.0 was born



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- We refreshed the original Steering Committee who were responsible for v1.0 of the plan
- We co-created a list of top policy priorities from people in the room.

The rest of the pack articulates the background to this initiative, what it is, why it's important and how it could look.

This pack belongs to the Community.

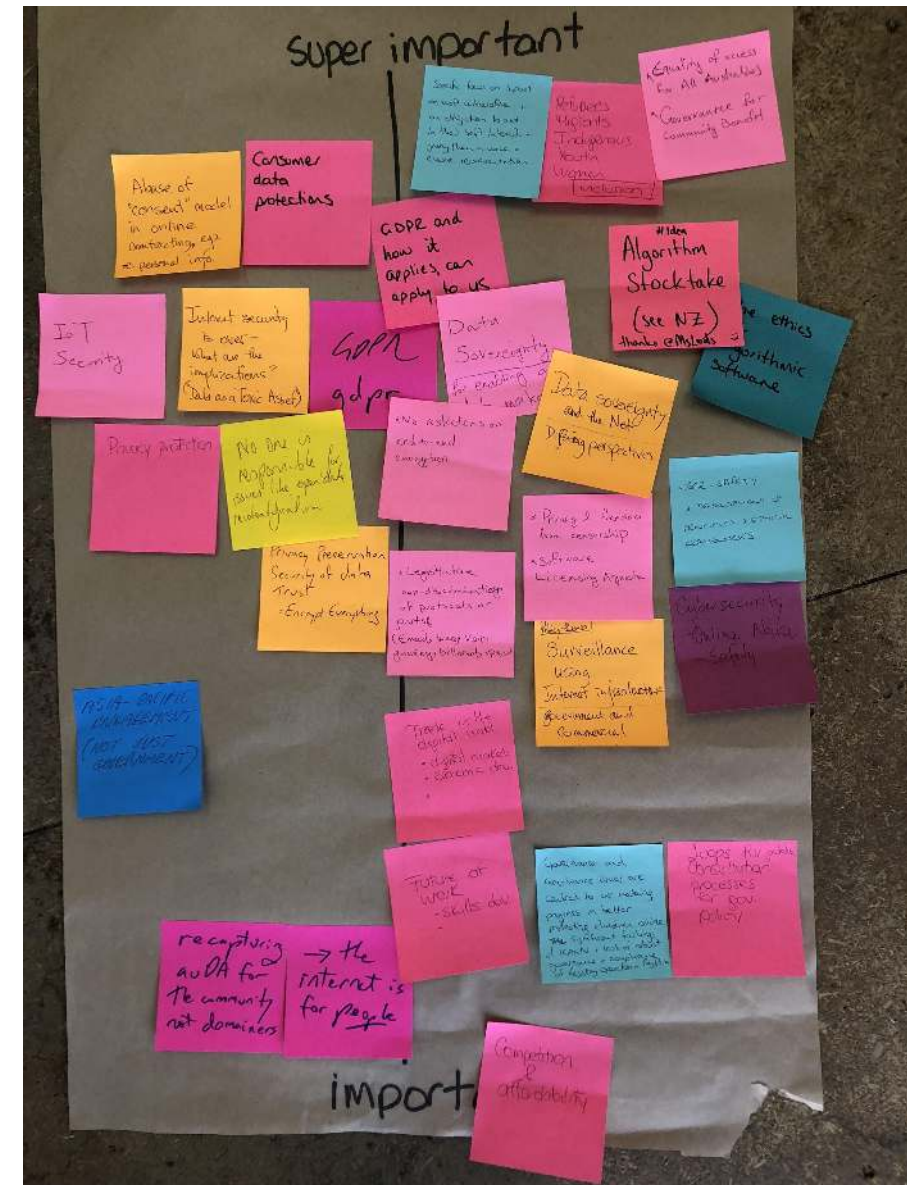
Enjoy.

Sandra Davey, on behalf of the original Steering Committee

Chair, Australian Internet Community Forum, 24th July 2018.

Original Steering Committee: InternetAU, EFA, DFAT, DOCA, APNIC, ACCAN, auDA.

Secretariat: ACIG, acig.com.au/



THE PROBLEM ... THE NEED

Not getting collaboration right hurts communities, innovation & public policy

Problem:

- The Internet is critical to today's society, and brings issues, risks and opportunities which impact every member of society.
- Groups and individuals have been a pioneering, founding pillar in the online governance and civil rights space since the development of the Internet; that wisdom, thought and care needs to be heard and respected by government(s).
- No single organisation or entity has enough knowledge, capacity, foresight or responsibility to society to ensure that Internet opportunities are maximised while risks are minimised.
- When the technologies, communities and opportunities the Internet enables are implemented without consideration for human rights, the negative effects can be felt immediately and long into the future.

We want a forum which is open, inclusive and diverse to discuss and learn about challenging issues relevant to the internet, that present risks and opportunities, that publishes a summary of the themes

Need:

- To bring together the broader community of Australian Internet stakeholders. To have its voices heard and acknowledged and to create shared understanding, actions and policy development through multi-stakeholder collaboration.
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THE PROBLEM ... THE NEED

The right collaboration model will lead to the best Internet communities, innovations & public policies.

The AICF Planning Forum identified two main problems:

The Internet produces many issues, threats and opportunities of interest to Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Internet amplifies and produces complex issues which have social, economic and political impacts on society.• No single stakeholder group can resolve issues related to the Internet• New issues are always emerging which may not have a straightforward response• Issues include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Known unknowns (e.g. censorship, fake news)◦ Unknown unknowns (eg, the future, internet architecture)◦ Politically motivated attacks (e.g. state sponsored hacking)◦ Accessibility and inequality of access
The Australian Internet community lacks a coordinated and inclusive approach to discussing Internet challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Australia, Internet Governance (IG) groups and organisations work in silos• Lack of diversity - IG forums need to share perspectives from different stakeholder groups and represent the diversity of Australian society• Acronyms and internet governance jargon are not easy to understand for newcomers• Exclusivity in the IG community - society needs to be in the loop and forums need to be in the public interest• Previous forums have lacked impact and concrete deliverables• Conflicts of interest are not visible• Lack of aggregation of issues and representation at the regional/global level• Lack of opportunity for capacity building in relation to IG networks, knowledge and solutions.

Why does Australia need an Internet Governance Community?

The Internet is global and Australia is a global citizen.

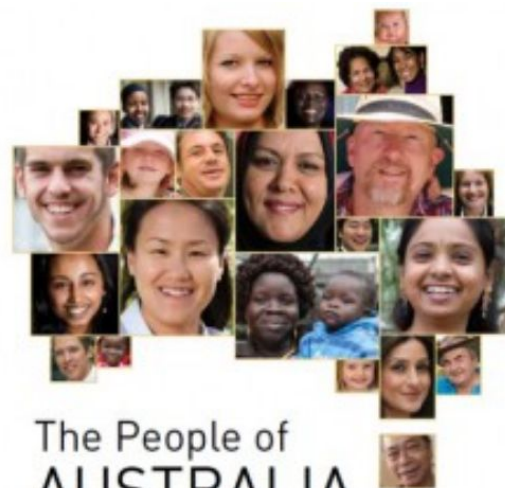
Other governments, authorities and entities can, and will, build on the policies, approaches and decisions that Australia makes from an ethical and policy framework.

What Australia does matters to our citizens and our neighbours. How Australia uses Internet, Internet policy, and Internet technology to shape our society can provide leadership to other countries who share our challenges.

The global Internet community must remain sensitive to attempts and approaches by sovereign states, transnational corporations, and global inter-governmental authorities to exert influence and control over how the Internet is run and managed.



WHO CAN BENEFIT?



Australian Government



COMMUNICATIONS
ALLIANCE



Australian Government
Department of Communications and the Arts



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



CURRENTLY ...

There is currently no Australian national initiative focused on Internet governance, or playing the role of a national initiative in the global IGF process.

Outside of governmental processes, there exists no effective mechanism and movement for Australia to grapple, in an inclusive way, with its national or transnational Internet governance challenges.

The UN Internet Governance Forum website lists Australia first - and as "cancelled".

We are not seen to be contributing internationally or within our region



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THE IGF IS A GLOBAL MULTISTAKEHOLDER PLATFORM THAT FACILITATES THE DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES PE

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Western European and Others Regional Group (WEOG)

Current record of the existing national IGFs in WEOG regional group:

National IGFs in WEOG Regional Group			
Name	About	Annual Meeting Information	Annual Meeting Report
Australia IGF	<p>National Australia IGF was organized in 2012 year.</p> <p>Its main aim is to create a unique space for different stakeholder groups to gather and discuss issues pertaining to the Internet in Australia.</p>	2017 - Initiative canceled	
	Austria national IGF was		

Globally other nations are energised. When we see an international map of Internet initiatives, Australia's lack of contribution is even more stark.



Initiative cancelled. We want to re-invigorate!

THE PITCH

FOR the Australian Internet Community **WHO** need to collectively shape policy outcomes on Internet matters **THIS** Forum on Internet governance **IS A** multi-stakeholder model **THAT** places individuals, industry, civil society, non-commercial interests and government on an equal level. **UNLIKE** traditional top-down governance models **THIS INITIATIVE** is bottom-up, decentralised and enables equity and fairness of voice and representation leading to quality outcomes.

OUR AIM / OBJECTIVE ...

To create an effective sustainable Australian Internet governance movement that is a regular, open and inclusive multi-stakeholder forum with:

- **Engagement** from all stakeholder groups, including policy-makers and the general public.
 - **Discussion** and **debate** on issues relating to Internet governance.
 - **Focus on** and **enhancing** mutual **work** towards consensus in the AU community.
 - **Opinion** and **input** on issues, such as Internet access, sustainability, robustness, security, stability, development and community impact.

→ **Built within**
A balanced multi-stakeholder model that reflects key stakeholders and significantly interested parties within Australia and acts in the best interests of the community.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDERISM

Why is multi-stakeholder engagement so great, so good, so important?



- The UN Working Group on Internet Governance (2003) discovered the “Multistakeholder approach” to Internet governance to be a key to the Internet’s outstanding success.
- A multi-stakeholder approach assembles people from diverse societal spheres into policymaking or rule-setting processes and uses the combined strength and wisdom of their resources, competencies and experiences.
- Different stakeholders, including governments, can safely and openly discuss contemporary topics on Internet governance, without the pressure of having to reach agreement on a negotiated outcome.
- It creates opportunities to learn; to share ideas and experience; and to identify emerging issues and bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public.
- As a model, multi-stakeholder decision-making is accountable, sustainable and effective. The better the inputs and the more inclusive the process, the better the outputs and their implementation
- As the Internet is operated by a variety of public and private sector and civil society stakeholders, successful implementation of decisions needs imaginative and collaborative solutions. Stakeholders who have been part of the process work harder to make its implementation a success.

A NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE IN AUSTRALIA SHOULD ...

- Be a true dialogue, favouring discussion while potentially leaving decision-making to other processes.
- Be purposefully open and inclusive, and oriented to engagement and capacity building of communities and participants at all levels
- Be different from other Cyber, ICT and Internet events in the manner and direction of the conversation.
- Influence decision-making processes relating to Internet governance in Australia, regionally and globally, by promoting open and deliberative processes that consider a broad range of information sources and perspectives. This holds for both the quality and implementation of the decision.
- Bring together, on an equal footing, Australian business, academic, NGOs/civil society, technical communities and government agencies.



A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PROCESS IS...

- Based on dialogue between public and private sector interests.
- A place where many opinions can be heard - activism is recognised but does not dominate.
- Multi-lateral and interactive by design, yet allowing for bilateral and topic focused activities.
- Open and inclusive for all interested parties to participate in, with minimal barriers to engagement.
- A learning and development opportunity for all participants.
- Bottom up, not top down.
- Collaborative and aiming to build consensus in views and solutions.
- Informal where possible, rather than aim to ratify fixed views formally.
- Decision forming rather than decision making.



Benefits of an Australian National Internet Governance Initiative



- A diverse and inclusive community which is fully prepared to address current and future Internet challenges.
- A community of mutual respect and of trust in respective roles and contributions of all parties.
- A platform for active collaboration on Internet governance issues, enabling innovation in Australia's Internet policy ecosystem.
- Quality policy outcomes for decision making bodies, that can best meet the public interest of Australians and create sustainable impact
- Decentralised and accessible design that reflects the diversity of stakeholders.
- Decision forming not decision taking - nothing gets watered down.
- Outcomes that are balanced and present a fair view on the matter or topic.
- Multi-stakeholder networks fill the regulatory voids of global policymaking.
- Multi-stakeholder networks offer a response to the increasing number of national and international problems that intergovernmental diplomacy alone, cannot grapple with.
- Australian leadership in, and better outcomes from, global Internet governance discussions.

HOW

What might it look like ...

1. Logistics

- a. A standing Secretariat and Steering Committee, continually active in supporting the initiative.
- b. Current Secretariat could / should be given responsibility for hiring specific roles once structure has been set up.
- c. Current Secretariat should be maintained until the first forum is organised with an 18-month review period.
- d. Two schools of thought: either an independent standalone body, or hosted by one or multiple organisations.
- e. Largely but not 100% dependent on volunteer work.
- f. Distinct funding streams for the Event itself and for the Secretariat.
- g. Accountability mechanisms for staff as well as triage options.
- h. Paid staff could facilitate resourcing and further engagement strategies over the course of the year.
 - i. Community engagement could be fostered through contact and liaison with existing community advocacy groups.
 - j. Institutional knowledge must remain centrally managed and accessible. (Wiki model?)
- k. Funding sources will require diversity. Could include in kind funding and/or government grants. EuroDIG model was endorsed to maintain UN recognition.
- l. Two schools of thought: "just get one on and sort out the details later" or "take the time necessary to do it right".

HOW



What might it look like ... continued

2. Aspirational

- a. Title of the forum should be Australian / indigenous Australian. Digital Down Under was suggested due to difficulty of using one indigenous language. "NetFest" or "Net Festival" were mentioned.
- b. Words "internet governance" should be deemphasised. Suggested emphasis on "Cooperation" rather than "Governance". Scope of topic is important.
- c. Endorsement of NetHui model with added suggestion that side consultation sessions and expert sessions could be held as well.
- d. Forum could be comprised of either one large event or multiple smaller events, either online or offline in multiple locations over the course of the year.
- e. Forum should be welcoming of newcomers and a learning experience for all. There should be no need for a separate "School of Internet Governance".
- f. Attendance at the forum should be diverse in every sense. Relationships with community groups could assist.
- g. Remote communities should be included, however "coops" have a tarnished reputation in rural areas as they have not worked. This presents challenges.
- h. Location should be flexible to facilitate inclusion and could include satellite venues. Roadshows were also suggested.
- i. Forum should focus more on positives than negatives.
- j. No commitment roles should be available to time poor contributors.
- k. "Dynamic Coalitions" (a la Global IGF) could assist in facilitating dedicated content streams, producing outputs, etc.

OPERATIONAL PLAN

What might it cost to sustain?

- Estimated annual cost, including salaries for two to three staff and a 1 day conference: \$250,000*
- Venue (including catering and audio visual)
 - Cost differs dependent upon city, and event size (1 day vs 2 days, number of attendees)
- Event manager (some event managers offer packages including venue hire)
- Travel support for speakers and for some attendees
 - May need criteria for allocation of travel support
- Marketing
- Independent Secretariat and Chair
 - Possible for secretariat support to include website, mailing list, teleconferencing, etc

* Annual budget for the previous aulGFs was \$120,000 (including travel support but not including staff time)

Consider strategies for sustainability such as:

- Might the forum be part of an existing organisation?
- Might it be a stand-alone?
- Could we leverage other events as a “day zero” action?

STATUS & TRACTION

What's happened so far

DONE

- au-IGF for five years. Ends 2017
- Aug 17: Cyber security roundtable, Canberra. Community agrees to re-ignite internet governance
- ACCAN, APNIC, EFA and Internet-AU join together to help
- audA joins in
- Nov 17: DFAT and DCA offer \$\$ support
- Dec 17: Chair appointed, SC formed, Chair and Secretariat funded
- Co-created draft plan
- Identify participants
- Draft future topics

DOING

- Community stakeholders meet in Canberra to co-create next version of plan
- Call for interested parties
- Refresh Steering Committee

TO DO

- See next slide

SEPT 18

JULY 2018

AUG 2018 onwards

NEXT STEPS

What do we have now?

1. Current Steering Committee
2. List of interested parties and organisations
3. version 2.0 of the plan
4. Refreshed Steering Committee

What's next for the new Steering Committee?

- Report back to the Community the outcomes of the workshop
 - Report to government on the process and outcomes (their \$\$ helped us get to this point)
 - Create a Sponsorship/Partnership pitch deck
 - Build on the starting list of potential funding (\$\$ and in kind) sources
 - Build on the starting point for a Community-created list of Internet governance topics
 - Seek partners/patrons/funders.
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