

# Freedom of Association and Internet Infrastructure

draft-tenoever-hrpc-association-05

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The most profound technologies are those that disappear.

→ Infrastructure is often taken for granted by those using it.

# Research Questions

1. How does the internet architecture enable and/or inhibit freedom of association and assembly?
2. If the Internet is used to exercise the right to freedom of association, what are the implications for its architecture and infrastructure?

## **Objective:**

Expand and deepen relationship between specific rights and protocols.

## **Non-Objectives:**

- Analyze specific protocols for HR impact
- Produce new guidelines

# 1. Overview of changes

- a) Removed the discussion on the Internet as association and possible consequences for relations between AS (obligation to pass packets)
- b) Cleaned up conclusion
- c) Typos

# Methodology

1. Collect a number of cases to analyze where Internet infrastructure and protocols enabled/inhibited people to collaborate/cooperate or communicate.
  - Ethnographical approach: this overview DOES NOT aim to cover all possible ways in which people can collectively organize or reach out but rather cover typical uses.
2. Analyze the cases with the theoretical framework in the literature review and provide recommendations based on the findings.

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# Conclusions

1. The right to freedom of assembly and association protects collective expression.
2. Since Internet protocols play a central role in the management, development and use of the Internet, we established the relation between some protocols and the right to freedom of assembly and association.
3. Different architectural designs come with different affordances, or characteristics.
  - E.g. Centralized vs. Decentralized
4. The increasing shift towards closed and non-interoperable platforms have a significant impact on the distributed and open nature of the Internet.



Comments?

Disagreements?

Research Group adoption?