

IETF 117

IRTF

Decentralization of the Internet Research Group

25 July 2023

This session is being recorded

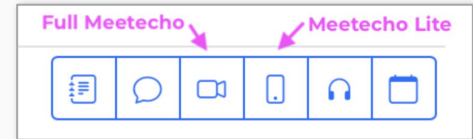
IETF 117 Meeting Tips

In-person participants

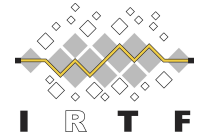
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DINRG charter

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/rg/dinrg/about/>

Recent years have witnessed the consolidations of the Internet applications, services, as well as the infrastructure. The Decentralization of the Internet Research Group (DINRG) aims to provide for the research and engineering community, both *an open forum to discuss* the Internet centralization phenomena and associated potential threats, and *a platform to facilitate the coordination of efforts* in identifying the causes of observed consolidations and the mitigation solutions.

Main Objectives

- **Investigation of the root causes** of Internet centralization, and articulation of the impacts of the market economy, architecture and protocol designs, as well as government regulations;
- **Measurement** of the Internet centralization and the consequential societal impacts;
- **Characterization and assessment** of observed Internet centralization;
- **Development of a common terminology** and understanding of (de-)centralization;
- **Interaction with the broader research community** to explore new research topics and technical solutions for decentralized system and application development;
- **Documentation** of the outcome from the above efforts via different means (e.g., research papers and RFCs) as inputs to the broader conversation around centralization; and
- **Facilitation of discussions** between researchers, organizations and individuals involved in Internet standards and regulations.

Report of 2021 DINRG Workshop on Centralization in the Internet

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The authors take full responsibility for this article's technical content. Comments can be posted through CCR Online.

ABSTRACT

The Internet Research Task Force (IRTF) Research Group on Decentralization of the Internet (DINRG) hosted a workshop on *Centralization in the Internet* on June 3, 2021. The workshop focused on painting a broad-brush landscape of the Internet centralization problem space: its starting point, its driving force, together with an articulation on what can and should be done.

CCS CONCEPTS

This workshop consisted of two panels, each panel started with an opening presentation, followed by panel discussions, then open-floor discussions. There was also an all-hand discussion at the end. Three hours of the workshop presentations and discussions showed that this Internet centralization problem space is highly complex and filled with intrinsic interplays between technical and economic factors.

This report aims to summarize the workshop outcome with a broad-brush picture of the problem space. We hope that this big picture view could help the research group, as well as the broader IETF

DINRG Administrativa

- Mailing list: din@irtf.org
- Web: <https://irtf.org/dinrg>
- Chairs
 - Dirk Kutscher, HKUST(GZ)
 - Lixia Zhang, UCLA
- This meeting
 - **Note taker:**

Agenda

1	DINRG Chairs' Presentation: Status, Updates	Chairs	05 min
2	Let The Platforms Burn: Bringing Back the Good Fire of the Old Internet	Cory Doctorow	30 min
3	Ecosystem Evolution and Digital Infrastructure Policy Challenges: Insights & Reflections from an Economics Perspective	Volker Stocker & William Lehr	20 min
4	Minimal Global Broadcast (MGB)	Christian Tschudin	20 min
5	Open mic; Wrap-up	All	15 min

Presentations