

IRTF DINRG Panel Discussion

Internet Decentralization – Next Steps

2024-07-24

Lixia Zhang & Dirk Kutscher

Panelists

- Geoff Huston (APNIC)
- Christian Huitema (Private Octopus)
- Dirk Kutscher (HKUST)
- Arnaud Taddei (Broadcom)
- Lixia Zhang (UCLA)

Background

- Previous DINRG meetings all had lively open mic discussions
- Spontaneous conversations
 - Interesting and insightful
 - Tend to head to different issues in diverse directions
- Today: continue/extend the previous discussions by
 - Gathering a small group of panelists and start the discussion with a list of questions collected from the previous meetings
 - Open mic for all audience
- Goal: identify an ordered list of issues for DINRG to tackle in coming years

Questions and Topics

1. "Centralization" – state of system

- do we have a good enough understanding of the factors (economic, technical, regulatory)?
- what has changed recently?
- what should we study more?

2. Responding to centralization

- how should societies and market react?
- which groups & stake-holders should get engaged?
- whose interests do we want to push?
- what could go wrong (risks in countering centralization)

3. Future work for DINRG

- what should DINRG focus on?
- what are most fruitful topics and potential projects?
- what could/should be the expected outcome from the DINRG efforts?

DINRG agenda since 2021 Workshop

IETF 114:

- Report on Workshop on Centralization in the Internet (2021-06)
- Open Discussion on Next Steps

IETF 115:

- Centralization Taxonomy
- Protocol and Engineering Effects of Consolidation (observation and analysis)
- Web Centralization (problem identification, solution development)
- Power of Attorney (PoA) based authorization (solution development)
- Internet-Wide Realm Crossover (solution development)

IETF 116:

- Avoiding Internet Centralization
- Effects of Internet Consolidation
- Discussion of Issues (E2E etc.)
- Taxonomy Discussion

IETF 117:

- Let The Platforms Burn: Bringing Back the Good Fire of the Old Internet (Cory Doctorow)
- Ecosystem Evolution and Digital Infrastructure Policy Challenges: Insights & Reflections from an Economics Perspective (econ, policy)
- Minimal Global Broadcast (MGB) (solution development from link layer up)

IETF 118:

- The Case of AS59645: Making it ping and doing stupid things (measurements)
- The Cloud Strikes Back: Investigating the Decentralization of IPFS (measurements)
- Local-First Software (solution development)
- A Taxonomy of Internet Consolidation

• **IETF 119:**

- Cyberspace Regulation Case Study (policy)
- Delivering Social and Municipal Services (solution development)
- Workspace: A Local-First Application Prototype (solution development)
- RFC 9518 discussion (“Centralization, Decentralization, and Internet Standards”)