

Proposal for research on human rights protocol considerations

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Discussion on this draft at: hrpc@article19.io

<https://lists.ghserv.net/mailman/listinfo/hrpc>

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Research Topic

Work has been done on privacy consideration guidelines that should be considered when creating an Internet protocol [RFC 6973].

This draft suggests that similar considerations may apply for other human rights such as freedom of expression or freedom of association.

This represents a research challenge that will require a good amount of cross discipline cooperation to develop a consistent methodology.

Why?

Protecting human rights is a form of security.

Future proofing of protocols and standards in the light of rapid politicization of Internet management space.

It needs to be determined whether there is a causal relationship between Internet protocols and standards, and human rights such as freedom of expression.

Approach

- 1) We have created a mailing list where we would like to encourage discussion of the issue and capture interest of the community.
- 2) A second step would be to create a charter and ask the IRTF for a Research group to further develop methodology and investigate human rights protocol considerations.
- 3) Assuming that the research produces useful results, the objective would evolve into the creation of a set of recommended considerations for the protection of applicable human rights.

Methodology

(first steps)

- Building on Internet Society paper Internet Protocols: Comparing Processes and Principles by Liddicoat and Doria
- Mapping exercise analyzing RFCs (and other IETF relevant documents) for language, standards and protocols that could have an impact (either on solidify, enable or threaten) human rights, such as freedom of expression and the right to association and assembly online.
- Interviews with authors, WG chairs and other relevant community members

Possible points of entry

- Architecture – RFC1958 – Right to receive and impart information
'[...] Goal [of the internet] is connectivity [...]
- Transparency – RFC4924 - Right to hold opinions *without interference*

'Networks that provide oblivious transport enable the deployment of new services without requiring changes to the core. It is this flexibility that is perhaps both the Internet's most essential characteristic as well as one of the most important contributors to its success.'

- HTML – RFC 7230 up to 7236 and 7327 – Freedom of expression
- Mailinglists – RFC 2369, 2919, 6783 – Freedom of Assembly
- IDNs – IDNA2008 (RFC 5890 up to 5893) - Diversity & Access

Questions, comments or suggestions?

Please join the discussion on the
mailinglist:

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