

### **Data Governance and accountability (1 of 3 themes for 2019 Global IGF)**

*Working title:* Which national privacy strategy should the US adopt?

*Description:* With California Consumer Privacy Act of 2018 and the EU's General Data Protection applying pressure from home and abroad, there is a push for the US government to adopt a modern, comprehensive privacy framework. This occurs at a time when large Internet platforms have come under fire for their collection, use and protection of their users' data, along with growing concerns about government surveillance. As we get closer than ever to a national privacy regime, it is important to consider the implications of the possible frameworks on the broader issue of data governance and impact of businesses large and small.

### **Cybersecurity and safety (1 of 3 themes for 2019 Global IGF)**

*Working title:* How far do we take offensive cybersecurity?

*Description:* This session will discuss the logistics (waiting vs. following an active lead), legalities (law enforcement coordination, knowing when you've hit foreign cyber space and what to do, disclosure, reporting) and ethics (should anyone hack-back or does that exacerbate the problem) of *who* is responsible for cyber investigations: the government, a privatized cyber military, companies with critical infrastructure/public assets (public v. private networks), a hybrid of those, or anyone with a smartphone? Should the government explicitly legalize hacking-back; how so? Are there specific sectors (e.g., utilities, DNS, election infrastructure, mobile) that should permit hacking-back?

### **TechLash in 2019**

*Working title:* The internet is a dumpster fire. Now what?

*Description:* The internet isn't perfect. The biggest internet companies created tools for good that are now being used with bad intentions. Countries don't always make the best decisions. Users make poor choices in security... so now what? This session looks at the "TechLash" in terms of three current trends in addressing early design flaws: sweeping regulations in content platforms around data breach liability, an entity having 'too much' data, and end-user control options. If you have a gripe about the internet, this session is for you!

### **Platform liability for user content and commerce**

*Working title:* The key to thriving content platforms

*Description:* This session will educate participants on a threatened component of existing communications law that has enabled user-generated content for the last two decades. Today, platforms and infrastructure providers are not held liable for the content created or posted by users of their services - the user is responsible for their content. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act is under attack by draft legislation and trade policies. Attend this session to understand why and what you can do to stop new platform liability, which would make it too risky and expensive for any but the very largest online platforms to host any user-generated news, views, or commerce.

## **Antitrust versus Big Tech**

*Working title:* If Big is Bad, is Big **Tech** Even Badder?

*Description:* Tech and Internet companies are getting bigger through natural growth, as well as vertical and horizontal integration. This has the potential to shape the evolution of Internet usage and technologies in a variety of ways. This panel would discuss the costs and benefits of regulation as policy makers and key federal agencies examine whether there is a need for antitrust intervention. Is big tech causing harm to consumers or is the threat of antitrust being used as a political tool?

## **Artificial Intelligence**

*Working title:* Ensuring Genuine Benefits from Artificial Intelligence

*Description:* Artificial intelligence has the potential to radically transform industries, governments, economies and societies. Embracing this potential, President Trump recently signed an Executive Order to launch the American AI Initiative elevating artificial intelligence to a national priority. However, as businesses and governments increasingly leverage this technology, it is important to recognize the potential it has to create or exacerbate a number of ethical, technical, social and legal issues. This panel would bring together policy makers, industry and civil society experts to discuss how maximizing the benefits of AI, while addressing its limitations, risks and harms.

## **Inclusion (1 of 3 themes for 2019 Global IGF)**

*Working title:* An Internet for All Americans

*Description:* The stakes are higher than ever for those that do not have access to the Internet. Connectivity has increasingly become a prerequisite to participation in society, including getting a quality education, access to economic opportunity, civic engagement and even physical world activities, such as parking in many city centers. Despite these realities, some rural, remote, indigenous and inner cities communities are still not online. Achieving the goal of an Internet for all Americans will require collaboration between all stakeholder groups, including local community members and governments, technology experts, civil society, the federal government, and more. How can we work together to look beyond mere connectivity to issues including affordability, digital literacy, and services on the Internet that are accessible and relevant to people's lives?

## **5G enabling tech innovation**

*Working title:* *The impact of 5G on current and emerging technologies*

*Description:* 5G will have the capability to upgrade current bandwidth constraints using a combination of wireless and wireline connections that will allow more devices to be connected using faster data downloads and upload speeds, wider coverage, more stable connections, and less latency over shorter physical distances. This will allow for connections with near zero latency and allow for more connected devices on the same frequencies. This could mean major enhancements for health care applications, industrial equipment, self-driving cars, smart cities, and connected devices. 5G will enhance mobility, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Voice Command technologies, real-time data analytics that will create the next generation digital transformation.

### **Platform moderation of user views & news**

*Working title:* Should Online Platforms Moderate Publication of User Views and News?

*Description:* “Congress recognized the threat that tort-based lawsuits pose to freedom of speech in the new and burgeoning Internet medium. ... Section 230 was enacted, in part, to maintain the robust nature of Internet communication.” (Zeran, 1997). US law and courts have barred lawsuits seeking to hold a platform liable for exercising a publisher’s traditional editorial functions, such as deciding whether to publish, withdraw, postpone, or alter content. But what if an online platform’s content moderation offends a group that also holds political power? Let’s explore whether online platforms should be forced to post all news and views, even in violation of their terms of service.

### **Internet Governance institutions**

*Working title:* How do we prevent the IGF from become the Internet Governance Failure

*Description:* At the 2018 Internet Governance Forum in Paris, President Emmanuel Macron said “if we do not regulate Internet, there is the risk that the foundations of democracy will be shaken” and called for “innovative multilateralism.” However, if governments mis-regulate the Internet, there is a risk that the technical foundations of the Internet will be shaken, as regulations intended to regulate platforms can impact the Internet’s public core. The calls for a stronger regulatory approach on the Internet are unlikely to go away and if ignored by the Internet’s multistakeholder community could have deep, potentially negative, impacts on the Internet landscape.

### **Alternative technical futures**

*Working title:* Do the benefits of data centralization outweigh the risks?

*Description:* New levels of networking will be engaging trust anchors to validate authentication through new protocols like DNS over HTTPS, known as DoH to enable new levels of security on browser connections. This could centralize data to a chosen provider. There are pros/cons to DNS traffic being directed in this fashion, some cyber experts have raised concerns that it would disable diagnostic tools for malware and botnet attacks, others see it as a way to increase privacy by mainstreaming their DNS traffic over specific servers rather than the traditional network-layer architecture. Openness, transparency, competition, and government surveillance are all issues encompassed in an alternative technical mapping of the Internet.

### **IOT for business and consumers**

*Working title:* Winning Friends and Influencing Society: Lessons from the IoT in an AI World

*Description:* The IGF IoT DC has proactively promoted global best practices for a decade. Is that enough for the IoT and will that be enough for AI or have we reached a point with the advent of AI where we need to move from a reliance on best practices to a mix of baseline standards including global bodies? This panel would explore the concept of change and what those changes would be.

## **Supply Chain innovation & IOT**

*Working title:* How do we maximize supply chain efficiencies with IOT

*Description:* Supply Chain management encompasses the broad range of activities it takes to execute and control a product's flow from end-to end. The Internet of Things, or IoT is a new level of infrastructure connectivity that can allow transactions and transmission of data to enable connections and command functionalities of devices to move us beyond the limits of today's network operations and enhance the supply chain management process with the addition of risk management. The data that flows through devices to applications will allow for data management systems to use artificial intelligence to enable authorization levels of the use of a product or data and create time sequencing of events as part of a supply chain risk management process. These two technology enhancements can proactively reduce supply chain threats for users of the technology by identifying risks and mitigating them real time.

## **EU taxation of digital content and advertising**

*Working title:* A Transatlantic Tax for Showing Ads to European Eyes

*Description:* Several European countries are advocating an EU Digital Services Tax, equal to 3% of advertising revenue earned on anything that's *seen by European eyes*. More than half of this tax would be paid by American companies. And it would discriminate by targeting online ad revenue, while *not* taxing revenue from ads in print and broadcast media.

## **Blockchain**

*Working title:* *The blockchain: hype or hope for public sector records management.*

*Description:* Blockchain is a distributed ledger system that records transactions across several computers usually linked by a peer-to-peer computing system. It is credited for creating a greater transparency in record documentation. This could be beneficial for any transaction that values visibility into its process. Blockchain records enhance audit capabilities with its irreversible time/date stamp technology imbedded into the basic code for blockchain transactions.