



Wednesday, October 31, 2018
Creating an Internet of Trust in Uganda

The Internet has enabled information flows critical for communication, commerce, research, governance, among others. The Internet's original design treated every bit, despite origin and destination, equally thus making it such a trusted entity. The ability to trust strangers through crowdsourcing information, social networking, among others, through Over-the-Top (OTT) services, emboldened ideals on distributed trust.¹ However, OTT services' intermediation of the Internet came with extraordinary power. Suddenly, services such as Google and Facebook built incredibly powerful and profitable data-driven business models at a worldwide scale.

In recent times, different interest groups such as governments and corporates have since picked considerable interest and now wrest for control of the Internet especially in the wake of the weaponisation of news, algorithms, politics, and people. This weaponisation has significantly checked, if not destroyed the foundation of trust the Internet was premised.

Internet usage in Uganda continues to grow with recent figures from the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) pointing to 18.8 million internet subscriptions representing a 48% penetration rate as at December 2017. Of which, 77% of the access was via mobile whose penetration rate stands at 65 connections per 100 inhabitants. Despite considerable gains in Internet use and access in Uganda, several issues related to its control and regulation emerge. For example, cybersecurity had previously been seen as an issue of national security through regulations such as Interception of Communications Act, Computer Misuse Act, among others, yet personal data protection and privacy is equally cardinal. While efforts to connect the unconnected such as citizens and government services have been unprecedented, there still are distinct digital divides in rural areas and the inclusion of youth, women, the disabled and other vulnerable and minority groups.² The further growth of Internet giants and their OTT offerings might have denied the government of the much-needed tax revenue since taxing these giants would require new taxation regimes readily not available in emerging markets. Instead, the government has shifted the tax burden to the citizens through social media (OTT) and mobile money taxes.³ Meanwhile, emerging technologies such as blockchain and Digital Ledger Technologies (DLT) promise to foster trust and privacy through decentralisation of services. The Internet of Things (IoT) only

¹ Shirky, Clay. *Here Comes Everybody: the Power of Organizing without Organizations*. New York: Penguin Books, 2009.

² Available at <https://www.nita.go.ug/publication/national-it-survey-2018-final-report>

³ A4AI, "Uganda: New social media tax will push basic connectivity further out of reach for millions," CIPESA, June 7, 2018, available at <https://cipesa.org/2018/06/uganda-new-social-media-tax-will-push-basic-connectivity-further-out-of-reach-for-millions/>

shows that the Internet's potential is yet to be fully tapped into through the interconnection of everything.

The Uganda Internet Governance Forum (UIGF) is a multi-stakeholder event that involves representatives from government, civil society, academia, technical community, private sector, entities and individuals interested in Internet Governance (IG) issues. Inaugurated in 2006, the objectives of the UIGF are to: Establish IG issues relevant to Uganda; Build consensus on national and regional positions around relevant IG issues and create awareness about various IG issues including online safety in Uganda especially among vulnerable users.

Venue: Protea Hotel by Marriott Kampala

Draft Agenda

Time	Activity
8.00-8.30	Arrival and registration of participants
8.30-9.00	Welcome remarks
9.00-9.30	<p>An overview of the previous IGF</p> <p><i>“Been there, done that: Lessons from past experiences and suggestions (food for thought)” - Mary Helda Akongo (Zimba Women), Mwotta Bazil (Queen’s Young Leader), Daniel Bill Opio (Cyber Law Initiative)</i></p>
9.30-10.30	Keynote Address: TBC
10.30-11:00	<p>Content Regulation vs Misinformation ("Fake News")</p> <p><i>The internet has revolutionised the information landscape across the world. However, the same technology has also been used to facilitate the spread of fake news and catalyse misinformation. While technical and policy interventions may attempt to solve the issues arising, they might have even far-reaching implications on freedom of expression online. This session thus seeks to explore the impact of misinformation (fake news) on the public sphere and how to inclusively create solutions, through technical and policy requirements, without compromising fundamental freedoms online.</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr Fred Otunnu, Director of Corporate Affairs at the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC). ● Bernard Tabaire, Director of Programmes, ACME ● Hannington A. Ochan, Editor, Cross-Border Network ● Rosebell Kagumire, Communications Specialist <p>Moderator: Raymond Mujuni, Investigative Journalist, NBS Television</p>
11:00 - 11:30	Health break
11.30 - 12:45	<p>Accessibility & Digital inclusion</p> <p><i>The need to design digital tools that are accessible and intuitive to the disabled, older people, and illiterate, among others, is paramount. Policymakers have been called incentivize technologists and designers to build with accessibility in mind. However, digital inclusion also engenders other aspects such as affordability, and safety of digital services by vulnerable and minority groups.</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Peter Kahiigi, Director e-Government services, NITA-Uganda ● Simon Eroku, Uganda National Association of the Deaf (UNAD) ● Rehema Baguma, Makerere University ● Private Sector (TBC) ● CSO rep (TBC) <p>Moderator: TBC</p>
12.45-14.00	Lunch break
14.00-15.00	Cybersecurity & Blockchain

	<p><i>Cybersecurity has gained more prominence in the recent past due to the increased level of incidences not only at institutional but also individual levels. The Internet has projected data breaches on a global scale. Suddenly, the interconnection of devices and people has become the Trojan Horse of the 21st century. Meanwhile, DLT and blockchain stateless, permissionless, tamper-proof ledgers promise to facilitate ‘trust’ where parties would typically not trust each other. This promise transcends digital payments and property rights, to almost anything that can be connected to the Internet.</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Noah Balesanvu, Blockchain Association of Uganda ● Arnold Mangeni, NITA-U ● Silver Kayondo, Ortus LLP ● Alice Namuli Blazevic, KATS ● Jimmy Haguma, Uganda Police Force <p>Moderator: TBC</p>
15.45-16.45	<p>Internet Governance around the world and how to participate</p> <p><i>Who controls/governs the Internet? This is the decade-old question whose obvious answer is “nobody”. However, Internet Governance encompasses varied and diverse stakeholders organised in a multistakeholder setting such as governments, corporates, academia, technical community, and civil society who come together to raise issues concerning Internet Governance, build consensus, and forge ways forward.</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ernest Byaruhanga, Policy Liasion, AfriNIC ● Joan Katambi, ICANN fellow ● Gloria Katuuku, MoICT
16.45-17.00	Closing remarks
17.00 - 19.00	Cocktail, Networking and Departure