

[Home](#)[Blog Writing Guide Lines](#)

DOPHUB (HTTP://DOPHUB.POLSYS.I

A UVA NEW MEDIA STUDIES COURSE BLOG

RIPE and the fight against Internet Governance

 [Amber Malik \(http://dophub.polsys.net/author/ambermalik/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/author/ambermalik/)
 [November 28, 2014 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-and-the-fight-against-internet-governance/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-and-the-fight-against-internet-governance/)
 [0 Comments \(http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-and-the-fight-against-internet-governance/#respond\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-and-the-fight-against-internet-governance/#respond)



In a world where Net Neutrality is becoming less and less of an obvious given, the most important thing one can do to battle these issues is to openly discuss the risks and what can be done about internet governance. It can be by making or watching documentaries (if I can suggest one myself, the IDFA film *Killswitch* (2014) highlights the issue of net neutrality perfectly) and by sharing that same documentary afterwards on Facebook, talking about it in bars or just passing it on to your mom or dad while you're sitting on their couch. Or, another alternative that I am going to look deeper into in this post, is by posting on forums or using mailing lists to spread awareness about what is happening to our daily, private lives.

Internet Governance forums can “describe how technology could bias outcomes across policy arenas, such as privacy or freedom of expression” (DeNardis 1). Or, a bit clearer: “Internet governance generally refers to policy and technical coordination issues related to the exchange of information over the Internet” (DeNardis 3). Not only the exchange of information over the Internet, but also what this exchange of information entails. Our information is used in ways that we never imagined: “Governance has had immediate implications to freedom of expression online” (DeNardis 10). Our information, from what we do on Facebook to the private, naughty e-mail you sent your boyfriend through G-Mail, is passed on to the government. I wanted to see what the rest of the world

had to say about this.

I subscribed myself to a RIPE mailing list that was focussing on address policy. RIPE is an interesting website to research because they are an independent, not-for-profit organisation that supports the infrastructure of the Internet through technical coordination in its service region. They try to serve their members by connecting the people within the technical community and spread awareness where they can (RIPE.net). This is an important way of analyzing internet governance and see what can be done about it.

The mailing lists of November were about IPv6 addresses. The important issue of the mailing list was to use the new IP address that is on an best effort basis and connects you to the whole internet, even if the advertised DNS servers aren't picked up by every device. In the mailing list, a discussion is raised about the merging of the IPv6 mailing list and the IPv4 mailing list, but there's also an interesting piece on oil companies in Saudi Arabia that want to start offering IPv6 to start looking into the behavior of their customers. Since in this day and age the biggest companies in the world have the most information and are therefore the most powerful (as said in the beginning sequence of *Killswitch*: "information is gold"), this is something to be cautious of. The need to go into such excruciating detail in order to stay anonymous on the Internet without being governed, says enough about the freedom that we are giving up. It could be because of freedom of speech or the raising problem of copyright issues, as DeNardis mentions, but also of protecting the Domain Name System from attacks from hackers (DeNardis 9).

There are two very extreme ways of looking at this development. Cyber-libertarianism is the utopian technological determinism in which the freedom of expression lies within technology and their protocols (Mueller 3), not the government that is watching over our every step. Technology makes the problems of politics and governance go away if it's up to them. On the other hand, there's cyber-conservatism (Mueller 4), the state sovereignty model that extends traditional forms of state control to the internet to serve the public interest. They feel like the control that the government already has should be used on the internet as well. They praise a bordered internet. In the mailing list, you can see, if you look hard enough, a case of cyber-libertarianism happening between the lines. The users believe that if they use the IPv6 protocol, it can be easier to escape the governance's watch if they just use a different DNS or start looking into it. In my opinion, it is certainly very important to see what is happening and go against it, but freedom doesn't lie within the technology itself: we can't randomly disregard any control that the government or bigger multinationals have over the world. The problem isn't fixed by a simple protocol: it is much more complex than that. And the way to start solving this problem, is by letting everyone in the world know. Edward Snowden has started the fire: it's up to us to keep it burning.

Bibliography

DeNardis, Laura. "The Emerging Field of Internet Governance", in: William H. Dutton (ed). *The Oxford Handbook of Internet Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Killswitch. Dir. Ali Akbarzadeh. Akorn Entertainment, LCC, 2014.

Mueller, Milton L. "A Battle for the Soul of the Internet" en "Ideologies and Visions". *Networks and States: The Global Politics of Internet Governance*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 2010, p. 1-13.

"IPv6 Working Group." *RIPE NCC*. Web. 27 nov 2014. <<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/groups/wg/ipv6>>

📌 [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/wg3-avv6/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/wg3-avv6/) 📌 [address policy \(http://dophub.polsys.net/tag/address-policy/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/tag/address-policy/), [internet governance \(http://dophub.polsys.net/tag/internet-governance/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/tag/internet-governance/), [RIPE NCC \(http://dophub.polsys.net/tag/ripe-ncc/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/tag/ripe-ncc/) 📌 [Bookmark \(http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-and-the-fight-against-internet-governance/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-and-the-fight-against-internet-governance/)

◀ PREVIOUS ARTICLE

Internet Governance, de continue strijd
(<http://dophub.polsys.net/internet-governance-de-continue-strijd/>)

NEXT ARTICLE ▶

Werkgroep DNS: technische en organisatorische implicaties
(<http://dophub.polsys.net/werkgroep-dns-technische-en-organisatorische-implicaties/>)

Leave a Reply

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked *

Name*

Email*

Website

Message...

You may use these HTML (HyperText Markup Language) tags and attributes:

 <abbr title=""> <acronym title=""> <blockquote cite=""> <cite> <code> <del datetime=""> <i> <q cite=""> <strike>

POST COMMENT

Search ... 

RECENT POSTS

- ◉ [RIPE Address Policy Working Group: een internationale en gedistribueerde vorm van internet governance](http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-address-policy-working-group-een-internationale-en-gedistribueerde-vorm-van-internet-governance/) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/ripe-address-policy-working-group-een-internationale-en-gedistribueerde-vorm-van-internet-governance/>)
- ◉ [Ian Hixie: HTML-gouverneur](http://dophub.polsys.net/ian-hixie-html-gouverneur/) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/ian-hixie-html-gouverneur/>)
- ◉ [De Waarde van Mailinglijsten](http://dophub.polsys.net/de-waarde-van-mailinglijsten/) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/de-waarde-van-mailinglijsten/>)
- ◉ [Internet Governance & Anti-Abuse binnen RIPE NCC](http://dophub.polsys.net/internet-governance-anti-abuse-binnen-ripe-ncc/) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/internet-governance-anti-abuse-binnen-ripe-ncc/>)
- ◉ [Internet Governance en Digitale Mensenrechten](http://dophub.polsys.net/internet-governance-en-digitale-mensenrechten/) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/internet-governance-en-digitale-mensenrechten/>)

RECENT COMMENTS

- [Peter | aanrechtblad-composiet.nl/](http://aanrechtblad-composiet.nl/) (<http://aanrechtblad-composiet.nl/>) on [Popcorn time: een collaboratief project of een illegaal product?](http://dophub.polsys.net/popcorn-time-een-collaboratief-project-of-een-illegaal-product/#comment-15) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/popcorn-time-een-collaboratief-project-of-een-illegaal-product/#comment-15>)
- [A critical view on GitHub – DOPhub](http://dophub.polsys.net/a-critical-view-on-github/) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/a-critical-view-on-github/>) on [Software as a theoretical category](http://dophub.polsys.net/software-as-a-theoretical-category) (<http://dophub.polsys.net/software-as-a-theoretical-category>)

[/#comment-4](#)

- [Mr WordPress \(https://wordpress.org/\)](#) on [Hello class! \(http://dophub.polsys.net/hello-world/#comment-1\)](#)

ARCHIVES

- 📅 [November 2014 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/2014/11/\)](#)
- 📅 [October 2014 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/2014/10/\)](#)
- 📅 [September 2014 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/2014/09/\)](#)
- 📅 [August 2014 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/2014/08/\)](#)

CATEGORIES

- [AVV1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv1/\)](#)
- [AVV2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv2/\)](#)
- [AVV4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv4/\)](#)
- [AVV6 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/\)](#)
- [Cijferopdracht 1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-1/\)](#)
- [Cijferopdracht 2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht2/\)](#)
- [Cijferopdracht 3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-3/\)](#)
- [WG1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv1/wg1/\)](#)
- [WG1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv2/wg1-avv2/\)](#)
- [WG1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-1/wg1-cijferopdracht-1/\)](#)
- [WG1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv4/wg1-avv4/\)](#)
- [WG1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/wg1-avv6/\)](#)
- [WG1 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-3/wg1-cijferopdracht-3/\)](#)
- [WG2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv1/wg2/\)](#)
- [WG2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv2/wg2-avv2/\)](#)
- [WG2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-1/wg2-cijferopdracht-1/\)](#)
- [WG2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv4/wg2-avv4/\)](#)
- [WG2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/wg2-avv6/\)](#)
- [WG2 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-3/wg2-cijferopdracht-3/\)](#)
- [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv1/wg3/\)](#)
- [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv2/wg3-avv2/\)](#)
- [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-1/wg3-cijferopdracht-1/\)](#)
- [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv4/wg3-avv4/\)](#)
- [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/wg3-avv6/\)](#)
- [WG3 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-3/wg3-cijferopdracht-3/\)](#)
- [WG4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv1/wg4/\)](#)
- [WG4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv2/wg4-avv2/\)](#)
- [WG4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-1/wg4-cijferopdracht-1/\)](#)
- [WG4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv4/wg4-avv4/\)](#)
- [WG4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/avv6/wg4-avv6/\)](#)

➤ [WG4 \(http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-3/wg4-cijferopdracht-3/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/category/cijferopdracht-3/wg4-cijferopdracht-3/)

META

- ▶ [Log in \(http://dophub.polsys.net/wp-login.php\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/wp-login.php)
- ▶ [Entries RSS \(Really Simple Syndication\) \(http://dophub.polsys.net/feed/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/feed/)
- ▶ [Comments RSS \(Really Simple Syndication\) \(http://dophub.polsys.net/comments/feed/\)](http://dophub.polsys.net/comments/feed/)
- ▶ [WordPress.org \(https://wordpress.org/\)](https://wordpress.org/)

© 2014 DOPhub. All rights reserved.

[Flato \(http://www.themememe.com/flato\)](http://www.themememe.com/flato) by
ThemeMeme