

Call for Papers

Network Neutrality: Regulatory Tendencies, Peering Agreements & Infrastructure Enhancement

Background:

The network neutrality debate is gaining great political momentum. Several countries have already implemented network neutrality laws, while many others are currently elaborating or scrutinising the opportunity to elaborate network neutrality legislation. Yet, we are witnessing today the emergence of a variety of divergent (and somewhat incompatible) approaches towards whether or not network neutrality is enshrined in law.

In the U.S., the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeal invalidated the U.S. FCC Open Internet Order. On the other hand, the Brazilian National Congress has recently adopted the Marco Civil an Internet Bill of Rights containing network neutrality provisions, while at the European level net-neutrality is going to be enshrined into legislation but the outcome of this latter process seem currently difficult to predict.

While the network neutrality debate continues, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) may enter into opaque interconnection-arrangements (peering agreements) that might include discriminatory provisions. In the U.S., for instance, Content and Applications Providers (CAPs) have been experimenting new typology of peering agreements that require CAPs to pay ISPs for a direct connection to their consumers (so called "sender-pays" model).

The aforementioned issues seem difficult to solve without a serious reflection aimed at allowing the elaboration of evidence-based strategies. The 2014 Report of the Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality aims at fostering such a reflection in order to provide a valuable contribution to the crucial debate pertaining to the balance between network-neutrality implementation and infrastructure enhancement.

Call:

The Dynamic Coalition on Network Neutrality, established under the auspices of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum, invites researchers and practitioners to submit a position paper pertaining to the issue of net neutrality and regulatory tendencies.

Suggested topics include analyses of, inter alia:

- DC Circuit Court of Appeal Decision on the FCC Open Internet Order
- European Union's draft, Connected Continent Regulation, as amended by the European Parliament
- Brazilian Marco Civil
- Venezuela's Internet Crackdown
- Turkey's Social-Network Blocking
- Peering Agreements
- Comcast-Netflix Deal
- National/Regional/Local Network Enhancement Policies
- Availability and implementation of remedies by regulatory authorities, when access providers have implemented anti-competitive non-neutral policies.

Submission Guidelines:

Research papers, including analytical and theoretical papers, position papers, or case studies will be considered for inclusion in the report, even if they have been previously published. The length of the submissions should be between 2500 and 5000 words. To facilitate the reviewing process, papers should not include author names or other information that would help identify the authors.

All paper shall be in English language, and formatted according to the **HWPiL style template**.

Submissions are due on **1st July**, **2014**. They should include the following elements:

- Title
- Short abstract (250 words)
- Original contribution
- Author's name, affiliation and short bibliographical note (in the body of the email).

Submissions should be sent to contact@networkneutrality.info

Authors will be notified within approximately two weeks from the deadline as to the status of their contributions.

All submitted papers will be subject to a rigorous double-blind peer review, whereby each paper will be reviewed by at least two reviewers. Everyone who submitted a paper will be asked to peer review another submission, which will be judged according to the novelty of the contribution, the theoretical soundness and the quality of presentation.

Authors will be given the opportunity to improve their contributions based on peer comments. Selected papers will be published into the Dynamic Coalition report, which will be published under Open Access conditions. All authors must ensure that their contribution can be licensed under one of the Creative Commons licenses of their choice.

Some of the authors will also be invited (at their own expenses) to present their work at the first DC meeting to be held at the United Nation Internet Governance Forum, from 2 to 5 September 2014, in Istanbul (Turkey).