

# Uganda Internet Governance Online Discussion Report 2012

Presented at the EAIGF 2012

# TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Promoting online safety
- Infrastructure – IPv6
- Intermediary Liability
- Net Neutrality
- E-governance- OGD

# Promoting online safety

- Get a clear definition of the term 'children'
- No monitoring mechanisms in main access areas i.e. internet café to protect children accessing internet in public places i.e. internet cafes/kiosks
- Very few parents are knowledgeable about the risk of the internet, and the reason is that they themselves have not had half the chance their school-going children have had to be exposed to internet.
- Weak legislation i.e. E-min Baro and Computer Misuse Act, 2011. The law enforcement section lacks appropriate experience and skills to resolve and manage disputes in connection to children abuse on internet

- Parents have the primary role of ensuring that their children are protected. This goes down to what children are exposed to and at what age.
- Need to launch a program sensitizing parents about internet hazards, for their own safety and that of their children.
- Put in place accepted guidelines for parents, cafe owners; schools etc on how to manage children online and how to guide children going online and promote these guidelines.
- Implement controls and regulations in schools in regard to what students should access so they can get to know what is relevant and not relevant for public consumption.

- Parents and guardians should restrict internet access especially social networks to their kids or even block access to accounts for children who are underage
- Internet cafes should be restricted to providing their services to adults and if at all offering to kids then the sites are monitored.
- Government should educate the public about online safety, advocate for stronger families (e.g. responsible parenting), and to spread awareness of the free content filtering solutions that are already available.
- Introduce courses on safe internet browsing in schools e.g. the UCC ICT syllabus “The Trends in Computing - sub topic, Computer Care and safety” and the UACE Computer studies syllabus that was published by National Curriculum Development Centre (NCDC) Uganda – 2010.

# Infrastructure – IPv6

- Most of the equipment in networking and computing is IPv6 ready; as are all operating systems coming out now; even those ones on the market are IPv6 ready.
- High cost in deploying IPv6: Providers find the cost prohibitive and are not willing to invest in infrastructure where they see no critical mass of content to make it profitable for them
- Government as a single entity should adopt IPv6 as a standard deployment for all the infrastructure they are rolling out then the providers would follow, as they are in it to make profit as compared to being charities.
- Inadequate skills in implementing IPv6 by IT professionals since most institutions have been training students in networking using IPv4.
- Some ISPs have taken an initiative to have test days of IPv6 on their networks and some have implemented IPv6.

# Net neutrality

*Should Internet service providers (ISPs) be allowed to charge for access to some services (and technologies) and not others?*

- ISPs as service providers be allowed to build their businesses whatever way it deems fit as long as this is within the confines of the law.
- The internet has developed and grown to where it is today because of the model whereby information flows freely without any restrictions.
- ISPs and other content providers should be encouraged to keep the content on the Internet free, as market segmentation could lead to unwanted access gaps.

*Should ISPs be allowed to offer free access to their own products or services while charging for access to the competition?*

- Preferential charging of content - especially to favour the owner of the pipes is creating unfair competition and shouldn't be encouraged.
- If ISP offers a free or discounted service and remains competitive it is not a problem. It only becomes a problem if such pricing is predatory - facilitates unfair competition in the market or endangers market growth and development

*What impact could a non-neutral Internet have on start-up businesses in Uganda?*

- It could make entry costs for especially innovative ideas higher and discourage project success.
- A non-neutral internet can stifle the start-up businesses in the country because it fosters unfair competition practices.
- Depending on whether the start -up businesses have embraced or intend to embrace internet as a tool for market positioning and penetration. If they have nothing to do with internet then the impact will not be felt.

*Should the government create legislation to enforce Net Neutrality in Uganda? If so, what should be*

- Government can establish and enforce fair competition among service and content providers. This way it ensures the Internet has a level playing ground.
- No need for new legislation as the current legislative environment should be sufficient for the required objectives as things are.

# Internet intermediary liability

*Should Intermediaries be held liable for content posted by users and how does this affect the Free Flow of Information online?*

- Intermediaries shouldn't be held liable for content they carry or has been posted by users, unless it is determined that they are in some way party to the posting of this content.
- An intermediary should be held liable for its inability to cooperate with a legal takedown order for any such content if the a court determines that it is illegal.
- They should be liable just as the broadcasting/TV stations and moderators/presenters are liable to the views/comments of their guests, intermediaries should be liable to content posted by users. By so doing, intermediaries will put in place measures to screen and filter content or apply user rights to ensure that content can also be accessed by people who solicit/subscribe to it.

*What sort of content would be deemed liability by intermediaries and therefore justify removal?*

- Only a court of law should have the say on what tantamount to an infringement - so virtually anything that I can sue and win a court order for can justify removal.
- Any content appearing on the intermediaries URL, blog or chat room whether posted by the intermediary or third party. This will prompt the intermediary to add a disclaimer and to always make pre-read of the content before it is permanently uploaded

# E-governance - OGD

*What opportunities could an Open Government Data initiative present to Uganda?*

- Promote transparency from government and accountability
- Improved Planning, especially in public service delivery -
- Reduced information gap between the people and government.
- Investment opportunities or tourism boost
- Eliminate corruption.
- Cost-savings to government - a lot of money will be saved if individual MDA's websites are consolidated into a Government web portal - savings will come in terms of reduction in web construction, hosting, maintenance and updating costs.
- Empower public access to information on the country for transparency and to participate in government initiatives

## *What are the key drivers in the use of Open Data?*

- Participation of all stakeholders. – citizens have to ask for OGD, make the public of its benefits and government has to make OGD a priority
- Business sector through subsidizing government expenditure on Internet concerning this cause and a number of incentives.
- Content creation and availability- Development of national data bank (centralized databank)
- Reliable , affordable and accessible internet
- Conducive legal and regulatory environment (requisite laws should be in place to prompt public access to information, ensure information security)
- Good will and commitment by government to harmonize and rationalize ICT initiatives and services
- Awareness creation and citizen empowerment (to demand for information/ accountability), Awareness creation about and demystification of ICT

*What challenges could the use of open data in Uganda present and how can they be mitigated?*

- Loss of jobs by some government officials.
- Deciding what public data and who takes up the responsibility.
- Ignorance of citizens on what government data they should access.
- Inequitable access to information - as more 'digitalization' of information will make access to public information a privilege to a few Ugandans who can access and use ICTs - solution ensure enhanced penetration of ICTs as well.
- loss of privacy (in case of classified info)
- Information insecurity
- Unskilled labour especially in government departments

## *Mitigations:*

- Need to sensitize masses on the benefits of open government data.
- Identifying an independent body to oversee implementation and maintenance of the OGD would also reduce the risk of having the data manipulated.
- Periodic audits of the OGD could also be helpful in ensuring transparency, availability and Integrity of the OGD

*In what ways if any have Ugandans embraced e-government?*

- A number of governmental sectors have acquired websites, although still outdated, which is a thing that can be worked on.
- Several government initiatives have been adopted however their benefits are yet to be realised

Way forward

Uganda will hold its National IGF on  
August 07, 2012

Thank You  
Comments and Questions are  
Welcome