ISOC UK England Chair's Report for 2020

The last Chair's report that I presented was drafted in October 2019, thus this report will include activities since that date.

The year has been one of contrasts, with face to face activities being possible until the early part of the year, and a complete re-think of Chapter activities since the Pandemic prevented face to face meetings. Whilst this has definitely affected the Chapter's programme, past experience in using Zoom for remote participation at workshops and webinars has made it possible to offer online activities with ease. The number of activities has however been lower than expected for two main reasons:

1. Understanding that the move to on-line activities and the associated sanitary measures has increased the amount of time that people in the UK spend online and on conference calls to attend work remotely. Thus there is a multiplication of competing workshops and webinars available from all sources of the Internet. "Zoom exhaustion" is a reality.
2. Many of our members have had their life deeply affected by the effects of the Pandemic and some have had to focus on more pressing issues, both in their professional and personal lives.

It is hoped that 2021 will see a gradual return to a situation that is an improvement on 2020. The Chapter is well placed to continue its development once its members are again ready to volunteer.

Q4 2019

The Mozilla Festival – Mozfest
https://www.mozillafestival.org/en/

In the week-end after its Annual General Meeting, several members of the Chapter attended Mozfest, hosted at Ravensbourne University. MozFest is a gathering of educators, activists, technologists, researchers, artists, and young people dedicated to creating a better, healthier Internet. The MozFest week-end took place at Ravensbourne University. The UK Chapter was invited to join the ISOC Team to attend to the ISOC Boothfocussing on Encryption and answer questions from visitors about encryption and the UK Chapter.

Half a dozen members of the UK Chapter were scheduled to help out at the ISOC booth. They were provided with free entry tickets for the week-end's activities to thank them for their service. In addition to the involvement of volunteers attending to the ISOC booth, both the UK Chapter Chair as well as a member of the UK Chapter Leadership Team (Desiree Miloshevic) took part in the ISOC-organised panel discussion session on Encryption on Sunday 27th November 2019.

The Chapter is planning a follow-up on Encryption. Support for encryption is one of the Internet Society's key activities this year and the Chapter has already committed itself to work in an ISOC-wide working group with other like-minded organisations like the Centre for Democracy and Technology (CDT) to promote the use of encryption on the Internet and oppose government efforts to weaken encryption technologies.

IPv6 Matrix
In December 2019 the Chapter was invited to provide an update on its IPv6 Matrix Project which has now entered its 10 years. After 2 years not updating the UK IPv6 Council Community, the Chapter secured a small slot to update the participants of the IPv6 Council Annual General Meeting with a demo

of the IPv6 Matrix Web Site. Contrary to past presentations where a PowerPoint presentation was made, on this occasion a live demo was given and well enjoyed by participants who preferred it to a deck of static slides. Several Participants stepped forward after the session to help with the next developments for the IPv6 Matrix. One particularly interesting development was for the Technical Manager of the IPv6 hosting provider "Mythic Beasts" to step forward and volunteer to host the IPv6 Matrix Web server *and* Crawler. After 3 years looking for a sponsor to step forward, this is potentially very good news. More information on this later in this report.

Q1 and Q2 2020

ISOC Training Programme

The Chapter had planned to set-up an intersessional meeting to prepare its face to face activities in late February. However, the evolving sanitary situation caused several members of the Leadership Team to urge caution and it was decided to pause activities until a better understanding of the situation was achieved. In the meantime, the ISOC Chapter Training Programme started its activities entirely on-line. The Chapter received a good number of applications to follow the training programme and a selection was made by the Chapter's Leadership Team, based on the applications and information received from each applicant. With a shortfall in the number of potential candidate globally, it was possible for the Chapter to select 10 fellows – more than any other Chapter, in the following categories, all part of the ISOC Global Strategic Plan:

- Shaping the Internet
- Securing Global Routing (MANRS)
- Building Community Networks
- Open Standards Everywhere
- Encryption

One candidate dropped out due to personal circumstances and another unfortunately failed to complete their project, but eight candidates produced excellent projects. Their outputs were all referenced online:

Shaping the Internet
Nigel Hickson – webinar link on isoc-e -- https://isoc-e.org/ig-post-crisis-a-new-normal/
Leonie Tanczer – blog post on isoc-e -- https://isoc-e.org/on-the-importance-of-internet-governance/

Securing Global Routing (MANRS)
Peter Maynard – Github -- https://isoc-e.org/secure-global-routing-packet-spoofing-and-mitigation-testbed/

Building Community Networks
Andrew Stirling – blog -- https://isoc-e.org/brief-history-community-broadband-networking-uk/
Andrew Stirling -- webinar -- https://isoc-e.org/webinar-connecting-rural-communities/

Open Standards Everywhere
Ammar Hadi (Iraq) – https://isoc-e.org/open-standards-everywhere-enhancing-availability-and-security/
Dan Mygind and Karima Saimi -- https://isoc-e.org/implementing-ipv6-dnssec-https-and-other-goodies/

Discussion are in place to follow-up on some of these projects. The COVID Pandemic has somewhat slowed down this follow-up but plans are in place to revisit them in 2021.

Webinar / Covid-19 and The Future of Internet Governance

The outbreak of Covid-19 in early 2020 has profoundly changed our societies and the way we work and connect to each other. It has called for rapid adaptation in a short period of time from governments, societies and private sector alike. While uncertainty remains over what the so-called "new normal" might look like, the Internet continues to operate as an important backbone to this future.

The global pandemic has exposed important dynamics such as increased content moderation in a context of misinformation, supply chain adjustment, traffic management, and the need for new policy and advocacy strategies.

This Webinar, led by Louise Marie Hurel, invited several high profile speakers from the UK and the rest of Europe to discuss the possible futures for Internet governance in a context of global pandemic. More information can be found on: https://isoc-e.org/covid-19-and-future-of-ig/

Support for Brazil Statement

The UK Chapter supported the ISOC Brazil Statement about the proposed legislation in the report produced by Senator Angelo Coronel in Brazil to the Draft Bill of Law 2630/2020 (PL 2630/2020)

https://isoc-e.org/isoc-uk-support-isoc-brazil-statement-against-draft-law-on-internet/

The ISOC Brazil Statement asserts that:

- The registration of accounts in Internet applications and services should not depend on the presentation of a valid ID by users.
- The mass collection and unnecessary retention of user data raises serious privacy and data protection concerns.
- Linking the operation of Internet applications and services to mobile telephony is an anachronistic and counterproductive solution.
- Data localization and application blocking provisions in the Brazilian territory will lead to fragmentation of the global Internet.
- Changes proposed to the terminology adopted by the Brazilian Marco Civil are conceptually and technically wrong conceptual and create severe legal uncertainty in the Internet ecosystem.
- In addition to keeping the unnecessary and disproportionate solution of traceability of forwarding chains, the report extends it even further to all social networks, messaging apps, and e-mail services, regardless of their presence in the national territory and the economic size of their respective provider.

The UK Chapter offered its support as it is clear that the proposed legislation contains aspects of legislation that could be proposed in the UK and which the UK Chapter believes contradicts the Internet Society's long term stance about these topics.

The Chapter went through a discussion and consensus call to support the Brazil Chapter Statement.

Q3 2020

UK Internet Governance Forum - https://ukigf.org.uk/events/uk-igf-2020/

The UK Internet Governance Forum is the national internet governance forum for the United Kingdom. Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) are an initiative led by the United Nations for the discussion of

public policy issues relating to the internet. A key distinguishing feature of IGFs is that they are based on the multi-stakeholder model – all sectors of society meet as equals to exchange ideas and discuss best practices. The purpose of IGFs is to facilitate a common understanding of how to maximise the opportunities of the internet whilst mitigating the risks and challenges that the internet presents. The UK IGF has a steering committee and secretariat. The UK Chapter of the Internet Society is a member of the UK IGF Steering Committee.

The Chapter, as a co-organiser of the conference, had a say in organising each of the sessions. With this year's IGF taking place online, it was possible to invite panellists that were not necessarily located in London, and often were first timers in any Internet Governance Forum. This year, with the UK IGF spanning three days, Olivier Crépin-Leblond acted as host for the first day - and also spoke at the wrap-up.

The Organising Committee has already met online to debrief and focus on improvements for next year's UK IGF. The UK Chapter will be fully involved in the development of next year's agenda, as it was this year, with at least three members of the Chapter's leadership in the UK IGF Organising Committee. https://ukigf.org.uk/committee/

Q4 2020

Key take-aways from the latest ICANN69 Virtual Annual General Meeting

This was the first ICANN69 read-out session between the UK Chapter, ICANN and the European Regional At-Large Organisation (EURALO), where key participants at ICANN's recent virtual Annual General Meeting shared their perspectives and understanding of the outcomes of the sessions. The result was an exclusive, condensed and exciting review of the three weeks of meetings in less than 90 minutes. Can be watched again on: https://isoc-e.org/icann69-read-out/

Other Activities

The Chapter has continued its active involvement with:

UK MAGIG (DCMS Multistakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance) – this group has held regular online conference calls (in lieu of face to face meetings) to discuss UK-wide involvement at IGF. A sub-group has focussed on ICANN issues. Another sub-group has focussed on ITU Issues

Internet Society IoT Security Policy Platform – although this group is no longer officially supported by the Internet Society, regular meetings are still hosted by ISOC HQ due to the quality of partners involved in the group. The UK Chapter, along with a select number of other Chapters, is looking at ways to perpetuate the coordination taking place in this group, should the Internet Society HQ decide to pull out altogether from the coordination. The Chapter was a contributor to the Internet of Things (IoT) Security Policy Platform Statement – more information on https://www.internetsociety.org/iot/iot-security-policy-platform/

UK DCMS Secure by Design – As a follow-up to contributing to consultations from this DCMS department, the chapter is keeping a watching brief on the follow-up action and reports. An update from February 2020 contained a lot of information and linked to the above platform. (https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-regulatory-proposals-on-consumer-iot-security/outcome/government-response-to-the-regulatory-proposals-for-consumer-internet-of-things-iot-security-consultation#next-steps)

In July 2020, DCMS opened another call for views, relayed by the Chapter (https://lists.isoc-e.org/pipermail/policy/2020-July/001039.html) and the Chapter is looking forward to host another

Webinar soon inviting DCMS to provide details of its findings – the Pandemic lockdown having slowed down the analysis process.

Internet Society Global Campaigns

One of this year's Stategic Engagements of the Internet Society is on **Encryption**. This was the theme of the engagement at Mozfest and has been at various global for including the IGF. The Chapter is involved as well in this Global Campaign, adhering to the points expressed on the Internet Society's briefing page on Encryption: https://www.internetsociety.org/policybriefs/encryption/

IPv6 Matrix

As you have read from the beginning of this report, the Chapter has been offered free virtual hosting by Mythic Beasts. The IPv6 Matrix has been measuring the use of IPv6 in the world's 1 Million most popular Web Sites since 2010. The project has collected over 500Gb of data relating to the spread of IPv6 worldwide. Its two servers (one crawler and one web server) are now 14 years old. It was time to replace them with modern technology.

In Phase 1 (2010), the Crawler and a first version of a Web server were designed and implemented by a team at Nile University in Egypt. Both servers were running from a stack in London's LINX, which was privately sponsored.

In Phase 2 (2014), a new Team of Masters students at the University of Southampton Faculty of Science, Engineering and Mathematics, rewrote the Web server, improving the display of the data that was collected. Servers were migrated to the University of Southampton machine room.

In Phase 3 (2020), we are proposing migrating the servers from dedicated hardware to a modern virtual machine environment, to ensure the project data's security and the project's ongoing tracking of IPv6 use.

The Chapter applied for a Large Grant from the Internet Society Foundation, based on a budget of $24 700. The proposal for migration involves taking each sub-system running on obsolete physical hardware and migrating it to the modern virtual machine environment. Unfortunately, in September 2020, as preliminaries started and the Web Server was surveyed, it suffered a disk failure and despite several attempts, the local Team at the University of Southampton failed to bring it back up. A plan has been made to ship both servers back London, to the Team that originally put them together 6 years ago. This has become complicated due to very strict confinement, security measures and protocols at the University of Southampton – and rightly so, to combat COVID19. As of writing, a Team is working out how to proceed with this task. 2020 is not 2010.

Membership

As you know, Global Membership of the Internet Society and membership of the UK Chapter are open and free. As explained last year, the European General Data Protection Regulation made it compulsory for the Internet Society to ask members to confirm their registration. The Chapter ended up with 1400 people confirming their registration. As of today, this number has increased to 1660 people, an 18% increase year on year, even though 2020 was an especially challenging year.

Mailing Lists

It is also time to remind you of our discussion mailing lists which are open to all - as a prime channel for you to interact with the Chapter, but also with other members in the UK.
They can be accessed on: http://lists.isoc-e.org/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo

● **UK Policy Mailing list**: Internet Policy especially UK Internet Policy. This includes discussions on Government Inquiries, but also any Internet policy topic that is likely to affect UK Internet users and businesses.

● **Open-Trust**: a discussion forum focussing on Internet Trust issues, from the Trust Issues covered globally by the Internet Society (See: https://www.internetsociety.org/issues/trust/), to the work undertaken about Trusting Platforms and Algorithms, in a world dominated by increasing Surveillance, Tracking, and, at the other end of the spectrum, Fake news. This is also the mailing list that is likely to be used for Trust-derived topics, such as Encryption.

● **ISOC-UK-Universities**: a forum focussing on University and student activities. Many UK Universities now offer courses about Internet Governance, sometimes as a standalone item, sometimes as part of a wider media course, but often as a research topic. This group, still looking for a person to lead it, is a channel for interaction on issues that young members might face. Plus – how do we reach students, researchers and academic experts so they actively engage in the Multistakeholder consultations and activities that are offered both on a national and international basis?

As a reminder, your User Profile also allows for you to subscribe to Internet Society-wide mail discussion lists and discussion groups on **CONNECT** as well as **Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** such as the ones on the Internet of Things, etc.

Focussing on 2021

2020 has been a challenging year for everyone. With a glimmer of hope on the horizon in the form of several vaccines, many hope that life as we knew it will return to "normal" in 2021. Whilst in the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you attend our online activities, I hope to meet many of you sooner rather than later at future events whether in the UK or elsewhere. The UK Chapter is dynamic thanks to its members and my report could not be complete without thanking all our active members for their efforts at a time that for many, means a focus on more immediate survival matters. The Chapter, whilst not seeing a huge amount of activity, has been successful at having an impact on the topics it has focussed on.

In 2021, with your help, we hope to expand on IoT Trust by Design, Encryption, Algorithm Diversity and Trust, IPv6 Matrix virtualisation, Privacy and Identity, Community Networks and Open Standards.

The more volunteers get involved, the more we can expand on Chapter activities. We would like to hear from you if you would be interested in becoming a Convenor on any of the above, or other topics that fall within the mission values of the Internet Society.

Finally, I would like to thank the ISOC UK Leadership Team, Christian de Larrinaga, Desiree Miloshevic, Louise Marie Hurel, Matthew Shears and Nigel Titley. It is thanks to their help, working behind the scenes, that the Chapter is able to evolve positively in a challenging time, even though they have also been personally impacted, some very significantly, by the Pandemic. Let's look forward to greener pastures next year.

Warmest regards,
Olivier MJ Crépin-Leblond, PhD
For the ISOC UK England Leadership Team, December 2020