

ISOC UK England Chair's Report for 2022

The last Chair's report that I presented was drafted in December 2021, thus this report will include activities since that date.

First: an apology for the late delivery of this report and of the organising of the 2022 ISOC UK England Annual General Meeting. This is due to personal circumstances which prevented me from attending the meeting in person in December and some scheduling conflicts in the early part of the year. We could have made this meeting entirely online but I wanted to take the opportunity to meet face to face again, to regain an air of normality post-COVID.

Indeed, the past year has seen the world recover from the Global COVID19 Pandemic. Whilst shops and offices reopened, the impact on our activities was felt in the years of confinement – with many wondering where all the time went?

After years without face to face activity the Chapter has suffered from a less engaged membership but whilst progress is slow, there had still been engagement using remote participation. Use of Zoom has become widespread. But this has disincentivised people from participating at face to face meetings. With efforts to make meetings hybrid, why go through the hassle of travel to a physical location?

As I mentioned in previous reports, there is also a wider “Zoom fatigue” with people who have spent much time on one call after another. Furthermore, periods where offices reopened made members busy in their everyday work, thus less time was spent on volunteer activity.

For 2023 we now appear to have a clearer road ahead and the plan is to ramp up on face to face activities and to get members to meet each other and socialise again.

Email contact@isoc-e.org if you'd like to volunteer to organise something online or even face to face. We are especially interested in finding out if anyone was ready to host an event in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Q1 and Q2 2022

IPv6 Matrix

Following on from the previous year, 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 April 2021, the IPv6 Matrix Servers were finally decommissioned from running at the University of Southampton and physically transported to London. They were successfully revived using the virtual platform offered by Mythic Beasts. More in the “IPv6Matrix” part of this report.

Internet Impact Brief: End-to-end Encryption under the UK's Draft Online Safety Bill

In May 2021 the UK published the draft Online Safety Bill (the “draft bill”) which aimed to set out a new regulatory framework to protect Internet users from illegal and harmful content. If implemented in its current form, this draft bill may negatively impact the Internet, pulling it away from its full potential as an open, globally connected, secure and trustworthy resource for all.

This brief uses [the Internet Impact Assessment Toolkit](#) (IIAT) to assess how the limitations placed on the use of end-to-end encryption under the UK's Online Safety Bill may affect the global Internet.

You may read the full brief on: <https://isoc-e.org/internet-impact-brief-encryption-uk-online-safety-bill-draft/>

Experts challenge Govt's anti-encryption campaign

The UK Chapter of the Internet Society has joined more than 50 organisations to challenge the UK Government's tactics to roll-out an Online Safety Bill that will ultimately lead to the weakening of encryption.

The full Statement and its signatories was [published on the Open Rights Group Web Site](#).

In addition to endorsing this Statement, the UK Chapter of the Internet Society is also seeking to facilitate dialogue to search for other methods to combat online harms. Several round-tables are currently in the works – more information will be available soon.

Q3 2022

The Return of the IPv6 Matrix

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) were 14 years old when, in 2020, it was time to replace them with modern technology. At the December 2019 IPv6 Council Annual General Meeting, the Chapter received a pledge from UK IPv6 hosting company Mythic Beasts to host the project on virtual machines free of charge, provided the migration was undertaken by the Chapter.

The Web Server was updated and the Web site completely ported over to the virtual environment. The Crawler itself was completely re-written, performing the same functionalities as the previous version of the Crawler, but performing the crawls more efficiently. Thus, instead of taking three to four weeks for a complete crawl, this could be performed in less than three days. Coding took advantage of all new developments and features in modern libraries.

The work was completed in late January 2022 and bugs fixed throughout the months of February.

A couple of Blog posts explain the work and its successes:

– A blog post about the project itself – Monitoring the state of IPv6 deployment with The Internet Society:

<https://silvermou.se/isoc-ipv6-crawler/>

and

– A blog post about the results of a run – The state of the Internet as of January 2022:

<https://silvermou.se/the-state-of-the-internet-as-of-january-2022/>

The Chapter thanks James Lawrie from SilverMouse for carrying out the work migrating the crawler and server. The Crawler has been running with no problem ever since, with monthly reports updating

the results. It is worth noting that IPv6 growth in content delivery has been consistently slow in recent times.

You may check the latest results on: <https://www.ipv6matrix.org/>

Q4 2022

UK Internet Governance Forum - <https://isoc-e.org/uk-igf-2022/>

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. This year's IGF taking place both online and in person, it was possible to invite panellists that were not necessarily located in London, and often were first timers in any Internet Governance Forum.

Videos of the event can be found on: <https://ukigf.org.uk/uk-igf-2022-highlights/>

The UK IGF 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/>

70 organizations, cyber security experts, and elected officials sign open letter expressing dangers of the UK's Online Safety Bill

Chapter representatives are participating in the work of the Global Encryption Coalition. The Chapter has signed the open letter on the Online Safety Bill which was meant to be presented to the Prime Minister in late October. A change in government has delayed this. Finally, a release of the open letter was delayed to 24 November 2022.

The UK Chapter was a signatory of that letter, which you can find on the [Global Encryption Coalition's announcement](#).

There is also written evidence in the Hansard about the Internet Society's work with the Chapter, which includes the Impact Brief which was co-authored by the Chapter.

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/49135/documents/2650>

At this stage, discussions around the Bill are ongoing.

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. Both groups

have seen involvement from several representatives of the Chapter. DCMS has indicated that they are planning to continue this multistakeholder engagement for international issues. Recent meetings have taken place as hybrid (online and offline) meetings.

Internet Society Global Campaigns

Like last year, one of this year's Strategic Engagements of the Internet Society is on **Encryption**. As seen above 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/>

VAT

The IPv6 Matrix project being larger than our usual invoices, with a grant being paid from the United States and the contractor being paid in the UK, the Chapter stood to lose 20% VAT on the value of the contract it allocated to a UK contractor. In order not to lose this value, the Leadership Team decided that the Chapter be registered for VAT starting from 1st September 2021. The little amount of work needed to carry out the online/MTD quarterly returns has been helpful in keeping the Chapter's financial records well kept.

Membership

As you know, Global Membership of the Internet Society and membership of the UK Chapter are open and free. From last year's total of 1744 members, the Chapter has now reached 1824 members, a 4.6% increase year on year which is lower than last year but understandable with the current Pandemic conditions and the lack of outreach with other organisations. Future common activities with other organisations should help this figure to rise again.

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 2023

Like previous years, 2022 has been a challenging year for everyone. With vaccines, soon enough it was possible to have face to face meetings again but the culture of meetings and events has changed and mixed/hybrid participation has been the norm.

Last year I made a lot of proposals for face to face meetings, including a roundtable discussion on the online safety bill. This has not materialised due to the shifting nature of the goalposts in this process and experts unwilling to opine on unclear objectives.

In 2023, with your help, we hope to start the year with the following:

1. A roundtable discussion centring on the Online Safety Bill - January 2022
This will take place with the help of Internet Society staff who are proposing several speakers. The issue is a major issue in the UK.
2. An event around the IPv6 Matrix results

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 topic that fall within the mission values of the Internet Society.

As a reminder, this year's key topics for the Internet Society are:

- Extending Encryption
- Securing Global Routing
- Sharing Cutting Edge Knowledge about the NDSS (Network and Distributed System Security) Symposium
- Protecting the Internet from Fragmentation
- Helping Shape Legal Precedent in Alignment with the ISOC Mission
- Connecting the Unconnected (including Community Networks)
- Fostering Sustainable Peering Infrastructure
- Enabling Sustainable Technical Communities
- Measuring the Internet
- Empowering Internet Champions to Defend the Internet
- Securing Resources for Growth and Greater Impact
- Recognizing Internet Champions

Finally, once again, I would like to thank the ISOC UK Leadership Team, Christian de Larrinaga, Desiree Miloshevic, Louise Marie Hurel, Matthew Shears and Nigel Titley.

We have to thank Nigel in particular for his years of service, as he has decided not to pursue a renewal of his term for personal reasons.

The recent election process has yielded two new Leadership Team members:

- Ruofei Wang – joining us from China – Ruofei has benefited from a fellowship in the Chapter in the past when she was studying in the UK and did some great work then, and will return to the UK in the second part of the year.
- Steve Karmeinsky - who has been involved in the UK Internet before there was a UK Internet, in 1994 he joined Demon Internet and helped it grow to be the UK's largest consumer ISP and saw it's acquisition by Scottish Telecom and float as THUS Plc. He is a consultant (NetTek Ltd) on Internet and Telecoms Strategy. He is also the Chair of the UK Network Operators Forum (UKNOF) Communications Committee.

There remains one empty seat which the Leadership Team will discuss in future meetings.

Once again, this year has been challenging for all of us, collectively, individually, professionally and personally – some of us have had to battle COVID at home; some of us have had to rethink our lives altogether. As many of us rebuild our lives in spite of the current economic challenges, we are all looking forward to the future of the Internet in the UK, a future Internet that benefits everyone, is both safe and reliable, and that respects human rights whilst benefiting everyone in the UK economy.

With my apologies once again for this very late AGM, I hope you have a great year. Stay involved and let us know what YOU want to focus on this year, as it is YOUR local chapter of the Internet Society.

Warmest regards,

Olivier MJ Crépin-Leblond, PhD

For the ISOC UK England Leadership Team, April 2023