ANTI SHUTDOWN POLICIES

THE RATIONALE – WHY WE WROTE IT AND WHATS NEXT

WHAT IS THE ANTI-SHUTDOWN POLICY?

- The policy defines Internet Shutdowns and adds a definition as to what they are – The definition was written as follows: *"A government ordered blocking access to the general internet. Said definition does not preclude a government from censoring content that is not legally permissible within the laws of said country, on the provision that said censorship does not include a law that says "All content irrespective of its source or its nature".*

WHAT IS THE ANTI-SHUTDOWN POLICY? (2)

- The policy goes on to create a the following definition to define when a shutdown has occurred: ***"An internet shutdown is deemed to have occurred when it can be proved that there was an attempt, failed or successful, to restrict access to the internet to a segment of the population irrespective of the provider or access medium that they utilize"***

WHAT IS THE ANTI-SHUTDOWN POLICY? (3)

- States that have shut down the Internet will be precluded from applying for more space for a period of 12 months following the end of the shutdown

- If a state were to shut down the Internet 3 or more times in a period of 10 years, all of the states resources as issued by AFRINIC would be revoked for a period of 5 years.

- The policy goes pretty wide in the first draft, and includes all government owned entities and entities with direct government relations

SO – WHAT WAS THE RATIONALE

- Shutdowns between June 2015 and June 2016 had an estimated cost of $2.4 billion dollars to the affected economies.

- In November 2016 – 63 thousand sub-domains under the Cameroonian CCTLD as per DomainTools. As of 3 days ago – after the 94 days shutdown – the figure had dropped to 31 thousand.

- Shutdowns are hurting African economies, they are hurting investment, and they are damaging to the Internet ecosystem. Something had to be done.

SO – WHAT DOES THE POLICY HOPE TO ACHIEVE

- Firstly - Shine a spotlight on an ever increasing problem

- Secondly – Create a debate, let's hear the ideas out there about how we put an end to these shutdowns beyond our own

- Thirdly – Knowing that our policy is draconian and flawed in its first instance, take the ideas that come out of the debate, and modify the policy until we find something that works for the community.

THE NEXT REVISION - DRAFT 2 COMING SOON

- We plan to put sections into the policy as to how it is triggered:
    - Someone writes to AFRINIC claiming shutdown
    - AFRINIC appeals to the community for evidence – a two week time period
    - The AFRINIC Governance committee evaluates the evidence and makes a determination
- Define a partial shutdown – *__"The shutdown of a particular communication mechanism (e.g. WhatsApp, Social Media, Voice Traffic etc), outside of the standing law of the country."__*

THE NEXT REVISION - DRAFT 2 COMING SOON

- Create an exclusion in the policy for academic and education institutions that are state owned and controlled.

- Limit the policy to target the state directly, and only entities in which the state holds a greater than 50% shareholding. Removing the directly related clause in the first draft.

WHAT OTHER IDEAS WE'VE HEARD

- Perhaps – asking ICANN to strip the countries CCTLD would be more effective – but this would require careful thought because it could have a far higher potential for collateral damage

- Change the policy – don't revoke the space, but rather put a massive per day financial penalty on states that shutdown.

- Partner with the ITU to collect the penalties accruing from the shutdowns and have them donate that money to Internet Freedom Advocacy Groups.

SO WHAT'S NEXT.

- More Debate

- More Dialog

- More Ideas

- More Pressure

- The fight goes on – but we cannot claim any longer that it is someone elses problem – this affects us all – it's time to take a stand.

AND FINALLY….

- The policy authors are always available for dialog and suggestions:
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- Thanks for hearing us out – we know it's not perfect – and we welcome your input.