



\$25.5 M
2014 Budget

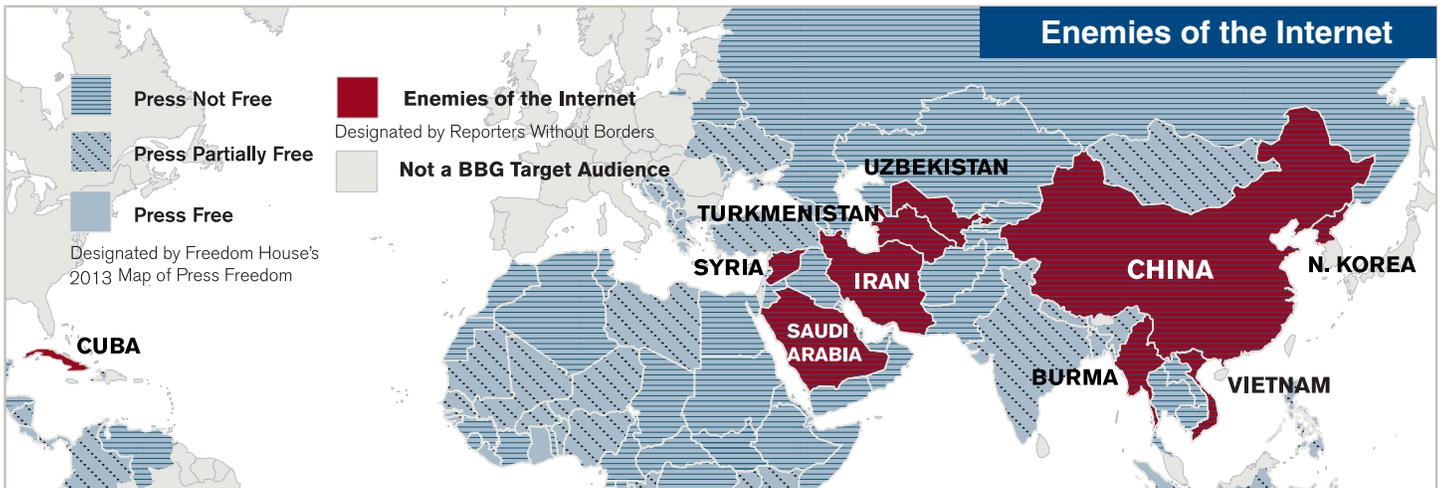
Internet Anti-Censorship

Across our broadcasting regions, governments seek to repress or withhold news and information from their citizens. Elements across the BBG work together to circumvent these actions, in accordance with our mission. The BBG's Internet Anti-Censorship (IAC) Division provides a variety of tools to circumvent

filtering and promote Internet freedom for citizens of countries whose governments censor their access. Radio Free Asia's Open Technology Fund (OTF) supports projects that advance inclusive and safe access to global communication networks.

2002
IAC Established

2012
OTF Established



Internet Anti-Censorship

Mobile

- Android Apps
- Mobile Security Study
- SMS in Cuba

Internet

- Tool Testing
- Proxy Server Software
- Censorship Monitoring

Satellite

- Radio with Slate
- One-Way Web Delivery

Open Technology Fund

- Weibo Detector
- Internet Access Study: Burma
- Martus Mobile

Mobile

Android Apps

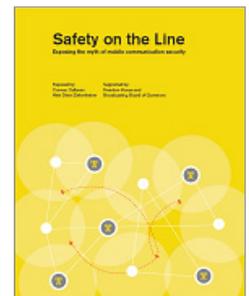
Two Android based projects are currently being deployed. One includes a suite of apps for Voice of America's (VOA) Persian Service. This project includes censorship circumvention tools as well as secure device-to-device sharing of multimedia news and information. It also provides secure uploading of user-generated content.



BBG currently uses Psiphon desktop censorship circumvention products for some of its more sensitive services, a web proxy service and desktop client software. A second project has developed a mobile version of this software and provides API access and integration of Psiphon's circumvention layer into apps deployed by BBG broadcasters.

Mobile Security Study

In conjunction with Freedom House, IAC commissioned and published a study on mobile information security. The study examined the entire mobile ecosystem in 12 countries and established the challenges associated with creating a secure environment for mobile users. The challenges are especially difficult in countries where significant portions of the telecommunications infrastructure fall under the direct control of the government.



SMS in Cuba

Government censorship in Cuba is a strong as ever, and the IAC Team is exploring multiple ways to bring news and information to the island. In one project, IAC worked with the Office of Cuba Broadcasting to develop an SMS-based social media network targeting cell phone users in Cuba.



Internet

Tool Testing

In an effort to promote potential future program growth, BBG studies and tests Internet circumvention tools beyond those currently funded. Evaluation of IAC tools is ongoing and an essential component of maintaining effectiveness and agility in the ongoing cat-and-mouse game of Internet censorship.

Proxy Server Software

Working with tools like Ultrasurf and Psiphon, the BBG's IAC program facilitates unfettered access to the Internet to individuals throughout the world whose countries filter or outright censor Internet access. The BBG constantly promotes new and safer versions of these tools as firewall circumventing techniques evolve.

Real Time Censorship Monitoring

The BBG has deployed both small hardware devices and software-based solutions to hundreds of locations around the globe, including deployments in some of the most restrictive Internet environments. In real time, these devices monitor access to websites and web-based services and continually report into a database that aggregates what are virtual "Censorship Weather Reports." This in turn allows news and other information sources to tailor their delivery so as to more effectively make content accessible to those populations being denied access.

Satellite

Radio With Slate

The IAC team continues to provide satellite transmissions with slate and audio services for VOA Chinese Service and Radio Free Asia (RFA) and recently launched similar services for Radio Farda on multiple satellites.

One-Way Web Content Delivery

Utilizing custom-designed software, the BBG has the capability to deliver entire websites via satellite distribution to address populations whose countries have completely shut off access to the Internet. While the surfing is entirely contained within the particular website delivered, it allows populations to receive crucial information even with absolutely no access available.

Open Technology Fund Projects

Weibo Detector

The OTF team created Weibo Detector, a real-time platform to expose censorship on Sina Weibo. The tool reveals to a global audience the specific topics being censored on China's most popular social media platform. The tool also reveals deleted posts from popular opinion leaders.

Internet Access Study: Burma 2012

OTF published a study evaluating Burma's existing ICT environment in light of recent political and media reforms. The report provides a technical analysis of Internet access, performance and GSM security, and information on obtaining access to smartphones and the mobile Internet. The report identifies a baseline during Burma's current transition, helping policymakers, investors, and civil society and human rights groups assess the country's progress in establishing communications infrastructure and allowing freedom of expression.

Martus Mobile

OTF brought this secure mobile human rights reporting tool to Burma to protect sensitive information and shield the identity of victims or witnesses who provide testimony on human rights abuses. The tool has been quickly adopted and utilized in Burma and across the globe.



More OTF projects can be found at opentechfund.org



Expansion & Collaboration

Circumventing censorship requires a high level of agility. With funding from Congress, the IAC program has undergone a major expansion to focus on mobile and satellite platforms and to expand research and development.

The BBG collaborates with other organizations focused on Internet freedom, including the State Department, USAID, and DARPA's SAFER Warfighter Communications Program. IAC is also reaching out to other groups interested in Internet freedom such as Google, Freedom House and the National Endowment for Democracy's Center for International Media Assistance.

Due to the increase in funding for Internet freedom programs in the BBG's FY14 budget, an expansion of the IAC and OTF programs will be announced in the coming months.