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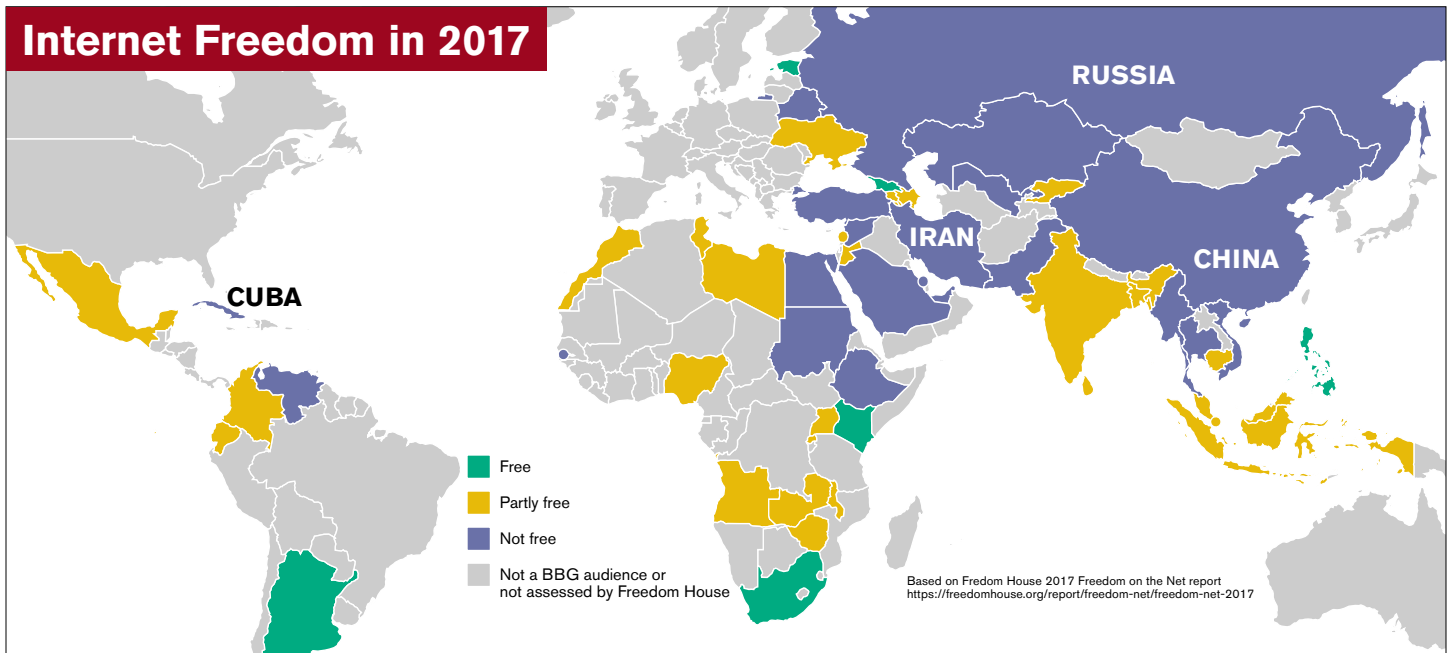
Office of Internet Freedom

The Office of Internet Freedom (OIF) within the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), oversees the efforts of BBG-funded Internet Freedom (IF) projects, including the work carried out by the Open Technology Fund (OTF), a BBG-nonprofit grantee and a division of Radio Free Asia. In coordination with OTF, OIF manages and supports the research, development, deployment, and use of BBG-funded IF technologies via third party contractors. Consistent with the BBG's mission to inform, engage, and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy, OIF provides appropriate anti-censorship technologies and services to citizens and journalists living in repressive environments. OIF also supports global education and awareness of IF matters, enhancing users' ability to safely access and share digital news and information without fear of repressive censorship or surveillance.

$13.8M
FY18 internet freedom budget

2016
OIF established
Absorbing the Internet Anti-Censorship Division, established in 2002

2012
OTF established

Internet Freedom in 2017

RUSSIA
IRAN
CHINA
CUBA

- Free
- Partly free
- Not free
- Not a BBG audience or not assessed by Freedom House

Based on Fredom House 2017 Freedom on the Net report
https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-net/freedom-net-2017

Current Projects

MOBILE

Psiphon Mobile App is a mobile version of Psiphon's anti-censorship virtual private network (VPN) software that enables unfettered Internet access to citizens of repressive governments, as well as application program interface (API) access to allow integration of Psiphon's circumvention layer into apps deployed by BBG broadcasters.

K-9 Mail is the most widely used encrypted email platform for Android, with between 5 and 10 million downloads and availability in more than 30 languages.

NewNode is the first decentralized peer-to-peer content delivery protocol, enabling data distribution free from censorship, spying, and attack.

DESKTOP

Psiphon is an open source web-based proxy and desktop client anti-censorship VPN software that enables unfettered Internet access to citizens of repressive governments with customized versions to promote BBG broadcast services.

NoScript is a popular privacy and security enhancing browser extension for Mozilla Firefox and is pre-installed in the Tor Browser. NoScript increases the safety of online browsing by restricting the use of online content often misused by repressive actors to either track an individual's Internet usage or to compromise their computer via in-browser scripts.

Mailvelope is a browser extension that brings the privacy and security of PGP encryption to webmail clients for services such as Gmail, Yahoo! and others while also being configurable for use on private email servers that offer a web client experience.

NewNode is the first decentralized peer-to-peer content delivery protocol, enabling data distribution free from censorship, spying, and attack.

EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Red Team Lab provides independent technology audits to internet freedom projects to verify any security or privacy claims offered to the public.

Adversary Lab is a new real-time analysis engine that can analyze captured network traffic to extract statistical properties and determine their ability to evade censors.

Sub-Saharan Africa Cyber Threat Modeling will detect, document, and analyze current and emerging cyber threats with a long term goal to mitigate their impact on users at risk in specific Sub-Saharan African countries especially around elections. Specifically the project will study Ethiopia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Kenya, Cameroon, Zimbabwe and South Sudan.

Rapid Response Fund is part of a broader initiative which aims to facilitate the development of a strong digital emergency response community that can work together to resolve threats in a timely and comprehensive manner.

DATA AGGREGATION

Analytics Central is BBG internal portal that aggregates information about censorship circumvention tool usage. Quick-access data will foster rapid responses to new censorship attempts by anti-internet freedom governments.

BBG Expansion and Collaboration

OIF collaborates with other federal government entities, including the U.S. State Department and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), to combat censorship and surveillance activities by repressive regimes around the world. OIF is seeking to forge similar relationships with private and nonprofit sector entities.

CLOUD SERVICES

Eclipis.is As part of the OTF Engineering Lab, internet freedom projects can request access to a secure cloud infrastructure in order to research, develop, and deploy their tools and services in secure and strategically located environments around the globe.

GlobaLeaks is an open-source secure submission framework, allowing media organizations, activist groups, corporations and public agencies to set up their own secure whistleblowing platform. The platform is secure while maintaining usability for average users, empowering anyone to easily set up and maintain a GlobaLeaks instance.

BBG **Broadcasting Board of Governors**
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