C10 – Ethical dimensions of the information society

What society do we want?
How do we trust?

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CoE Origins & Facts

- **Inter-governmental** organisation
- 47 member state governments / 800 million
- International law / legally binding / European Court of Human Rights - governments held in violation
  - 2001 Budapest Convention on Cybercrime
  - 1981 Convention 108 on data protection (modernised, privacy by design)
  - 2008 HRs guidelines’ for ISPs and games providers
  - CoE Strategy on IG 2012-2015 (partnership)
State protecting and ensuring respect for human rights, rule of law, democracy

“High Contracting Parties shall secure to everyone within their jurisdiction the rights and freedoms defined in Section I of this Convention (…)”

Article 1, ECHR
More freedom, more ethics

“Everyone has the right to freedom of expression (…) freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference (…) and regardless of frontiers.

(…) carries with it duties and *responsibilities (…)” [Compendium]

Article 10, ECHR / 500+ cases
Ethics as a transmitter of human rights

- Ethics is the transmission of human rights and fundamental freedoms
- States protect, companies should respect, individuals responsible
- Access to info, knowledge and social interaction = coping
- Expected to appropriate skills, to self-determination, respect for others, to protect oneself
- Disengaged, disembodied?

- CoE: bridging top-down morals with bottom-up ethics (multi-stakeholder dialogue catalyst) = multi-stakeholder dialogue + open and inclusive process

- IG Principles patchwork – decentralised vs centralised
Technology fast, law slow

incumbent to be ethical when the Internet is a global public resource

2 billion+ Internet users worldwide

800 million Facebook

325 billion websites

6 billion mobile registrations (mobile Internet 3G?)

Infrastructure: new gTLDs (e.g. .xxx, .bank, .pharmacy, etc)
ethics of states and intermediaries in the information society?

France (Hadopi)
Turkey (YouTube/defamation)
Italy (Google/privacy)

Protecting children’s ‘right to be forgotten’

Is privacy “no longer a contemporary concept” for people in the 21st century?
Ethical interpretations and responsibilities of states

- WSIS…IGF…Regional IGFs
- Clinton keynotes 2010/2011
- National initiatives
- G8 + G8 follow-up
IGO work on ethics

WSIS Action Line C10

- [values and principles] equality, solidarity, tolerance, *shared responsibility*

- [responsibility] Awareness of ethical use of ICTs

- [protection] Protect privacy/personal data

- [protection] Combat abusive use of ICTs
UNESCO IFAP

- [HRs] Public **service** of Internet to exercise HRs

- [HRs/FoE] **Access to enable**: produce, communicate, innovate … info/knowledge/creativity/participation, linguistic, cultural, social, educational

- [HRs/right to assembly] Freedom of **association** – no monitoring or surveillance

- **Trust**: technical **assurances** (CiR security, reliability, stability) + literacy (technical and media) + **privacy & security**
IG word cloud

ethical implications for different stakeholder groups

- Trust
- Freedom
- Protection
- Responsibility
- Security
- Openness
- Privacy
- Public service value
- Transparency
- Accountability

- Need ethics for cloud, ‘Internet of Things’, etc
• CoE responses?

shaping our ETHICAL understanding about the Internet/ICTs
CoE 2009 Ministerial Conference (Reykjavik, 2009)

What freedom to CONNECT, control and manage our IDENTITIES...to what extent should the onus be on the user?

Who owns your data?

Where do you turn to for accurate and trusted information? (Public service media governance)

Information, transparency & consent

Online right to reply and effective redress for individuals (control)

Does “delete” really delete?
Reliance, dependance, expectation...

People’s significant reliance on the Internet as an essential tool for their everyday activities (communication, information, knowledge, commercial transactions, leisure) and the resulting legitimate expectation that a minimum level of core Internet services are accessible and affordable, secure, reliable and ongoing.

CoE Recommendation on public service value of the Internet, 2007
“Users should have the greatest possible access to Internet-based content, applications and services of their choice, whether or not they are offered free of charge, using suitable devices of their choice (…)

(...) exceptions to this principle should be considered with great circumspection and need to be justified by overriding public interests.

“(…) able to gauge the impact of network management measures on the enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms (…). Those measures should be proportionate, appropriate and avoid unjustified discrimination…

CoE Recommendation on Network Neutrality, 2010
New notion of media indicators: editorial control/oversight, purpose, intent, outreach, professional standards, third party expectation

Critical Internet Resources: preparedness, avoiding disruption, “do no (transboundary) harm”
CoE Messages

• Maximising rights and services
• Minimising restrictions

• Ensuring level of security that users are entitled to expect
CoE 2012

- **search engine provider guidelines**: transparency, pluralism & diversity of sources of information, consent

- **social network provider guidelines**: transparent info to users about DP management default settings, deleting profiles & content, anonymity-pseudonymity, reporting, ‘opt-in’ for wider access, easy controls to restrict

* CoE Internet governance strategy 2012-2015

- **users charter** to complain, seek redress, recourse, right to reply, remedies

- **ethics of ICT private sector - implementing** of UN SRSG John Ruggie Report
Mapping Ethical principles
CoE IG Principles Declaration, Sep 2011

1. Human rights, democracy and the rule of law / all should uphold
2. Multi-stakeholder governance / full participation
3. Responsibilities of states / responsibility to refrain from harm and restricting rights
4. Empowerment of Internet users / participate
5. Universality of the Internet / should not misuse or interfere with traffic
6. Integrity of the Internet / security, stability, resilience
7. Decentralised management / private sector responsibility for day-to-day
8. Architectural principles / open, end-to-end, no barriers, no burdens
9. Open network / user access to choice in content, apps and services
10. Cultural and linguistic diversity / user freedom of expression
Personal ethical learnings

- Inclusiveness, rights, freedoms, values

- Ethics is much about protecting users rights and freedoms

- State protecting, private sector respecting, individuals respecting

- More individual freedom – more expectations – more (unrealistic?) responsibilities

- Information, awareness (benefits/risks), literacy, tools = skills, competences, empowerment

- ‘Best (individual) efforts’? and shared responsibilities to protect users as citizens and consumers (blurring of sectors)

- Multi-stakeholder ethics = a multiplicity of dialogues, joint signing-off of policies, deeper & wider consultation
Thank you😊

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