

# Are We Heading Toward a Splinternet? The Future of Internet Governance

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# About me

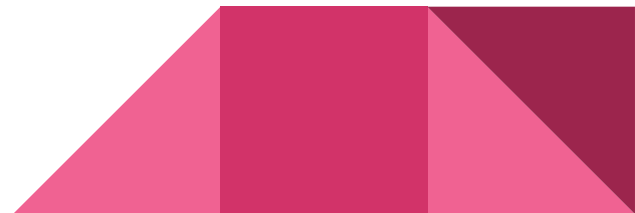
- MSc Politics & Technology, Technical University of Munich
- Early-Career Fellowship, Internet Society
- Norms in Cyberspace, German Council on Foreign Relations



# What is Internet Fragmentation?

*Division or splintering of the **unified, open, global Internet** into smaller, isolated networks subject to different rules, regulations, and technical standards.*

Internet Society



**How did we  
get here?**



# Types of fragmentation

- **Technical:** infrastructure
- **Governmental:** constrain or prevent to create, distribute, or access information
- **Commercial:** business practices

**Figure 1: Internet Layers**

5. Content and Transactions Layer
4. Application Layer
3. Transport Layer
2. Network/IP Layer
1. Physical/Link Layer

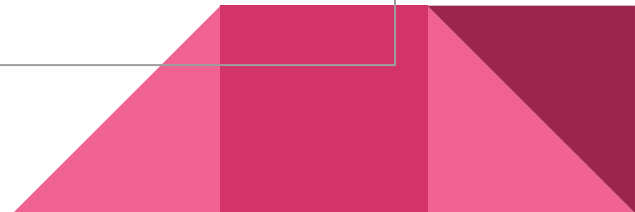
# Governmental Fragmentation: Tools and Measures

- Internet shutdowns (e.g. regions in India).
- Firewalls (e.g. China's Great Firewall)
- Data-localization e.g. Russia's "digital sovereignty" regime).
- Proposals at intergovernmental bodies (e.g. 2010 RU/CN proposals at the ITU).



# How to Evaluate Fragmentation

<b>Occurrence</b> Present or future?	<b>Intentionality</b> Deliberate or unintended?
<b>Impact</b> Limited or systemic?	<b>Character</b> Protective, restrictive, or both?



# ICANN's goals

- Multistakeholder
- Role of the technical community
- Extension of the IGF Mandate
- Prioritize technical stability over political interests (RU-UKR)



# Thank you!

Questions & Feedback

