UN looks for an Internet "fix"

M. Simon

Quite a few of the member states (colloquially known as "Dictators 'R Us") of the UN want to change the rules of the game. The Internet Game. They want [1] to be able to shut down Internet traffic at will. And they want to do it legally. Whatever that means in the context of nations. Anyway, here is what they (the miscreants) are proposing.

> ...several technology companies and Internet free-speech advocates, as well as the European Parliament and the United States, have warned that some of the proposals being bruited about would imperil Internet freedom if enacted and result in intrusive and potentially heavy-handed national regulations. In particular, a change in the regulations championed by the Russian delegation has raised fears that this would transfer power away from independent bodies now responsible for Internet standards to the ITU.

The states seeking these changes are looking to fix their problem of "too much information." Ah. But the free speech rebels are fighting back [2]. They do so by explaining what is wrong with the ITU process.

> They deal primarily with areas including free speech, taxation, privacy, and cybersecurity. There are secondary concerns about the ITU process itself: meetings are held behind closed doors, and key documents are withheld from public scrutiny -- the precise opposite of the way traditional Internet standards-setting works. A site called WCITLeaks.org [3], by two policy analysts at the free-market Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Arlington, Va., has sprung up to shine more light on what's happening in secret. Vint Cerf, co-creator of the Internet's technical underpinnings, warned in a CNN op-ed [4] last week that the ITU "is the wrong place to make decisions about the future of the internet." That's because, he wrote: "Only governments have a vote at the ITU. This includes governments that do not support a free and open Internet. Engineers, companies, and people that build and use the Web have no vote."

Just another case of power and control junkies looking for a fix to their problems while enjoying a jolt of power and control. If they can get it.

M. Simon's e-mail can be found on the sidebar at Space-Time Productions [5].

Engineering is the art of making what you want from what you can get at a profit.

Source URL (retrieved on *09/01/2014 - 11:25pm*):
http://www.ecnmag.com/blogs/2012/12/un-looks-internet-fix?qt-recent_content=0

Links:
[1] http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-57557076-93/berners-lee-warns-against-changes-to-net-at-un-conclave/
[2] http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-57557459-38/the-u.n-and-the-internet-what-to-expect-what-to-fear-faq/
[3] http://wcitleaks.org/
[4] http://edition.cnn.com/2012/11/29/business/opinion-cerf-google-internet-freedom/index.html
[5] http://spacetimepro.blogspot.com/