



Broadcasting
Board of
Governors

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 uses proven technology to provide worldwide uncensored access to the Internet with a focus on users in countries with state-sponsored Internet censorship. Radio Free Asia's Open Technology Fund (OTF) supports projects that advance inclusive and safe access to global communication networks.

\$17.5 M

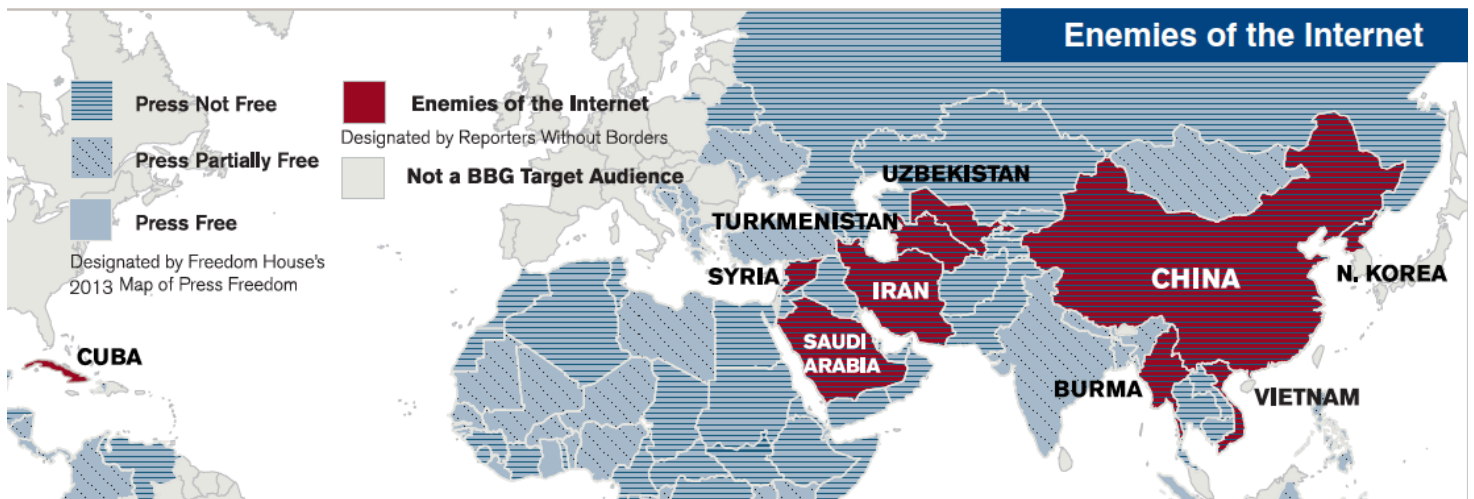
2015 Budget

2002

IAC Established

2012

OTF Established



IAC Projects

Mobile

Android and iOS Apps
SMS in Cuba

Internet

Tool Testing
Proxy Server Software
Statistics Monitoring

Satellite

Radio with Slate
One-Way Web Delivery

OTF Projects

Open Whisper Systems
Cupcake Bridge
OpenNet Africa

Mobile

Android and iOS Apps

Two Android based projects have been deployed, including 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 as well as real-time chat functionality. iPhone apps are currently being developed with a focus on the China market.



The second mobile project provides additional powerful security for mobile users. BBG currently uses Psiphon desktop censorship circumvention products for some of its more sensitive services, a web proxy service and desktop client software. The IAC Team 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.

SMS in Cuba

Government censorship in Cuba is as strong as ever, and the IAC Team is using 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. The social network capitalizes on the increase in cell phone use on the island and does not require a mobile Internet connection.



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 Statistics Monitoring

The BBG is developing a near-real time statistics portal designed to integrate the usage statistics from vendors that contribute to the overall BBG IAC content delivery spectrum. By requiring uniform statistics, the BBG will quickly be able to view the effectiveness of a program and determine the value that is being returned for the amount spent. In addition, daily statistical viewing will allow the BBG to see patterns in delivery which will indicate changes in foreign government blocking programs and will then allow us to work with vendors for effective counter-measures.



Satellites

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, via satellite, entire websites to populations whose governments censor the Internet. Even without access to the Internet, users are able to receive crucial information that is normally only available online.

Open Technology Fund Projects

Open Whisper Systems

TextSecure, is an easy to use encrypted text messaging application for Android. It enables secure local storage of SMS/MMS messages, as well as encrypted transmission of SMS/MMS messages to other TextSecure users. This project will develop a feature-parity TextSecure client for iOS, which will provide full secure text interoperability between the supported TextSecure platforms.

Cupcake Bridge

Tor bridges are Tor relays that aren't listed in the main Tor directory. They are a step forward in the blocking resistance race. Cupcake Bridge is a browser extension that allows users to become new Tor bridges automatically, without having to install a full software suite or configure anything. This project will create a Cupcake Bridge extension for Firefox and plugins to work on sites like Wordpress and Drupal - thereby significantly growing the number of global Tor bridges.

OpenNet Africa

This project by the Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPEA) is documenting Internet rights violations, reviewing cyber security policies and their impact on Internet freedom, promoting information availability and creating awareness about Internet freedom, with a focus on Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

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.