



\$13.8M

FY19 INTERNET FREEDOM BUDGET

2016

OIF ESTABLISHED

Absorbing the Internet Anti-Censorship Division, established in 2002

2012

OTF ESTABLISHED

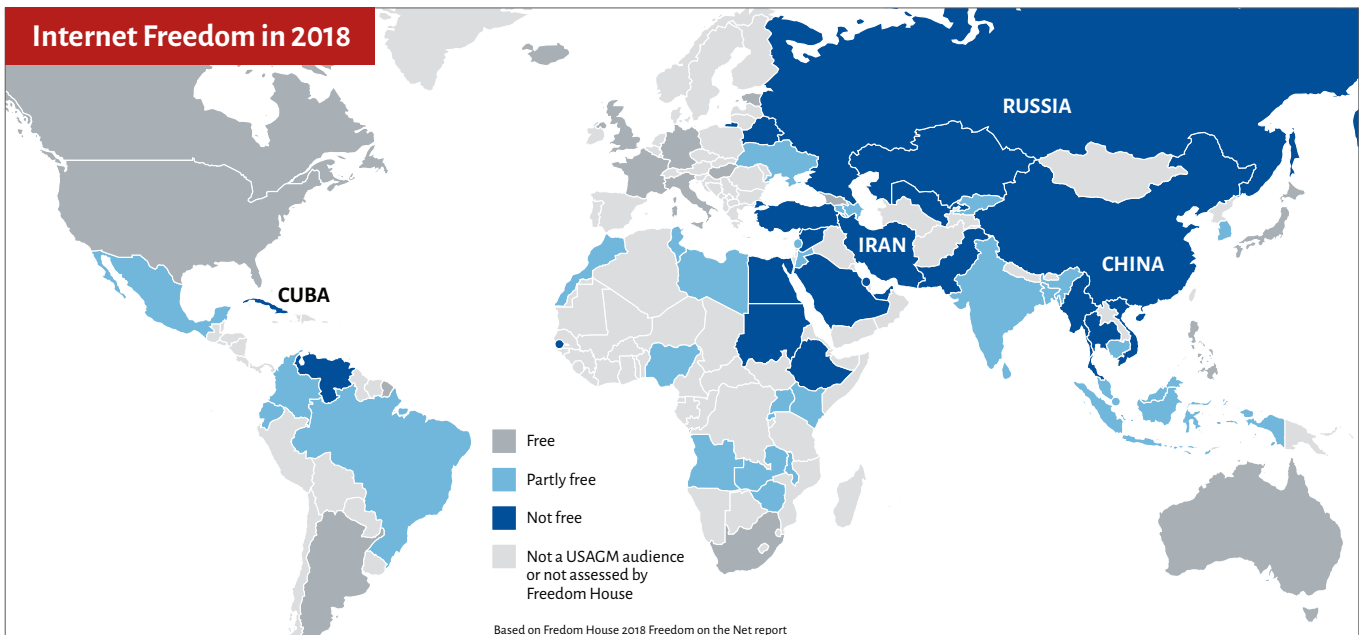
Office of Internet Freedom

The Office of Internet Freedom (OIF) within the U.S. Agency for Global Media (USAGM), oversees the efforts of USAGM-funded Internet Freedom (IF) projects, including the work carried out by the Open Technology Fund (OTF), a USAGM-nonprofit grantee and a division of Radio Free Asia. In coordination with OTF, OIF manages and supports the research, development, deployment, and use of USAGM-funded IF technologies via third party contractors.

Consistent with the USAGM’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.

USAGM 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.



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 USAGM broadcasters.

nthLink is a powerful anti-censorship mobile application capable of circumventing Internet censorship and self-recovering from blocking events. Most importantly, it incorporates strong encryption to protect the information flow between the consumer and the source.

Delta Chat is a new, unique messaging application that functions like any text messaging tool but is built with an email backend, enabling enhanced user privacy and security with end-to-end encryption via Autocrypt. Delta Chat is novel in that it does not require a phone number, has no central server, and has email anonymity potential, offering resilience to surveillance that is vital for users in repressive contexts.

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. NewNode's software development kit (SDK) is now being used by USAGM's mobile apps.

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 USAGM 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.

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.

Ukraine Censorship Monitoring: This project will utilize the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) to document this blocking and shed light on the extent of censorship occurring within the country. This work will be carried out by establishing a sustainable system of monitoring and measuring the Internet censorship in all parts of Ukraine — including occupied Crimea and the occupied Donbas region through the use of local monitors.

Rapid Response Funds have assisted journalists and other targeted actors that are subject to digital attacks carried out by repressive governments or their proxies in

more than 40 countries including in Iran, Venezuela, Vietnam, Tibet, Philippines, Pakistan, and Uganda.

CLOUD SERVICES

Tahoe-LAFS: This project seeks to address the threats to information at rest and shared within the organization by deploying Tahoe-LAFS, which offers secure file storage and sharing capabilities. Ultimately, the project also seeks to make it easier for more organizations to deploy the tool themselves.

Tor Node distribution in LatAm: Many internet users in Latin America rely on the Tor network to guarantee their privacy and to circumvent censorship online. Since most of the Tor network nodes are in the Global North today, this project aims to set up more in the region and grow the Tor user base in order to make the Tor network stronger and safer. This project will also help building a stronger technical community of people working around privacy and anonymity in Latin America.

Eclipsis.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.

