



FAST FACTS

ANNUAL BUDGET
\$15 million

NUMBER OF
PROJECTS SUPPORTED
300+

USERS OF OTF-SUPPORTED
TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE
2 billion+ daily

MISSION

The Open Technology Fund works to advance internet freedom in repressive environments by supporting the research, development, implementation, and sustainability of technologies that provide secure and uncensored access to the internet to counter attempts by authoritarian governments to control the internet and restrict freedom online.

Open Technology Fund

The Open Technology Fund (OTF) is a non-profit organization that aims to advance internet freedom in the world's most repressive environments to ensure that all people can safely access the uncensored internet in order to seek, receive, and impart information freely. OTF was first established in 2012 as a program at USAGM grantee Radio Free Asia and became an independent organization in 2019.



PROGRAMS

OTF funds internet freedom technologies at every stage of the development cycle from proof-of-concept, to on-the-ground deployments, to multi-year efforts. This approach ensures that USAGM journalists and audiences have the tools they need right now to safely access an uncensored internet, while investing in innovative solutions to stay ahead of evolving censorship threats. In order to provide comprehensive support to internet freedom projects, OTF provides resources through a variety of implementation mechanisms.

Direct Funds: OTF provides direct funding to support the research, development, implementation, and sustainability of technologies to enable censorship circumvention and enhance user security and privacy online.

Labs: OTF provides expert services through its Labs, including the translation of internet freedom tools into over 200 languages, security audits, usability assessments, legal support, and secure cloud storage. These services ensure that the technologies incubated and supported by OTF are as effective, secure, and usable for USAGM audiences as possible.

EXAMPLES OF TOOLS SUPPORTED BY OTF:

- Signal
- Lantern
- Psiphon
- WireGuard
- GlobaLeaks
- Snowflake
- domain fronting
- Deflect
- Mailvelope
- OONI
- Tor
- Tails
- F-Droid
- Certbot
- NoScript
- K-9 Mail

INTERNET FREEDOM TOOLS TRANSLATED INTO

200+
LANGUAGES

including Mandarin, Russian, Farsi, Spanish, Arabic, Tibetan, French, and Vietnamese

PROVIDED RAPID RESPONSE ASSISTANCE TO JOURNALISTS IN MORE THAN

40
COUNTRIES

Fellowships: OTF supports individuals to carry out cutting-edge applied research projects examining how authoritarian states are restricting the free flow of information and ways for citizens to overcome those tactics. OTF fellowships help to cultivate the next generation of internet freedom experts by creating a viable career track for those who have the skills and passion for internet freedom.

USAGM network support: OTF provides USAGM networks with assistance to protect their content online and ensure it is resistant to censorship. For example, when USAGM news sites were abruptly blocked in Pakistan, OTF created mirror sites to ensure USAGM content remained available for key audiences. OTF also created the first internet freedom guide for international broadcasters — BypassCensorship.org.

Rapid Response: OTF provides emergency support to independent media outlets and journalists facing digital attacks to get back online and mitigate future attacks.

IMPACT

Billions of users worldwide: Today, over 2 billion people use OTF-supported technology daily. More than two-thirds of all mobile users globally have technology incubated by OTF on their device.

Best-in-class tools: OTF supports anti-censorship, privacy, and security tools that are regularly used and recommended by leading media and human rights organizations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, UNESCO, Reporters Without Borders, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House, among many others.

More timely, accurate censorship detection: Through OTF funding, anyone can identify where, when and how censorship is occurring; timely detection of censorship events in repressive contexts worldwide are being observed and documented via hundreds of thousands of measurements taken monthly in more than 210 countries.

Rapid response: OTF has provided rapid response assistance to individuals and organizations facing digital emergencies, including in Venezuela, Iran, Azerbaijan, Vietnam, Thailand, Pakistan, Mexico, Uganda, Tibet and Hong Kong, among others.

Exposing repressive Chinese surveillance: OTF's Red Team Lab has investigated and exposed apps used for repressive surveillance throughout China, including tools used by the government to target religious minority Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province as well as tourists entering the region. Research supported by OTF also tracked the export of Chinese censorship and surveillance technologies and tactics to 102 countries around the world.

Increasing demand: The demand for internet freedom projects has grown exponentially over the past decade, making OTF's application process increasingly more competitive. Since 2012, OTF has reviewed and responded to over 3,500 requests for support totaling nearly \$450 million.