



The Future of the Internet – What's Next



- Provided welcoming remarks
- Provided the rationale for the theme:
 - The theme was selected to reflect the current climate in Trinidad and Tobago after being forced into a digital age. Adapting was necessary, but thriving is the goal.

Introductory Remarks

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- She started by saying we should be doing things through a global lens and a national lens. It is known that the internet adds value however it is not equitably available to everyone. We know that the openness of the internet is under threat...so how do we respond and how do we tackle this challenge? How do we shape the Future of the Internet?
- This includes:
 - opportunities that the internet presents, digital literacy, online schooling, enhancing internet research, data measurement for development and policy making
- How do we do this:
 - "How do you eat an elephant? Mouthful by Mouthful."

Introductory Remarks

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- His comment on the theme is that it was quite appropriate, in particular how everyone, including his team at the ministry, has had to leverage technology to get through the pandemic.
- He started by looking at some of the advantages many have received in cases such as remote work and increased productivity
- He identified that the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) has defined three central pillars for Digital Transformation:
 - Digital Society- In such a society, everyone has access to affordable broadband, and there is an increase in the digital IQ of the population.
 - Digital Economy - We want to double the contribution of the ICT sector to the GDP from 4% to 8% through incentives and programmes.
 - Digital Government - digitalization of business and governmental services to reduce duplication and to have operations executed to scale.

Introductory Remarks



- He expressed his hope that topics would include the importance of infrastructure and investment into all of the modalities relating to internet connectivity that allow us to take advantage of a global information resource.
- He noted, it is important not to be left out, especially with all of the information, disinformation, bullying, ransomware and denial-of-service attacks that are driving a lot of policy around the world.

"We don't want to underestimate all the value in all of that, nor do we want to underestimate the risk."

"There is still so much work to be done to bring the other half of the world online in a safe and secure fashion..."

- He asked the attendees to engage in a lively discussion that would lead to some important thoughtful exploration of these needs, and perhaps the outcome of these sessions might be represented the Annual Global Forum

The logo for TTIGF (The Future of the Internet Governance Forum) is displayed in a circular frame with a red and white border. The text "TTIGF" is in a bold, sans-serif font, with the "T"s in red and the "IGF" in black.

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Panel Session I: Building a Digitally Competent Society



Moderator – Sanjay Bahadoorsingh – Treasurer, TTMAG

Pundit Shiva Maharaj, Director and Chief Operations Officer,
I.C.T Expertz Ltd (PSM)

Dr. Roland Birbal, Assistant Professor, Centre for Education
Programmes, UTT (DRB)

Swasti Maharaj, Student, Lakshmi Girls Hindu College (Swasti)

Mr. and Mrs Bhola, Internet User Parents (MMB)

Darren Mohammed, Senior Solution Specialist Manager -
Caribbean Region, Microsoft Country Representative,
Microsoft Trinidad & Tobago (DM)

Panel Highlights

- Covid-19 has brought up the timeline for predictions of a connected world via the internet.
- Existing Internet technologies now play a more essential role for everyone in work, school, and entertainment.
- Even those with technophobia are now required to use some sort of technology for everyday purposes.
- While there are efforts to bridge the infrastructural gaps of the digital divide, competency gaps grow larger and are not being addressed.
- There is a need for the inclusion and integration of 21st-century competency programmes in our schools' curriculum that produce lifelong learners that will excel through efficient and effective use of existing and emerging digital technologies safely and ethically.

Panel Session 2: Enhancing Internet Research, Data and Measurement for Development



Moderator: Nigel Cassimire, Telecommunications Specialist, Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)

Panelists:

Prof. Patrick Hosein, Director, TTMA

Niran Beharry, Chairperson, Internet Society of Trinidad & Tobago (ISOC-TT)

Dr. Kim Mallalieu, Senior Lecturer, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, UWI

Annie Baldeo, Executive Officer - Policy, Planning, and Economics, Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT)

Panel Highlights

- In charting the future development of the internet in the Caribbean, there is a dearth of data available that is specific to the Caribbean to enable evidence-based policy development and even for ensuring that developmental initiatives are appropriately targeted for optimal effectiveness.
- This is relevant to initiatives for the development and affordability of access infrastructure, addressing aspects of the digital divide (e.g. locality, gender, etc.) and digital inclusion generally, critical internet infrastructure, digital skills, and so on.
- Where is the data to show the current state of these various elements in Caribbean territories, to foster remedial initiatives, and to measure progress over time? How can this situation be improved expeditiously?

Panel Session 3: The Internet and the Law



Moderator: Rabindra Danny Jaggernauth, Director, TTMAG
Panelists:

Rishi Maharaj, Principal Consultant Privacy Advisory Services,
EquiGov Institute

Grace Lindo, Attorney at Law and Partner, Carter Lindo
Attorneys-at-Law

Tira Greene, Legal, Policy and Legislative Drafting Consultant,
Tira Greene Consultancy

Mukta Balroop, In-house Legal Counsel, Financial Institution

Panel Highlights

- How the internet is regulated locally and regionally, with a close examination of the modes of regulation.
- The issue of free speech and the internet as well as topics like cyber-bullying and privacy.
- Where have CARICOM states progressed in terms of adapting and updating where necessary existing privacy laws,
- What about the institutions of supervisory regulators and installations of Information Commissioners' Offices (ICOs)
- How do new DP laws relate to what's happening worldwide; for example, vaccination certification processes?

- Keynote Address

Panel Session 4: Trinidad and Tobago's Digital Transformation Journey – What's Next?



Moderator: Ajmal Nazir, Director, TT MAG

Panelists:

L. Anthony Watkins, CEO & Principal Consultant, ODYSSEY CONSULTinc Limited

Kandyss Trancoso, Founder, The FinRoute

Master Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne, Court Executive Administrator, Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago

Panel Highlights

- Trinidad and Tobago is at a crossroads in its digital transformation journey. With increasing pressures from all corners, there is an increasing push to move beyond rhetoric. The establishment makes promises, but have we been here before? The list of initiatives that have come and gone grows, while there is a view that the country is "stuck", lacking direction and momentum to move away from oil and gas.
- While the Government attempts to digitize the public service, what is the role, position and status of the private sector, academia, technical community and civil society in this effort?
- Are we ready to move from talk to action and to move beyond ad-hoc, reactive interventions to commit our support to a whole country-wide digital transformation effort?

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Feature Address:
Vint Cerf, VP & Chief Internet Evangelist, Google



- Mentioned that although the internet was introduced with the vision of all persons having access to the internet, to date, only half the world has access to it.
- Satellites are widely proliferating (giving reference to Space-X and Elon Musk's goal of launching 52 satellites in 2022).
- If you can't afford internet it does not matter if it's available
- Optical fiber becoming less expensive to put up
- The X Company (Google) is capable of delivering 10 megabits per second per kilometer
- Private networks building interconnections to ISPs.

The Lessons Gained from the Pandemic:

- Some people can work and some can go to school from home
- Telemedicine is also possible as well

Biggest challenge

- Digital Transformation - mostly lies within the software, anything can be done once you can figure out how to use it.
- Privacy can be considered an anomaly because, with the instance of security cameras, etc, there is not much privacy

The logo for the Trinidad and Tobago Internet Governance Forum (TTGF) is located in the top left corner. It consists of the letters 'TTGF' in a bold, sans-serif font, with the 'TT' in red and the 'GF' in black. The logo is enclosed within a circular graphic that has a red outer ring and a white inner circle, with a slight 3D effect.

Moderated by Tracy Hackshaw, Chair-Elect 2022, TTMAG

Without going into details, the Open Forum addressed the following:

- Technology facilitating gender-based violence
- An update on T&T's Electronic Transactions Act and the Data Protection Act
- Children rights in the digital age
- Networking is the answer to creating most of these initiatives; coming together will be more efficient than trying to complete them on our own
- Computer refurbishment initiative
- The need for a space to fail as a basis for innovating
- T&T's education delivery is not conducive to a technology space
- It was also noted that persons are currently experiencing tech fatigue



Read the full report at:

<https://igf.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/TTIGF-2022-Report.pdf>



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INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

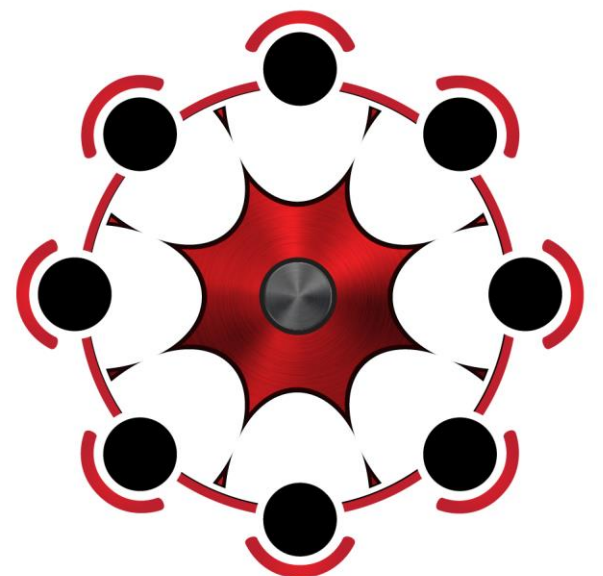
2023



**JANUARY
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