



REPORT ON KENYA IGF 2011 MAILING LIST DISCUSSION

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July, 2011

Kenya IGF 2011 online debate

KICTANet commissioned the 4th online discussion on Internet Governance aimed at raising awareness, encouraging debate and discussions on Internet Governance Issues as well as identifying new emerging issues. The theme of the discussions was Internet as a catalyst for innovation and development. The discussions were centered around the impact of mobile internet, cloud computing, cyber security and privacy, broadband and principles of internet policy making.

Introduction

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on issues of Internet governance. It brings together all stakeholders in the internet governance debate, whether they represent governments, the private sector or civil society, including the technical and academic community, on an equal basis and through an open and inclusive process. The establishment of the IGF was formally announced by the United Nations Secretary-General in July 2006 and it was first convened in October / November 2006.¹

The first five years were concluded with the 5th Internet Governance Forum that was held in Vilnius Lithuania. There was consensus on the need to renew the mandate for another five years and Kenya successfully bided to host the 6th IGF meeting under the new five year mandate. The IGF will be held in September 2011 at the United Nations offices in Nairobi. Registration is ongoing on www.intgovforum.org and www.igf.or.ke (Host country website).

KICTAnet held an online discussion for 10 days starting on July 1 to July 11, 2011

Debate focused on the following issues:

- **Impact of Mobile Internet in Kenya**
- **Cloud Computing**
- **Cyber Security and Privacy**
- **Broadband**
- **Principles of Internet Policy Making**

The following Matrix contains the main issues discussed during the online debate and recommendations made by various listers drawn from the public, private sector, civil society and technical communities.

Topic	Issues of Concern	Recommendation/Issues for further discussion
Impact of Mobile Internet in Kenya	<p>What role has mobile networks played in providing Internet access to Kenyan citizens and what needs to be put in place to promote mobile Internet and enhance local content development?</p> <p>What initiatives are needed to ensure that sufficient spectrum is available for mobile networks to provide effective Internet access for various services?</p>	<p>-Enormous impact observed and documented by the regulator @ www.cck.go.ke, over 5million? Kenyans using mobile modems to connect...</p> <p>- In terms of local content, this is sufficient with mobile content (e.g. downloads of music tracks, ringtones, etc), but not enough on websites (17,000 dot.ke domains)</p> <p>-Promotion and encouragement to bring internet to rural areas required (provision of universal access and funds).</p> <p>-Need for registrars to automate the domain registration process and payment processing, so that end users can register domains without human intervention.</p>

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<p>Mobile Payment Platforms</p>	<p>Mobile payments platforms continue to offer tremendous amount of services and innovation, with the ability to exchange, transmit and store data and content embedded within payments systems. What are the challenges in balancing consumer protection and regulatory oversight? Particularly regarding privacy and ownership of information/content and data?</p> <p>What is the role of policy and regulation for successful transition to new mobile payment channels?</p>	<p>-Seamless money transfer across mobile networks should be the next step in the rung on mobile payment ladder. This will require policy and regulation to allow a balance between rewarding innovation (read mobile phone companies) and public interest.</p> <p>- Need for a risk management framework to secure clients funds.</p> <p>-Need for vigilance in protection of consumers' data by service providers, and therefore need for data protection mechanism (can the data protection draft bill be availed to stakeholders for comments?).</p>
<p>Impact of reduction of pre/paid tariffs</p>	<p>Has there been any impact since the prepaid tariffs were reduced, are there any lessons to be learned?</p>	
<p>Cloud Computing</p>	<p>What role should the government play to promote cloud computing in Kenya</p>	<p>Cloud computing encompasses Software as a service – SaaS, Platform as a Service – PaaS and Infrastructure as a Service – IaaS. (Are these an MOU of describing the abstractions of a cloud?)</p> <p>Government's role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Data Protection & Privacy Laws / Standards, - Enabling Environment, Physical Infrastructure like roads, water etc.

	<p>What practical steps should we take as a nation that will move cloud computing from a lofty idea into a strategic commercial resource and to application of the cloud for development?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlined and corruption free judicial & police systems. - Simplified licensing & Tax regime (Double Tax Treaties with cloud node countries) - Tax incentives for server farms that want to set-up in marginal areas (Income tax rebates, VAT/Withholding tax exemptions) - Tax incentives for renewable power development and favorable pricing for resale to the national grid. - Guaranteed business from Government should the firms set up for atleast 5 years (Buy Local Build Local). - Consider a strategy (short, medium and long term) for Kenya as a regional ICT hub and where data centers and cloud services could come in. - Marketing and promotion through support to private sector driven marketing campaigns. - Improve operational efficiency data center computer room air handling units through architected in a perimeter raised floor cooling approach. - ISPs and Telcos getting into the business of data centres. - Should KICTB look at ways in which developers can have local affordable data centre services? -Open Data Initiative
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	<p>What are the key challenges (policy, legal, regulatory) of cloud computing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Sufficient stable power that is also affordable - Capacity (of storage planning, connectivity, R&D, testing, security and POWER back up). - Would the government promote cloud computing as a national importance when they gave out the digitization project to Google? - Data centers are fragmented and do not share their cloud computing infrastructure (universal cloud computing standards and APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) still have to be developed. - Issues of privacy (user and data), security and stability of a given cloud or cloud provider. - Lack of awareness by ordinary Kenyans on how they can take advantage of cloud computing. - Net neutrality - Local content - and where it is hosted. - Unbundled local loops. <p>The government has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Rolled out an open access terrestrial fibre optics network to all counties; -built a government data center; - connected all government offices with fibre; -embarked on digitalization of its registries (judiciary, state law office (complete) and lands on progress); - identified land for national data centers and about to identify a ppp partner;
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - working on an open access LTE rollout by April 2012; - supported universities with subsidized broadband (more than 10GB), - disbursed funds to set up digital villages in 39 counties; and - held awareness seminars on the benefits of cloud computing. <p>Q: is there need for a National Cloud Computing Strategy given that the issues that affect the Stability of the cloud are outside the domain of Ministry of Infocom?</p>
<p>Cyber Security and Privacy</p>	<p>With Cyber Security threats increasing at an alarming rate, what strategies can we embrace as a nation to address and combat the threats?</p> <p>What initiatives are needed to ensure there is sufficient awareness and education on Cyber threats?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Cyber security affects anyone who has data stored on some device either remotely or locally. - Need for mechanisms that will inform the majority of internet users on what is meant by cyber security and privacy. -Measures/strategies required by government and companies to curb cyber threats. -Clear execution of policies required. - ISO 27001/PCI DSS (standards) Compliance. -Awareness on privacy settings of social networking sites, and online/mobile transactions. - Risks of relinquishing personal data on the cloud. -On a technical level, Red Teaming (google is your friend) as a methodology to identify potential threats up to and including physical penetration etc.

	<p>What is required to increase and improve international co-operation in this area and to ensure that national and international strategies are consistent with policies that protect society while advancing innovation, growth and development?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public awareness campaigns on what cybercrime is, through media and CCK's chukua hatua. - Consider holding awareness conferences on security vulnerabilities. -Cyber security specialists; penetration testers, firewall experts, cryptographers, white-hat hackers and the professionals that could be on the vanguard of defense are quite a rare and a precious 'breed' in Kenya. Consider a training partnership between government and private sector of cyber security experts.
<p>Broadband</p>	<p>As a nation do we need a comprehensive policy on broadband, if so what should it contain?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a comprehensive policy on broadband spear- headed by the Minister of Information & Communications to compliment their 2008 - 2012 Strategic Plan. -The policy should outline safeguards to ensure broadband deployment nationally and in the same breadth preserving and promoting interconnected networks that would allow consumers to access internet content of their choice. - Need to define broadband (Wired, Wireless and Mobile Broadband), -What bandwidth defines or qualifies a service to be referred to as a broadband service. 768K, 1MB etc. Who should make

	<p>What public policy initiatives and incentives are needed to stimulate investment in high-speed broadband to achieve universal access?</p> <p>Does the current ICT Policy ensure that the country maximizes on the potential of the available broadband?</p> <p>How can governments leverage policies and investment in health, education, health, energy and other sectors to enhance efficiencies provided by high speed broadband?</p>	<p>this definition?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for nationally relevant broadband whose large chunk should be fixed for education institutions, healthcare, government, etc). -Consumers should have the ability to run applications and services of their choice, as well as to connect via their choice of network devices. -They should also be entitled to choose network providers, application and service providers, and content providers which promote competition. -Most ISPs have got away with providing lackluster services because there are no strong regulations that would compel them to fulfill their obligations of providing unfettered, low latency and efficient Internet services to their clients.
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References:

1. Internet Governance Forum http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_Governance_Forum