Proposal for a BPF on Data and New Technologies in an Internet Context as follow up on the 2019 BPF IoT, Big Data, AI

IGF 2020

[updated proposal, to accommodate MAG comments on initial proposal]

I - NAMES OF AT LEAST TWO CO-FACILITATORS (MAG member + non-MAG members as appropriate)

Concettina Cassa (MAG Member & Co-facilitator 2018/2019 BPF IoT, Big Data, AI);
(additional co-facilitator(s) to be confirmed)

II - BACKGROUND

The Internet plays a critical role in connecting, analysing and generating value from the vast variety and high volume of data generated by devices, networks and applications used by billions of users around the world. The expectations on how this contributes to solving complex problems and facing global challenges related to the environment, transportation, healthcare etc. are high and complement a growing list of examples of how applications support individual users' daily lives. At the same time concerns are growing on how the same data shared online can be combined (e.g. for profiling) and analysed (e.g. using AI), to be used and abused by companies and government and, as such, risks to put users in a weak and powerless position.

This proposal suggests the BPF to focus on how users' data is collected, analysed and used, and to establish a dialogue on best practices to ensure that this data is used to bring benefit and not to harm users. This includes the question on how users can be taught and empowered to protect themselves and their data. The BPF proposal covers users' data shared and collected in an internet context, this includes but is not limited to data collected via IoT devices.

The BPF can build on the work of the BPF IoT, Big Data, AI, that looked at major policy questions that arise when IoT, Big Data, AI technologies are used in concert in an internet context.

> The 2018 BPF IoT, Big Data, AI identified best practices to facilitate stakeholder dialogue on issues pertaining to IoT, Big Data, AI in an internet context: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai-2018 .
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> The 2019 BPF IoT, Big Data, AI identified policy challenges that arise when using IoT, Big Data, AI to contribute to solving societal challenges. These policy challenges were clustered under 'trust in the technologies', 'stimulating use and uptake', 'challenges related to the collection, management and analysis of data'. https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai .

III - DESCRIPTION

Draft work plan and key objectives:

1) Defining the issue
    - How to ensure that data shared by users is used for the benefit of the user and its community?
    - Is it inevitable to live in a world without privacy?
    - How can users be empowered to (re-)gain control of their data, and limit unwanted control on their lives by companies and governments?

2) Identifying stakeholders and mapping stakeholder dialogue on the issue
    - What is the current state of discussions?
    - Who are the stakeholders that are/should be involved?
    - What role can stakeholders play ?

3) Sharing of best practices
    - Sharing of existing projects and initiatives.

Cross cutting topics :

- Ethical questions
- Data Trust
- Digital literacy, awareness raising, and capacity building to empower users to (re-)gain control over their data.

Examples of initiatives

- DECODE (DEcentralised Citizen-owned Data Ecosystems) https://www.decodeproject.eu
- NESTA https://www.nesta.org.uk/blog/new-ecosystem-trust/
- ODI https://theodi.org/article/odi-data-trusts-report/

IV - OUTREACH PLAN AND MULTISTAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORK

We envisage a broad participation from the different stakeholder groups and multi- disciplinary input, and intend to obtain this by a mix of general outreach to all interested parties and targeted outreach to existing working groups on AI related issues (e.g. ICANN, RIRs, IETF, ISOC, ITU, AgID, OECD, IEEE, UN High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, Gobal Commission on Cyber Security (GCSC); Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (GFCE), the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE), UNESCO, the work of the DC on IoT and other IGF intersessional activities, etc.) and many local and regional initiatives and projects.