

IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: [Open Source: Defending Freedoms in the Digital Future \(WS8\)](#)

- Date: [20 Dec 2017](#)

- Time: [11:40-13:20](#)

- Session Organizer: [Satish Babu, ISOC-TRV, India](#) and [Ms. Judy Okite, FOSS Foundation for Africa](#)

- Chair/Moderator: [Satish Babu](#)

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: [Ms. Sarah Kiden](#)

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

1. [Glenn McKnight, Global Catalysts Consulting, Canada](#)
2. [Ms. Mishi Choudhary, SFLC, New York/India](#)
3. [Ms. Sarah Kiden, Ford-Mozilla Open Web Fellow, Mozilla Foundation, Uganda](#)
4. [Dr. Olivier Crepin-Leblond, EURALO/EuroDIG, France](#)
5. [Panayotis Antoniadis, Nethood, Zurich, Switzerland](#)
6. [Nicolás Echániz, AlterMundiNet, Argentina](#)
7. [Ms. Maureen Hilyard, Cook Islands, Remote Moderator](#)

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- [The existence of many Free/Open Source tools, technologies and open methodologies that promote for anonymity, privacy,](#)
- [Lobbying and advocacy by Internet giants to subvert Open Source deployment \(such as the case of Munich City\)](#)
- [Rising role of AI and Algorithms and the growing threat to Open Source as code was no longer the most important aspect. The combination of Code+Data that enables algorithms to be adaptive, is no longer auditable the way open source code is](#)
- [The role of data as “Data is the new oil” explains why companies part with code \(as open source\) but not data](#)
- [Need for Open Data and Open Content policies](#)
- [Need for mechanisms that will allow algorithms to be auditable the way code is audited](#)
- [Fake news and social media manipulation undermining the credibility of the Internet; Loss of privacy with the growth of Social Media, IoT, Big data and algorithms](#)
- [The need for the Free and Open Source Software \(FOSS\) Community to create best practices to address these growing challenges](#)

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

[There were lively discussions during the session, both at the plenary and during the breakout session where three groups discussed the dimensions of these issues. Since this was a break-out session, there were no presentations.](#)

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) has emerged as a very important genre of software, that helps to protect freedoms of individuals, communities and even nations. Open Source was particularly important for students and researchers. It was not required to be overly radical in the use of Open Source, but an incremental approach was practical. Even smart cities should be built bottom up with Free Software with community participation

FOSS has huge benefits, and is intrinsically valuable. Investing FOSS invests in local communities. For instance, by using FOSS, teachers can learn to build software for their own communities. Decision-makers should be enabled to overcome barriers that crop up from time to time. For humanitarian technologies, FOSS is a natural fit. There is great potential in joining hands with IEEE and Internet Society to develop FOSS licenses for open hardware and software. Countries like Cuba, which have suffered embargos, can use FOSS. While some Governments actively promote FOSS, others prefer to let the markets decide. However, many governments are also prone to be subject to advocacy by large companies. Internet giants offer gratis software and actually generate revenues from data. This is unfavorable to FOSS. There were multiple cases where community and public outcry has ensured reversal of pro-proprietary company decisions by the Government. In the case of schools in Geneva, there is a need to push for the use of FOSS in schools. In India, teachers have emerged as programmers after schools adopted FOSS.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Freedom was a binary, but a continuum. Combining Community Networks with FOSS is a basis for ensuring Internet Diversity, much like Biodiversity, enabling communities to create their own spaces. Such as an Organic Internet is important to encourage, against algorithm-based data. There was a need to encourage and showcase FOSS community success stories and projects such as Libra Router from Argentina, Taurus, or the Linux deployment in schools India for instance.

The FOSS Community needs to work with Governments to remove obstacles in its adoption. For instance, GDPR would bring in new constraints and challenges in data capture, processing and storage, and the community needs to examine its implications from a FOSS perspective, and respond to them.

Community networks and local services (such as services) can leverage FOSS to build sustainable local communities that can help co-create a more organic Internet. The group agreed with the idea that the right to co-create the Internet, where communities and seen as peers, should be strengthened. The present model communities as 'users' is not necessarily aligned to the principles of FOSS (like moving from Food Security, a top-down approach, to Food Sovereignty, which is a bottom-up approach to empowering communities). This way, the Digital Future of individuals and communities—and thereby for nations—could be defended in the face of multiple threats.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 35

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 14

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment? Gender was discussed as a cross-cutting consideration, but with a special relevance in education and Government

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion: