

Oldenburg Model United Nations



Committee Guide to the **General Assembly's Fourth Committee**

The Future Potential of the Internet

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Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Lars-Christian Reinhold and I am proud to serve as one of the Chairs of this year's General Assembly's Fourth Committee (GA 4th). I am 18 years old and will be graduating from the *Liebfrauenschule Oldenburg* this year. As for my free time, I mostly hang out with friends, go surfing, rowing and listen to music.

OLMUN 2012 will be my third MUN and my first time, which I am going to chair. I have been involved in Oldenburg Model United Nations since last year's conference, where I started as Ambassador of Japan in this great committee. In 2011, I also attended the 20th anniversary of the BERMUN and represented the autonomously country of Switzerland.

In my opinion, MUNs are the perfect opportunity to discuss serious topics, which have an impact on all of us. Furthermore, I enjoy meeting many new people and, which quite often turn into new friendships. Therefore, let us all have fruitful debates, a nice time and, of course, a lot of fun.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the end of June here in the lovely city Oldenburg.

Best regards,

Lars-Christian Reinhold



Dear Delegates,

My name is Felix Virmani and I am honoured to serve as one of this year's GA 4th Committee Chairs. I am 20 years old and graduated from the Kooperative Gesamtschule Rastede in spring last year. After finishing school, I spent almost one year in Australia for a Working Holiday experience.

In my spare time, I really enjoy to play guitar and sing, meet my friends and I am always up for a match of soccer.

This year's conference will be my fourth OLMUN and my seventh MUN overall. After participating as a delegate in 2008 and 2009, gaining my first experience as a chair in 2010 and finally having the honour of being part of the Secretariat of OLMUN 2011, I will now serve alongside my fellow chairmen Lars-Christian Reinhold and Christian Müller at OLMUN 2012.

We are all looking forward to finally meeting you on the 26th of June 2012.

Sincerely yours,

Felix Virmani



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Dear Delegates,

my name is Christian Müller and I will be one of your Chairs at the 4th committee of the General Assembly at this year's OLMUN. I am 20 years old and graduated in 2011 from the Altes Gymnasium Oldenburg. Now I study musicology and history at the university of Freiburg in Baden-Wurttemberg.

I first participated in the conference in 2008, several other MUN-conferences followed – all in all, OLMUN 2012 will be my fourth participation, seventh MUN altogether and my third participation in a chair position. I had the opportunity to take part in very different committees, e.g. the International Court of Justice of BRI-MUN 2010 or the Security Council of OLMUN 2009.



In my free time, I enjoy to play trumpet and guitar or just hang out with my friends. I also like to play rugby or soccer, so I hope to meet you during the conference not only in the committee, but also on the soccer pitch.

However, enough has been said for the moment, I am looking forward to meet you all in June and I hope we can make the GA 4th a productive committee.

Sincerely yours,

Christian Müller

Our Committee

The GA 4th Committee is part of the General Assembly where, unlike the Security Council, all member nations have equal representation. Each of the six main committees within the General Assembly specializes on certain issues and changes over time. The fourth Committee dealt with Trusteeship and Decolonization matters, but now that most territories have acquired independence from the colonizing countries, other issues have been on the table. In fact, the functions and issues of the Special Committee were merged with the Fourth Committee at the end of the 1990s.

Our Topic

In our globalized world the importance of the internet has increased significantly ever since it was established in 1995. Recent trends highlight that the internet will steadily increase its influence on our world society. Whole economies rely on the internet and were able to evolve with the internet. The internet is a part of our life and became indispensable. *"The Future Internet will be at the heart of the future networked society. It will be the global communications network: ubiquitous, accessible, scalable, sustainable, adaptable and highly personalised."*¹

Recent occurrences (e.g. Revolutions in the Arab Spring) forced many countries to constrain the use of different services, by blocking websites and shutting down services (e.g. Twitter, Facebook). Consequently, a debate on how governments should be able to restrict the use of the internet for their citizens is inevitable. Focuses can be set on the possible effects on different parts of the society, economy and the political situation.

Hence, the topic of the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly at OLMUN 2012 tackles an urgent topic that needs to be on the table now.

Historical Background

a. the Beginnings

First indications of an internet-like system occurred simultaneously with the development of computers in the 1950s. At the beginning, there were only point-to-point communications between single computers possible. It helps to think of wired computers, where you can transfer files from one computer to another.

In 1965, an Englishman called Donald Davis developed the concept of packet switching. His intention was to send messages from one point of a network to another. Though many other scientists worked on similar systems at that time, it was Davis version, which was adopted by the US Pentagon in 1969. The pentagon founded the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network Agency (ARPANET) program. It's main goal was to make it possible for governmental research institutions to use the processing power of other institutions, as large calculations had to be done, requiring immense processing power.

¹ Future Internet Assembly: Madrid, Spain, 9th – 10th December 2008

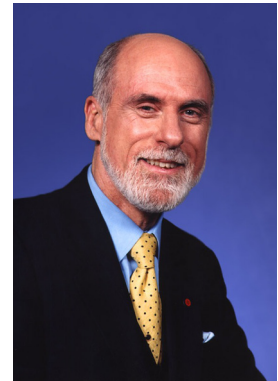
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The concept had to face a large variety of problems: e.g. many computers used different operational systems, as well as different versions of programs. Overall, you can say, that ARPANET failed in its main purpose, because they were not able to fulfill their plans, but all in all they made a tremendous progress on the way to mini computers. ARPANET established a solid foundation for the upcoming internet: this included email developments, packet switching implementations and development of the Transport Control Protocol – Internet Protocol (TCP/IP). TCP basically solved many of the communication problems between the different computers and networks.

In October 1972, ARPANET demonstrated their system for the first time in public at the International Computer Communications Conference in Washington DC. As result, the International Networking Group chaired by Vint Cerf was established.

In 1973, Bob Kahn, an engineer and internet pioneer, developed the final stage of the TCP/IP in cooperation with Vint Cerf at Stanford University. The TCP/IP solved the problem of interaction between different computers. This marked the true birth a significant milestone of the internet and in the 1980s it was made available for the public.



b. Web 1.0

Web 1.0 describes the timeframe in which users were solely able to access sites and information. Overall, they were just consumers of data, which was published in the World Wide Web.

c. Web 2.0

Although largely a buzzword and a marketing term, which was introduced in 2003, the key attributes associated with the term Web 2.0 include the immense growth of social networks, and a significant diversity in content types.

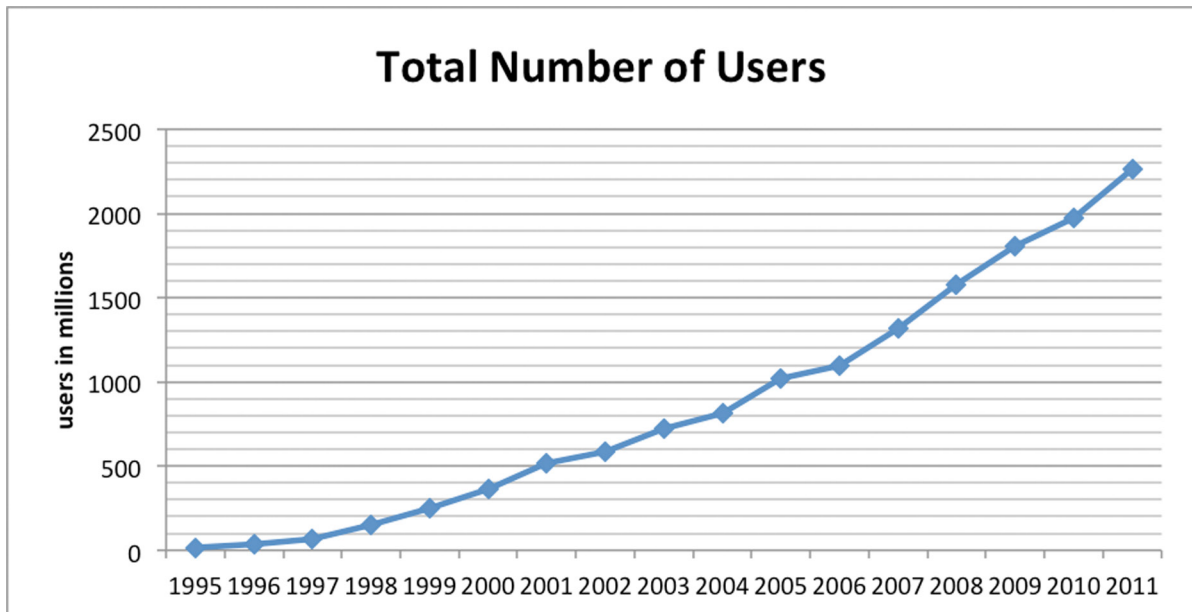
There are no magnificent technical differences between Web 2.0 and 1.0, but the real separations are visible between highly popular Web 2.0 sites such as Facebook and YouTube, and the “old Web” (Web 1.0).

It describes the trend in the way people now use the internet, most notably, collaboration among users. This includes social networking, blogs, online applications and wikis. All in all users now provide information for others (e.g. writing articles in Wikipedia) and share them with others. They move away from being just consumers.

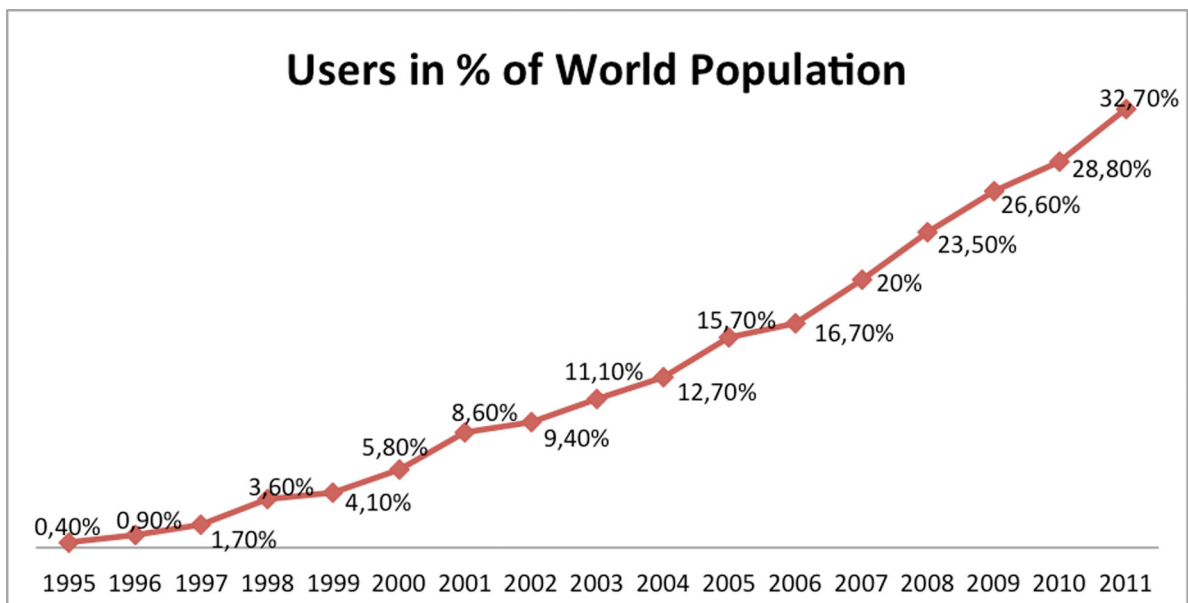
Very importantly, Web 2.0 does not refer to an update in the technology itself, but how the world wide web is used.

d. Development in Numbers

Starting as an internal project of the Pentagon, the internet grew more and more over the years. In 2000 only 5,8% of the world population had access to the internet. This number increased to almost 1/3 of humanity by 2011. Therefore, the importance of the internet in the everyday life has grown significantly in just a short period. Moreover, for the future this growth should increase even more. The Cisco Visual Networking Index expects: *"By 2015, there will be nearly 3 billion Internet users - more than 40 percent of the world's projected population."*² This will be granted by the increasing numbers of internet users in the LDCs: *"The fastest-growing IP-traffic regions for the forecast period (2010 – 2015) are the Middle East and Africa."*



@ <http://www.internetworldstats.com/emarketing.htm>



Google Annual Report, Feb. 15, 2008

² Cisco Visual Networking Index 2011

Necessity of the Internet

As mentioned above, the internet is nowadays not only a part of everyone's daily life, but became over the last decades also a vital part of worldwide economical matters, sometimes even of political on-goings. Therefore, there is a need of examining these matters of fact by means of some case examples. Regarding the economy, the internet made the emergence of a complete new part of the service sector possible, e. g. communications services. But also concerning politics, the internet offered a new platform and possibilities, by partially displacing the face-to-face communication. The following paragraphs will emphasize on these aspects.

Please note: In this case, there are two different meanings of the term "necessity". The companies presented in a. needed the internet as a basis of their existence and their work, whereas the events depicted in b. were only benefited by the internet and perhaps could have taken place without it.

a. Economically

I. Google

Founded in 1998, *Google*'s first project was the set up of a search engine in order to "organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful". Even though this search engine is, down to the present day, one of the company's main pillars (80 % market share; other competitors, like Bing and Yahoo, significantly lost in importance), *Google* extended its service- and product-range steadily. Today *Google* offers web-searching services (documents, videos, books, graphics), mail-services, an own social network, translation services and also applications, like the operating system *android* and the web browser *Google Chrome*.



Some market research institutions rated the company second in the list of most valuable brands worldwide.³ Ninety-nine percent of Google's revenue is derived from its advertising programs.⁴ Google can determine user interests and target advertisements so they are relevant to their context and the user that is viewing them.

The company is repeatedly criticised for ignoring privacy regulations, copyrights or filtering of search results. Recently, the EU Commission stated the results of an investigation on Google's search practices.⁵ After 18 months of investigation, the European Commission has found four particular areas of concern where the search engine giant may be exploiting its market dominance to the detriment of competition: Firstly, Google's inclusion of its vertical search services alongside general search results - meaning Google maps, images, news, and the like - is deemed to be a form of preferential treatment, improperly advantaging Google's in-house software. Secondly, the EU Commission raises concern about Google „copying“ content from other vertical search providers, referring to Google's

³ BrandFinance Global 500 report

⁴ Google Annual Report, Feb. 15, 2008

⁵ Google antitrust investigation: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=SPEECH/12/372&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

indexing of results from competing outlets like travel and restaurant search sites. The third and fourth issues relate to search advertising, suggesting Google is making it harder for both websites and advertisers to diversify with or move to alternative search engines.

II. Twitter

Twitter is the world's biggest provider of microblogging services. Users can post short status messages, which can then be read by other users. The service was established in March 2006. According to the company, the service had around 100 million users by the end of 2011 and the company had about 400 employees, increasing to about 900 by now. Today Twitter has become a potential instrument of communication between companies and their customers, but it can also play an important role in policy making, e.g. in the US-election campaign in 2008 (see below).



III. Facebook

With its 900 million active users, *Facebook* is the world's biggest and most important social network. The company, founded in 2004, announced its stock market launch in February 2012. Add a brief sentence on their market value after having launched the stock market please.



Since May 2007, *Facebook* offers the opportunity to integrate applications in the user interface, apart from the user's profiles. By now, there are several hundred thousands of applications available. It's furthermore possible to use the *Facebook*-login data on different other websites, without the necessity of another registration. This feature is part of a wide range of functions, which bring the website regularly in the newspaper headlines.

On the contrary, *Facebook* has been criticised repeatedly for the misuse of personal data of users. The Irish data protection authority launched a report in December 2011, stating the following: 46 points of *Facebook*'s privacy policy are highly unsatisfactory. The biggest points of critics are the publication and storage of private data, even after the user deleted his profile.

b. Politically

I. The US-electoral campaign of 2008⁶

In the turn of the presidential campaign of 2008, the internet was used frequently by Barack Obama. It is interesting to question to what extent this helped him in becoming President of the United States of America in 2008. Obviously, we can not give a definite answer to this question, but nevertheless the internet had its role during the campaign. Obama's way of campaigning became known as the first *internet-campaign*. Under the heading "A change we can believe in", he banked on a strong digital presence, using *Twitter*, *Facebook*, *Youtube* and the website *MY.BarackObama.com*, which included a newly created social network, whereby his supporters could communicate with each other, but also addressed questions to the candidate himself.

⁶ New York Times: „How Obama's Internet Campaign Changed Politics“
<http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/11/07/how-obamas-internet-campaign-changed-politics/>

The video entitled 'Yes we can', in which different popular musicians melodized the words of Obama's speech after the primary in New Hampshire, attained over 17 million views in between the first two months after its release.

His campaign became the first to acquire the support of more than one million private donors in February 2008, raising \$45 million solely over the internet.

II. The Arab Spring

Talking about the importance of the internet during the events of the so-called '*Arab Spring*', there are different opinions on the influence this type of new media actually had. In Tunisia, blogs criticising the censorship of the internet existed since 2004, but those dared initially in 2010, in order to protest against the regime of Ben Ali. The bloggers not only provided information about the uprisings, but also gave advice on avoiding the blocking of several websites, while other activists succeeded in crashing regime's servers, partly collaborating with the international group *Anonymous*.

In January 2011, different groups of activists formed the '*Coalition of the youth of the revolution*' in Egypt, and called for a day of protest on the 25th of January. Services, like Facebook, helped them to gather for protests. On this day, many violent clashes between demonstrators and security forces took place. The demonstrators used their mobile phones to record the use of military force by the police and uploaded those videos on YouTube, whereupon they were spread in Egypt and the rest of the World through the TV-channel '*Al-Jazeera*'.

Even the shutdown of the internet through the government on January, 27th could not impede the protests, as Google and '*Al-Jazeera*' set up services, which enabled the demonstrators to publish videos and information in the internet using their mobile phones. Finally one must record that the new media and the internet may not have been the determining factor, but they certainly had their influence on the events during the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt.

Censorship of the Internet

Censorship, not only on the Internet, reaches back quite far in history. The first reported censorship made by a government was in 1868, when the U.S. Postal Service censored mail, which contained nude pictures sent to Civil War troops. Laws were established that restricted any inappropriate content from being sent via U.S. Mail.

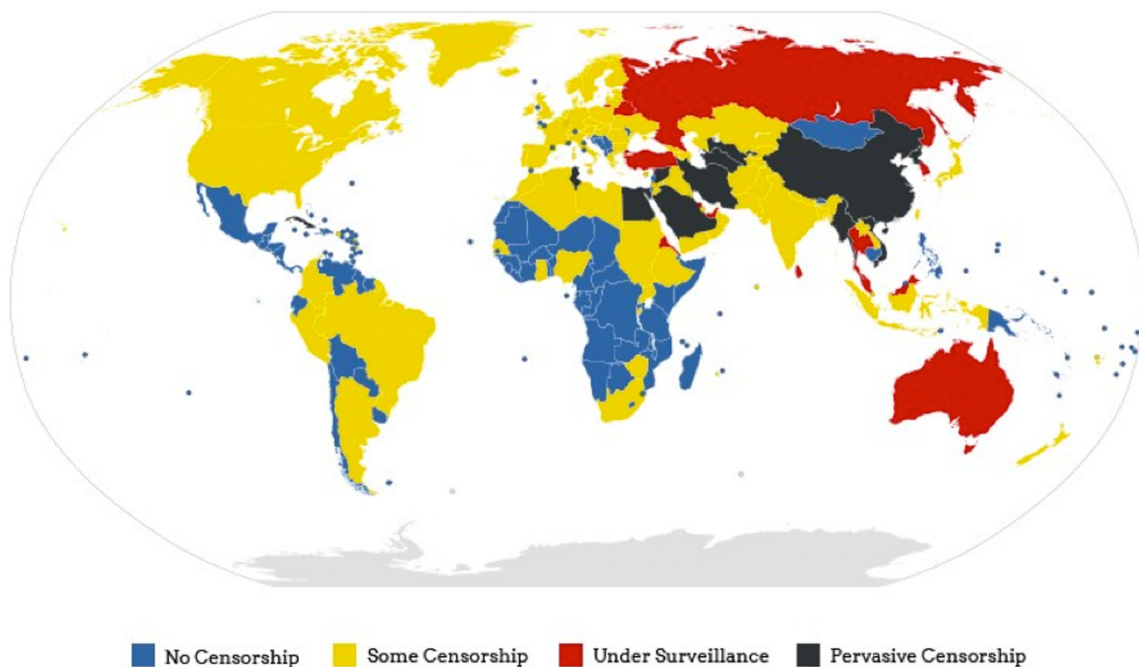
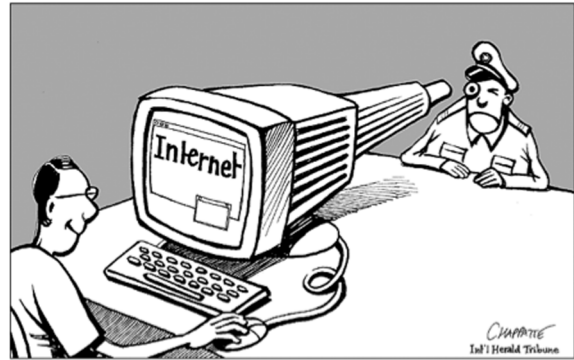
The Internet is growing steadily, ever since it was invented and everyone with a computer and Internet connection does have access to unlimited amounts of data. This opens up a whole new world of sharing data, opinions and ideas. Because of its rather unregulated nature, the Internet also became a platform for pornography, hate speeches and political dissent.

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As portrayed in the map down below, almost any country in the world is using filtering systems and site – blockers to censor the Internet in the respective country.

The reasons for censoring a site on the internet may vary, depending on the person or institution. Generally one can say it happens, because the owner or the provider does not agree with the content displayed. This could be parents that are concerned about their children, a company that does not want their employees to waste their working hours surfing privately, and of course governments that see an inconsistency with their moral, religious, cultural and political values.



a. Censorship in the Middle East

Censorship is a delicate issue in the Middle Eastern Countries. At least since the Arab Spring in 2011, everybody should be aware to what extent the Internet censorship is engaged. Of course one must distinguish between certain countries that apply different levels of controlling the data streams.

In Saudi Arabia, Syria, Yemen and Tunisia banning sites because they are deemed to be of political or moral dissent is very common. Of course these are the political and moral beliefs of the government and not necessarily the citizen ones.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Jordan are only focussing on sites that seem to present opposition political opinions. Qatar's filtering system on the contrary, is non-political; it is only banning sites with pornographic content.

In contrast to these countries, the citizens of Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Le-

banon, Iraq and Kuwait have unfiltered access to the Internet.

Besides setting up a filtering system to limit Internet access, a country has the possibility to raise the prices of Internet and hence, to make it unaffordable for most of their citizens. That would disembody in only a small circle of elites having Internet access.

Countries like Sudan, Yemen and Morocco and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea operate - or used to limit Internet access this way.

b. Internet Censorship in the International Law

As we explained earlier, there are regulations made by most member states of the United Nations dealing with Internet censorship. A big issue for the curbing of criminal activities on the internet, is that there are no common laws or regulations within the United Nations or even the European Union.

An Example:

A site being hosted in Germany is violating the law and therefore has to be taken off the web by its host. The host buys a new server, which is operating from Austria, hence under Austrian law and is still accessible in Germany.

As you can see, on the Internet the borders between countries are a lot more permeable. Therefore it is even more important that a common solution is established within the United Nations, as current approaches seem to lack efficiency.

Impact on Society

The internet drives the hottest stocks on Wall Street, shapes technological innovation, and fills the pages of word's presses. What does this mean for our society? The Internet has changed the way we study, do research, and where we get other information. It has affected our culture in good and bad ways- changing the way we work, how we spend free time, and the way we communicate.

Where previously we may have picked up a telephone and called a customer or a colleague, we are now more likely to send an e-mail. The fax machine has similarly largely been displaced by e-mail attachments.

E-mail has of course changed the way in which we communicate with one another in a personal sense. Perhaps what has had a bigger effect in this respect, however, are the various Messenger services, which allow us merely to input a message on our screen which can subsequently be read by someone at the other side of the world. This is similar to SMS, only quicker and of course totally free of charge. Webcams allow us of course to communicate in a similar way but afford the additional benefits of both vision and sound.

It has to be said that the effects of computers and the Internet have had a very negative side on many of the social aspects of society. The youth of today have perhaps particu-

larly been affected in this way. While teenagers of bygone eras would get together to do what teenagers do, many of them are now too busy sitting in their bedrooms, talking on a Messenger service or updating their social networking pages.

The Internet has totally revolutionized the ways in which we gain access to information. Where previously we may have had to browse through such as reference books at great length, all we do now is simply type the parameters of our search in to a search engine portal and find what we are looking for in milliseconds. The time saved in this respect is phenomenal and has also brought about great learning opportunities for many of us. We have access to information which we could before only have dreamed of so can learn more about our world round about us and the different aspects of it.

Previously individuals were limited to meeting others by chance and physical proximity, e.g. co-workers, neighbors etc. The Internet enables people to contact others with similar interests from anywhere in the world and to engage in ongoing asynchronous and synchronous communications with them. Such communications may build friendships, romance or business partnerships.

There are a variety of aspects, that the internet has on our society. It depends on your countries culture, economy and history. Therefore, it is important to research the acceptance and use of the Internet in your countries society.

Overview

The internet creates new ways for citizens to communicate, congregate, and share information of social nature. It changes the way of politics in many aspects. Also a big part of the global economy relies on the internet as a business model. It is obvious that the Internet has and will continue to change the way we live. How it is changed, and how it will continue to change our lives, is the reason for so many conferences on the topic. How will the way we live, work, learn, profit, govern, and communicate change?

Delegates must find ways to cope with the increasing importance of the internet. The most complicated, but yet interesting part of the topic is the huge development of the internet over the past years: *"From a purely academic network in the early 1980s, the Internet has grown into a worldwide open infrastructure for information, communication and commerce. [...] The Internet is the global network of the 21st century."*⁷

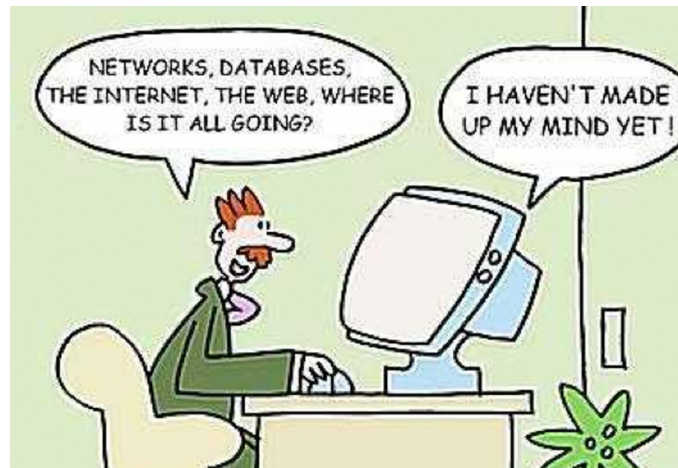
Countries shall analyse the current situation, bearing the past in mind, and concentrating on the future. Furthermore, this is said to be displayed in your sample resolution. There will be many aspects to focus on and others might disagree with your approach, but this is natural, as every nation has their own interest and opinion when it comes to **'the Future Potential of the Internet'**.

Hence, in a committee of 150+ delegates it is important to keep the interest of every nation in mind. It is very unlikely that a nation will be able to fit all of their points into the final resolution. Collaboration will be very important in the turn of the debate. One of the big

⁷ European Commission Report – „Future Internet 2020: Visions of an Industry Expert Group“

questions will be, if there should be a restrictions on the world wide web or not. Intensive research will clarify your countries opinion on that behalf, setting a fundamental ground-work for you to start of your research prior to the conference.

Please note: there are no right and wrong approaches to the matter; it solely depends on the point of view of your country.



Research

When researching the position towards the future potential of the Internet, of your country, the various measures it has or has not taken yet, the existing programs and what possible new measures you as a representative could introduce, you should consider a few things on the way:

1. **Begin with your research in time!**
It is of vital importance for you to start early enough with your researching work. As most of you probably have not yet dealt with the topic of finding solutions for the future use of the internet, you need to dive into it and understand its facets properly.
2. **Use a variety of sources** for your research!
Be sure not to use just one single source for your whole resolution. Diversity in research is important, in order to reach a well-thought-out resolution with useful and debatable points. In addition, the more sources you use, the more you broaden your horizon on the topic. This will come in handy while discussing in your lobbying groups, as well as in the debates itself.
3. **Find out about the situation of the impact of the internet in the country you represent!**
An aspect you should never dare to forget is that at a MUN conference you are not required to elaborate a resolution that you can personally imagine, but one that your country would support. Therefore, you need to find out in detail about the situation in your country, in order to ensure the following point:

4. Elaborate a comprehensible, realistic resolution considering the **position of your country!**

Of course, you shall not just copy the statements your country has already expressed regarding this topic, but rather you are urged to think for yourself while writing your resolution. Nevertheless, as said before, this resolution needs to be realistic considering that you are a representative of an existing country with existing positions. Within this frame, you need to find a self-contained solution, which you can present in our committee.

There are numerous challenges concerning our topic, and it is impossible to address every single one in one resolution. This is **not** the aim of our committee. Keep that in mind, when you are elaborating your own resolution and pick the most relevant points for your country.

Contact

Delegates, if any questions or problems concerning the committee's topic or your countries' policy should arise, please feel free to contact us immediately at ga4th@olmun.org. We welcome any sort of questions and help you with your research, if needed.

In addition, we expect you to prepare a policy statement in advance in order to solidify your standpoint on the topic and to share it with the committee at the beginning of our session. This statement does not need to be longer than 150 words. Please, **submit those papers by June 17th** at ga4th@olmun.org. In this statement, you should address the topic and shortly outline your countries position.

After last year's success, delegates will have the possibility to interact with other delegates in their committees in a forum at forum.olmun.org. The forum will open prior to the conference. More information on how to write a policy statement or a resolution and the *Rule of Procedure* can be found in the *Handbook* from the Download section on the website as well.

→ @ www.olmun.org/61-65/

We are looking forward to an interesting and constructive debate and a truly unforgettable conference. Make sure to keep up with current events, and we expect your research to inspire your participation!

Yours sincerely,

Lars-Christian Reinhold, Felix Virmani and Christian Müller

Glossary

point-to-point communication	connections between two endpoints (e.g. Computers)
mini computers	at that time: almost all computers were packed into whole buildings, because they were that big. Today, what was called mini computer before is known as a normal PC.
World Wide Web	System of linked documents (Websites)

Useful Links

@ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

History/Development of the Internet:

Numbers of Internet users:

@ <http://www.internetworldstats.com/emarketing.htm>

@ <http://nethistory.info>

European Commission Report – „Future Internet 2020:

@ http://www.future-internet.eu/fileadmin/documents/reports/FI_Panel_Report_v3.1_Final.pdf

Censorship:

The Use of Western Technologies by Middle East Censors:

@ <http://opennet.net/west-censoring-east-the-use-western-technologies-middle-east-censors-2010-2011>

@ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_censorship

Role of the Internet in recent occurrences:

Role of social networks in the Arab Spring:

@ <http://socialcapital.wordpress.com/2011/01/26/twitter-facebook-and-youtubes-role-in-tunisia-uprising/>

Obama's internet campaign: Change of politics?

@ <http://bits.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/11/07/how-obamas-internet-campaign-changed-politics/>

Impact on Society

The Internet and its Likely Impact upon Society, Business and the Economy:

@ <http://www.twinsles.com/dev/research/intimp.htm>