

Subject Proposals for Survey

Data Governance

Working title: What citizens want to see in data governance and privacy solutions

Description: State and federal privacy legislation has consumed much of the tech policy dialogue in the US over the past few years. These discussions often develop into a checklist debate on the different elements of potential legislation, using the GDPR and CCPA as a framework. We want to take the discussion to a deeper level to discuss how we should be thinking about data, identity, and the impact that all of this has on consumer and human rights. By doing so, we hope to focus the discussion on possible solutions that are not overly prescriptive and stand the test of time.

Trust and Security

Working title: The impact of Infrastructure security on the end user

Description: Although the average internet user may not be able to identify our internet infrastructure companies, they are affected by the actions these providers take to defend against cyber threats. This session will discuss how users benefit, what additional work can be done to increase their protection, and any role they should have in the threat reporting process. The panel will also look at future innovations in the sector that directly engage end users, specifically trends in digital identities.

Encryption

Working title: Encrypting our communications and data: Should governments get a back door?

Description: Law enforcement has once again voiced concern about the growing use of end-to-end encryption online. Yet, the tech industry holds firm that end-to-end encryption is the only way we can properly secure our online communications and services. As debates on encryption threaten to damage the relationship between law enforcement and tech, what can tech businesses do to help the government maintain law and order online while protecting our assets, and information.

Inclusion for Access, Education, and Economic Opportunity

Working title: Maximizing the benefits of connectivity for individuals, communities, and society

Description: Digital inclusion is directly tied to educational, economic, health and democratic opportunities. Access to high-speed connectivity is essential, but it is only the first step. True digital inclusion requires leveraging broadband to increase digital literacy, upskill America's workforce, improve access of services to those with disabilities and much more. Achieving these will require a holistic approach and partnerships with libraries, educational institutions, and community organizations that can help increase broadband adoption rates. From cities to rural areas to tribal lands, how can we make digital equity a reality?

Digital Dynamics of Elections

Working Title: Is technology a threat to US elections?

Description: For the last three years, security experts within and outside the government have warned of the existing and growing threats to free and fair democratic elections. These threats include misinformation spread through social media, claims of bias in the presentation of news or in moderating online content, the security of state voter rolls, the integrity of votes cast via electronic voting machines and the consolidation and reporting of results. In this presidential election year, we will discuss these risks and identify the steps to mitigate them.

Platform moderation of user views & news/Liability for User Content

Working title: Should online platforms moderate and be accountable for user-created content?

Description: US law (Section 230) holds users accountable for the content they post online, rather than shifting that responsibility to internet platforms hosting that content. This law has enabled the user-created content that fuels the educational, professional, commercial, entertainment, and social networks online today. Yet this liability framework is now under fire. Some say social media platforms don't moderate user content strictly enough, while others (especially conservatives) complain that moderation restricts their free expression online. This panel examines competing pressures on platform content moderation, and changes that could address concerns without increasing liability to the point where only the largest online platforms can afford risks of hosting user-created content and commerce.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Working title: How should we be preparing for Artificial Intelligence?

Description: New technologies come to the market with great expectations along with fears of change that are brought to the attention of policy makers and regulators. The discussion around artificial intelligence is no different, from the impact of data, privacy and intellectual property laws, to the discussions about ethics and where regulation should occur. This panel will look beyond the current application and policy challenges that we face, focusing on how we should be thinking about and preparing for the future of AI.

IoT and 5G

Working title: Winning the Race to IoT and 5G

Description: We are racing toward a world where devices will outnumber people 100 to 1 and communicate with each other over networks, generating exabytes of data that power new technology, the economy, and society. While this creates tremendous potential for the future, it also leads to uneasiness and fear, both of change and missing out. Policy makers and regulators are being confronted with these issues and need to be equipped to parse the opportunities and concerns, creating a pathway to win the race to a secure IoT and 5G, while understanding and addressing the ethical concerns around the technology.

Antitrust and Big Tech / Techlash

Working title: Should America Break-up its Big Tech businesses?

Description: We hear a chorus of calls to break-up American big tech firms that operate around the globe. Consumer protection and privacy concerns are often cited, though that would expand antitrust beyond today's consumer welfare standard. Some assert that antitrust laws are being weaponized to punish businesses for the political views of their executives. How would expanded and aggressive antitrust enforcement impact American citizens and businesses who use online services? This panel will examine the potential costs and benefits of breaking-up big tech.

Digital Innovation and Disruption (of our physical world)

Working title: Dealing with disruptions caused by digital innovation

Description: New technologies generate not only great expectations but also fears of change, especially from legacy industries who are disrupted by digital innovation. Home-sharing and car-sharing, for example, are opposed by traditional hotel and rental car businesses. California enacted a new law (AB5) restricting who can be classified as an independent contractor, which targeted peer-to-peer services but has adversely affected journalists and other professionals. And traditional news media businesses are seeking new laws to maintain their economic viability in the internet era. This panel will examine several current controversies over digital innovation and how we are dealing with disruption to the existing order.

Internet Governance Institutions

Working title: Whose rules? Maintaining stability in the changing Internet governance landscape

Description: Many actors - states, federal government, the EU, ICANN and possibly the IGF in the future - have implemented and continue to draft new Internet regulations. Any company offering a service on the internet, from news to infrastructure to social media, are left with requirements and systems implementations that vary by postal code. This panel will examine the current state of Internet Governance (actors, their remit and current activities), and the impact of competing regulations on Internet stability and competition.