

The Internet Fragmentation... or Decay?



на СВЯЗИ



The End of a Unified Internet

Internet fragmentation is the division or splintering of the unified, open, global Internet into smaller, isolated networks subject to different rules, regulations, and technical standards—which may not be able to interconnect or interoperate seamlessly...



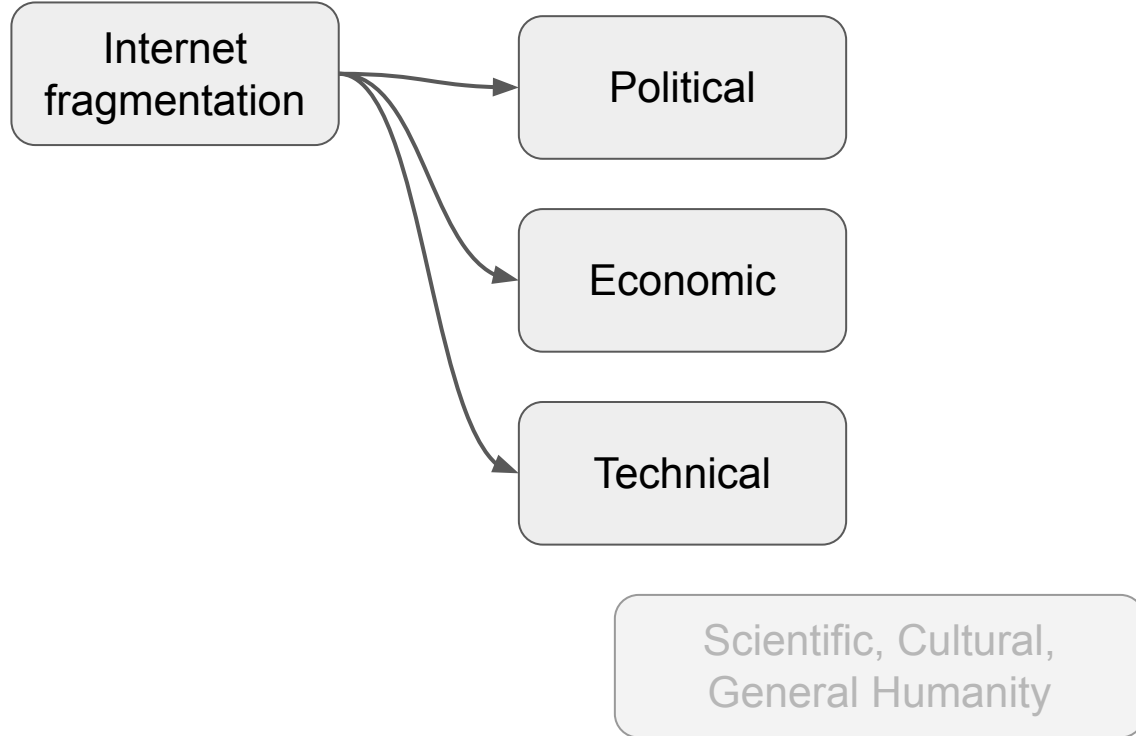
<https://www.internetsociety.org/resources/internet-fragmentation/about-the-explainer/>

Two levels of fragmentation

Fragmentation
of the internet

Fragmentation
on the internet

Taxonomy of fragmentation



Political fragmentation

Network sovereignty

🌐 10 languages ▾

Article [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In [internet governance](#), **network sovereignty** (also called **digital sovereignty** or **cyber sovereignty**) is the effort of a governing entity, such as a [state](#), to create boundaries on a network and then exert a form of control, often in the form of law enforcement over such boundaries.^{[1][2][3][4]}

Much like states invoke sole power over their physical territorial boundaries, [state sovereignty](#), such governing bodies also invoke sole power within the network boundaries they set and claim network sovereignty. In the context of the [Internet](#), the intention is to govern the web and control it within the borders of the state. Often, that is witnessed as states seeking to control all information flowing into and within their borders.^{[5][6]}

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中文

日本語

Azerbaycanca

Bahasa Indonesia

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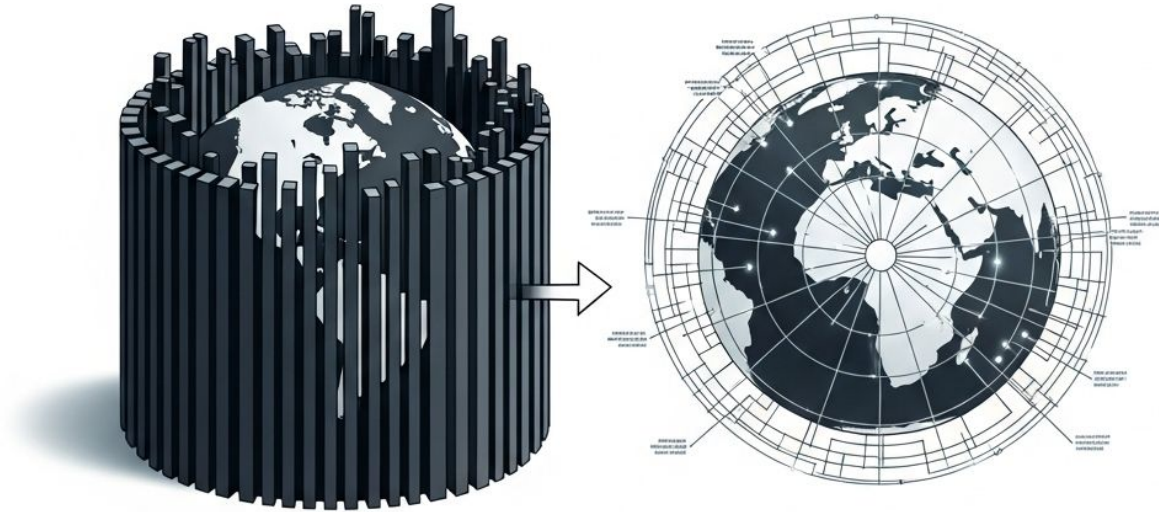
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Methods of political control

- Censorship and content filtering
- Internet shutdowns
- Data localization laws
- Building sovereign infrastructure



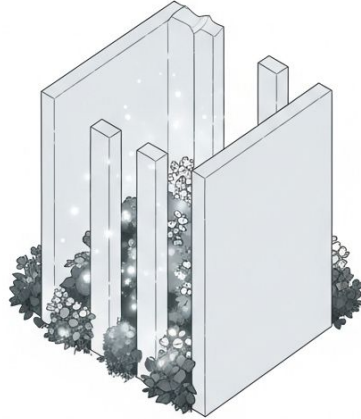
Authoritarian vs. Democratic Models



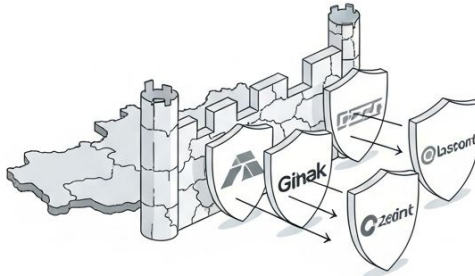
Digital Authoritarianism and Regulatory Autonomy

Economic fragmentation

Walled Gardens

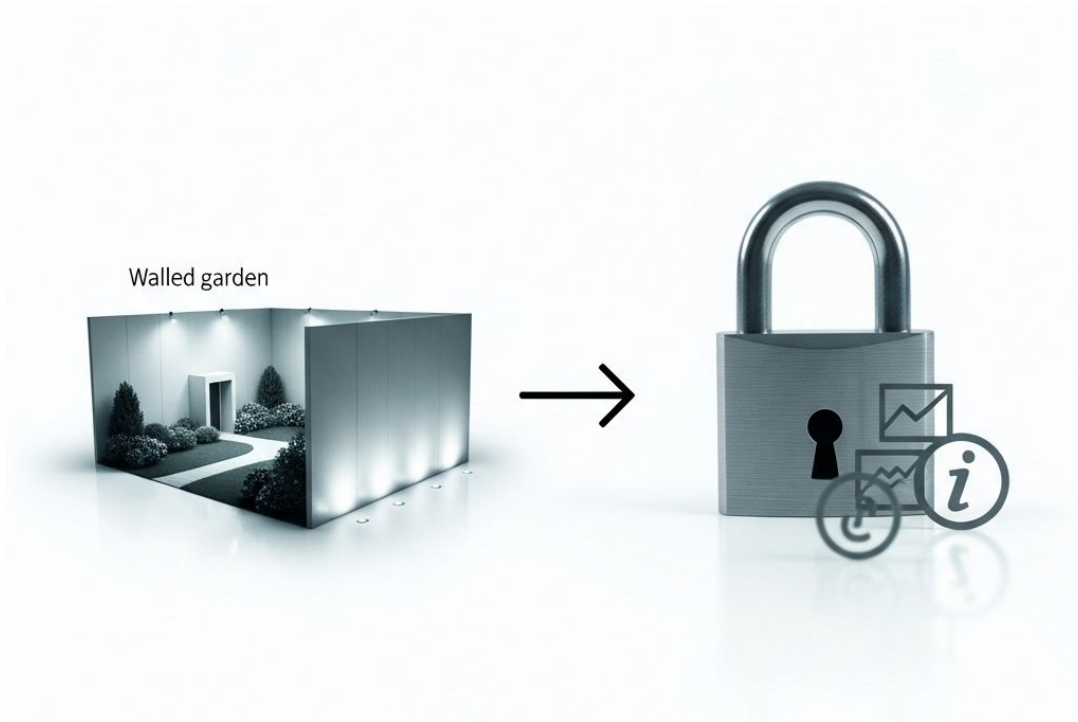


Geo-blocking



Digital Protectionism

"Walled Gardens" and Censorship



Easier to pressure one company than control a decentralized network of thousands.

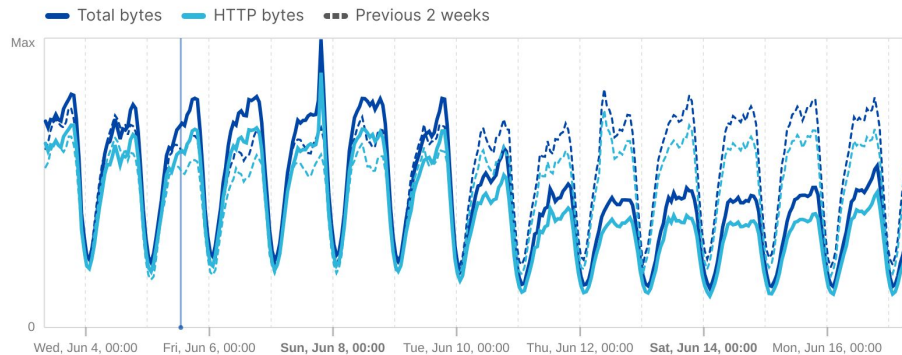
Technical fragmentation

- **DNS Manipulation** — Targeting the domain name system via poisoning or filtering to mislead or block users.
- **DNS Poisoning** — Injecting false data into resolvers to redirect users to malicious or state-controlled sites.
- **DNS Filtering/Blocking** — Configuring resolvers to deny access to specific domains, creating an inconsistent naming system.
- **IP Address Blocking** — Dropping all traffic to or from certain IPs or entire ranges via router rules.
- **Protocol/Standards Incompatibility** — Issues like slow IPv6 adoption or proprietary protocols that hinder interoperability.
- **Deep Packet Inspection (DPI)** — Real-time content inspection enabling advanced filtering beyond IP or URL blocking; used in China's Great Firewall and Russia's TSPU system.

Control technologies

Traffic trends in Russian Federation

Bytes transferred over the selected time period

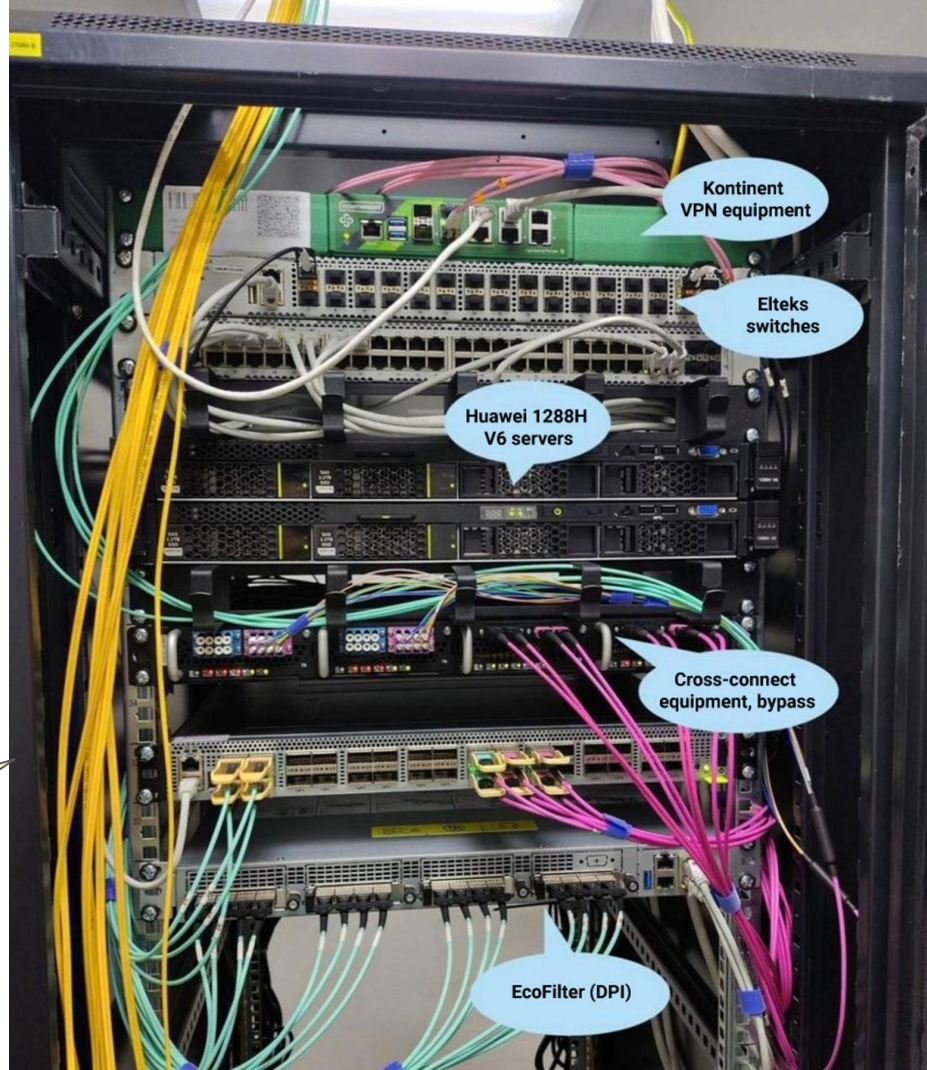


Cloudflare Radar

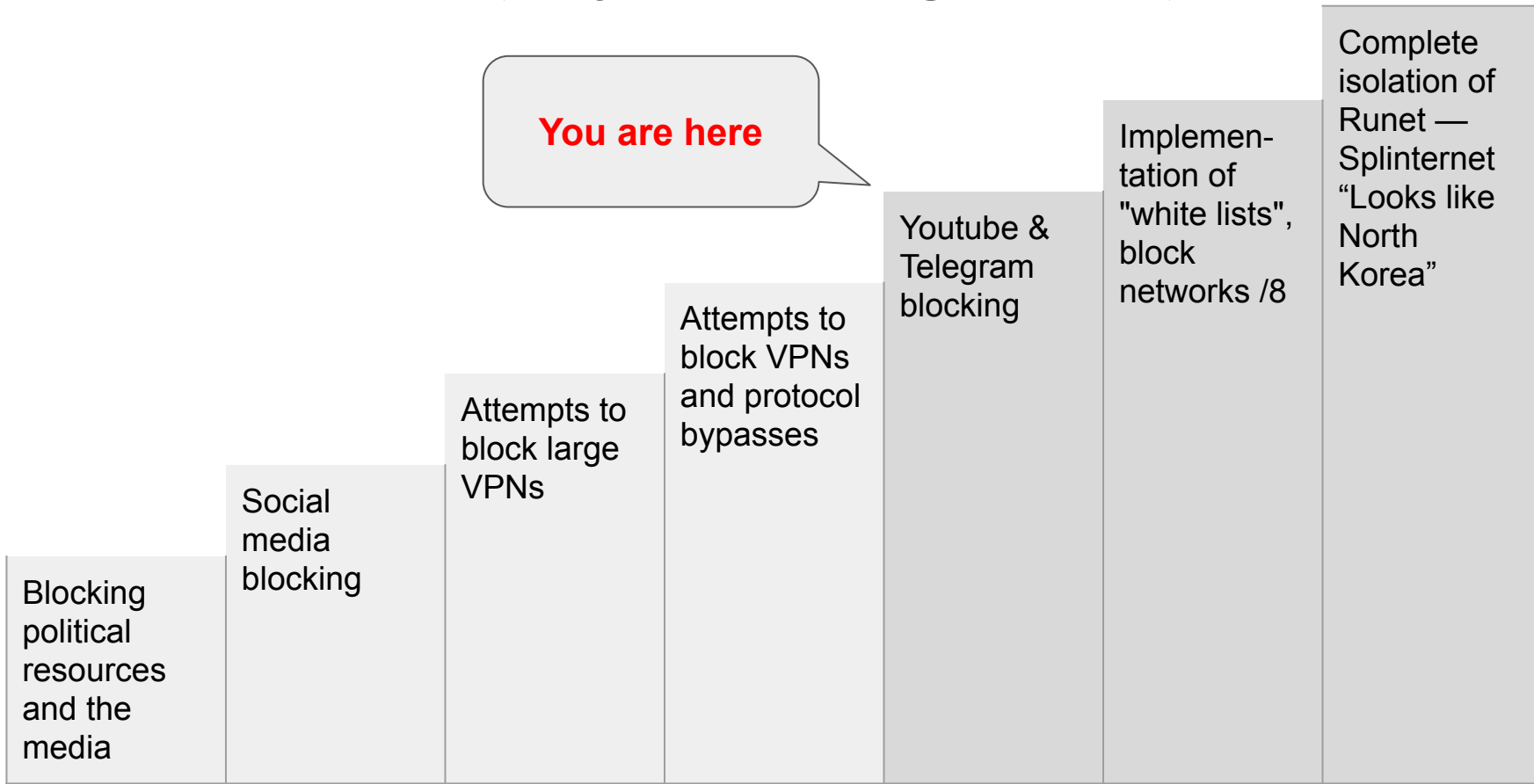
Last 2 weeks | Jun 17, 2025, 09:15 UTC

TSPU | DPI in
Sovereign Runet

<https://theins.press/en/politics/265749>



Ladder of blocks (Way to Sovereign Runet)



North Korea: Splinternet

Country Resource List



Resources for **Korea, Democratic People's Republic of (KP)**
as of **2025-02-01**

asn 1 ipv4 1 ipv6 0

asn



Resources

131279

ipv4



Resources

175.45.176.0/22

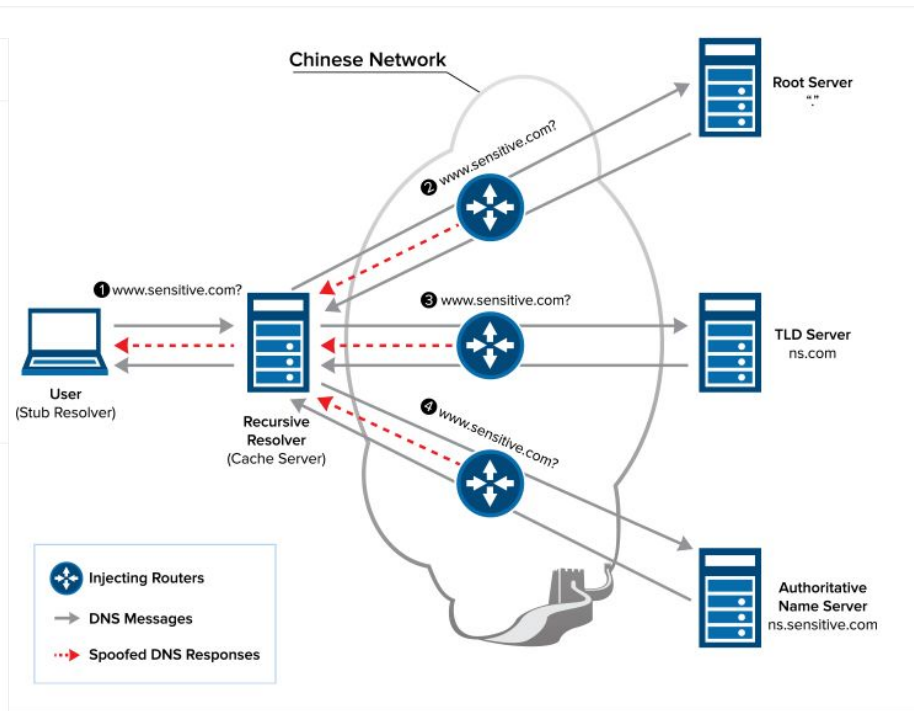
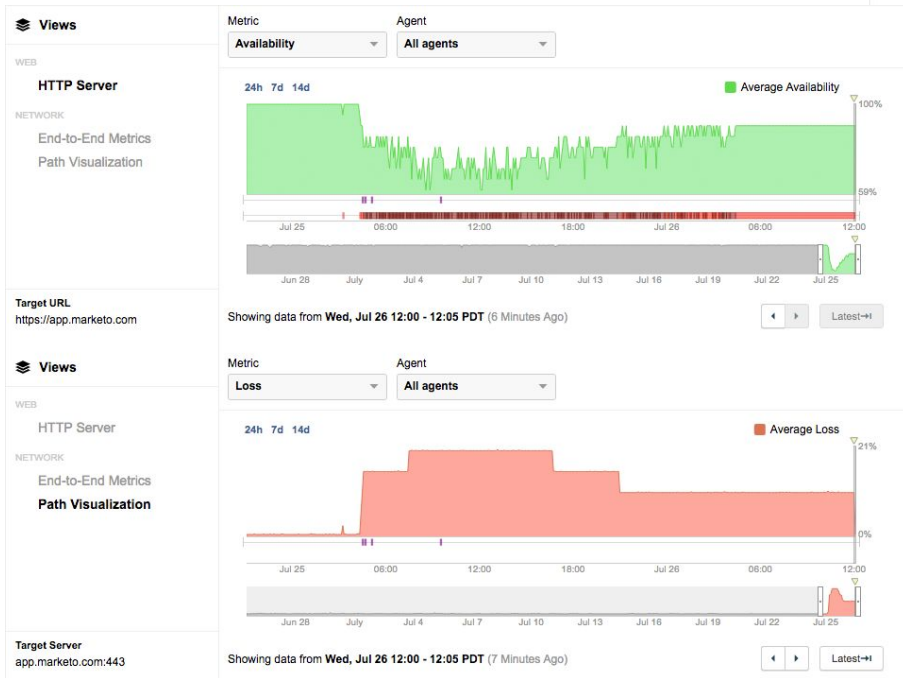
ipv6



Absolute Control of Woolim's Media Sources



China: The Great Firewall



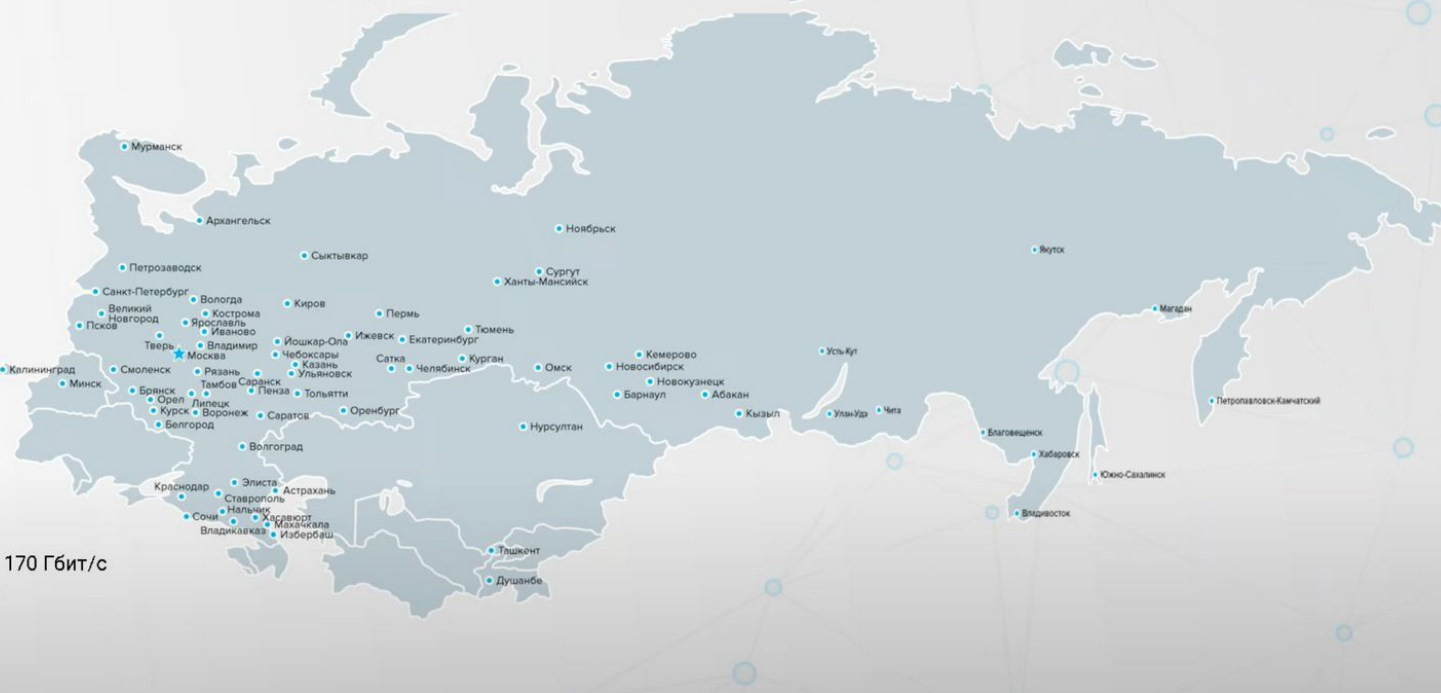
<https://www.thousandeyes.com/blog/deconstructing-great-firewall-china>

<https://www.thousandeyes.com/blog/what-happened-when-marketos-domain-name-expired>

Russia: Sovereign Runet

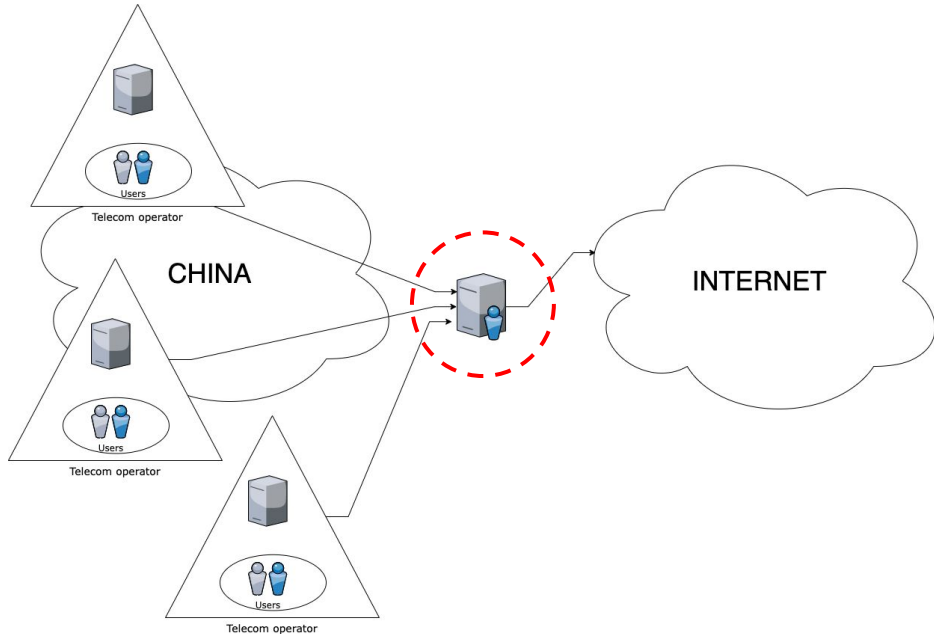
Оборудование RDP, установленное на территории России и СНГ

Москва и МО — 720 Гбит/с
Санкт-Петербург — 960 Гбит/с
Владимир — 240 Гбит/с
Смоленск — 260 Гбит/с
Махачкала — 120 Гбит/с
Краснодар — 480 Гбит/с
Волгоград — 480 Гбит/с
Брянск — 240 Гбит/с
Калининград — 230 Гбит/с
Новосибирск — 240 Гбит/с
Симферополь — 240 Гбит/с
Душанбе — 250 Гбит/с
Ташкент — 120 Гбит/с
Минск — 240 Гбит/с
Владивосток — 190 Гбит/с
Магадан — 240 Гбит/с
Хабаровск — 180 Гбит/с
Чита — 120 Гбит/с
Якутск — 110 Гбит/с
Петропавловск-Камчатский — 170 Гбит/с
Южно-Сахалинск — 140 Гбит/с
Благовещенск — 220 Гбит/с
Улан-Удэ — 100 Гбит/с
Усть-Кут — 120 Гбит/с

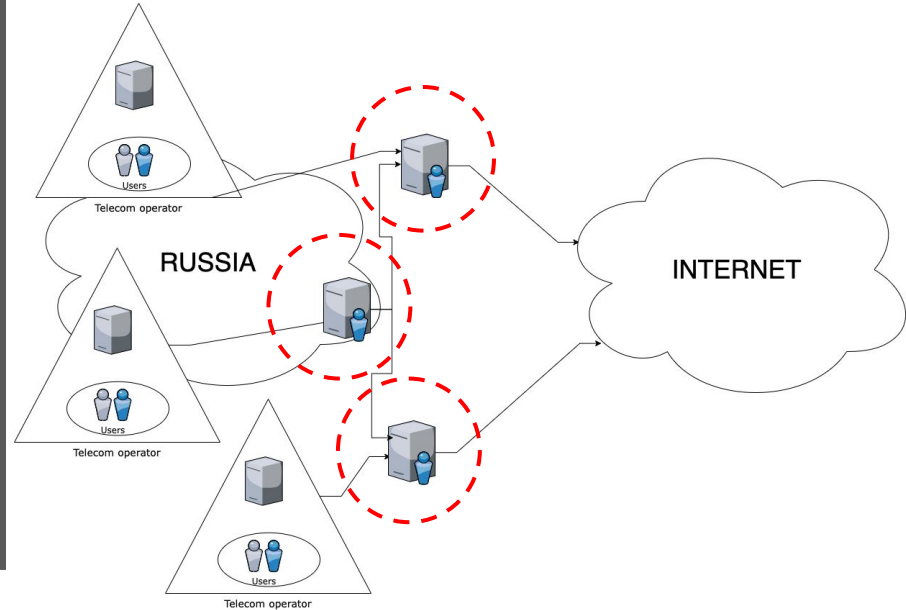


Internet comparison in Russia and China

Great China Firewall



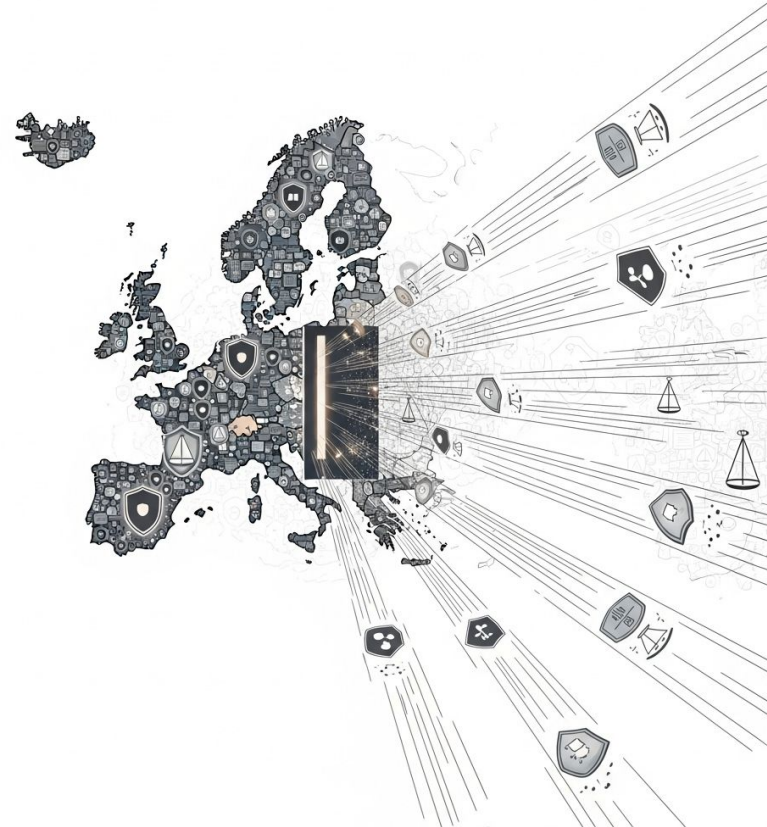
Small Russian Fences



EU and India: regulatory fragmentation

EU: GDPR as a Tool of Fragmentation

India: DPDPA and Economic Nationalism



The Breakdown of the Internet: Digital Rot

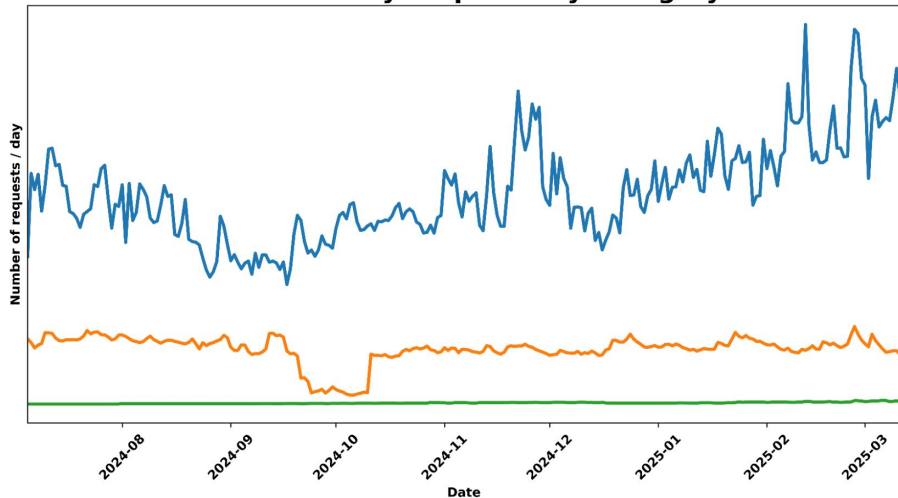
- Loss of access to content
- Link rot
- Page disappearance
- Digital amnesia



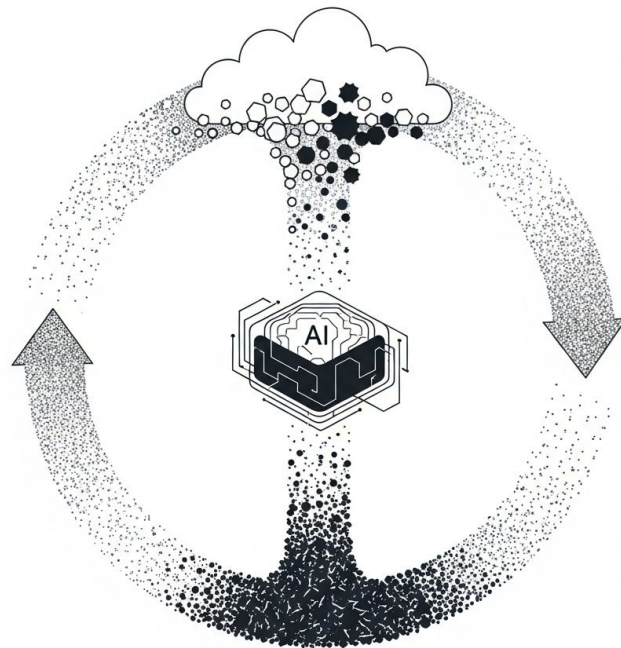
Poisoning the Internet

The "Dead Internet Theory" conspiracy

AI Bots: Daily Requests by Category

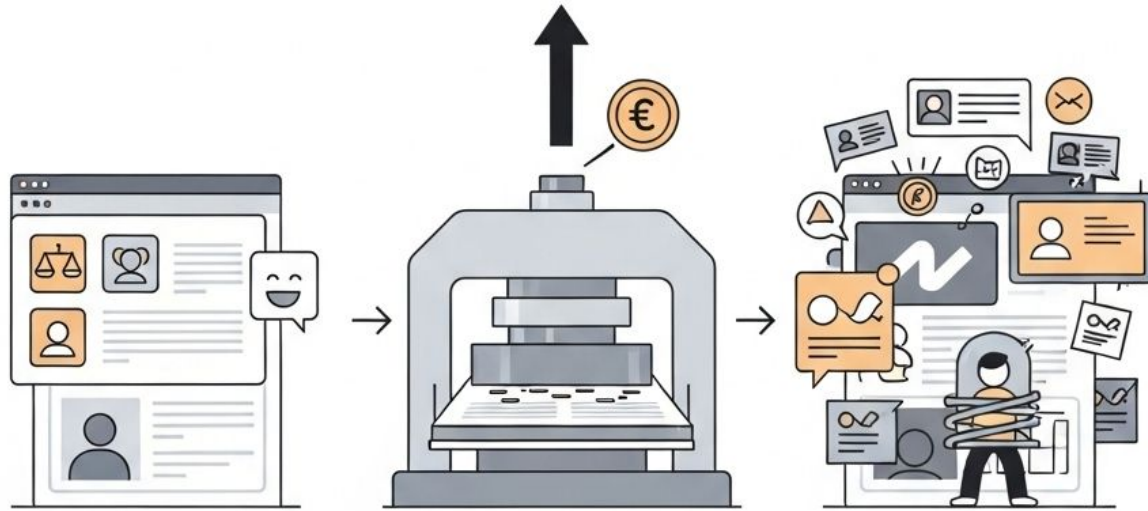


Bot Name
— AI Scraper
— AI Search
— AI Assistant



<https://blog.cloudflare.com/ai-labyrinth/>

Enshittification



<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enshittification>

Global Impact of Fragmentation

Fragmentation scenario	Description of the scenario	Estimated global GDP losses	Estimated Impact on Global Inflation	The main affected group
Low fragmentation	Restrictions only in sensitive sectors	0.6 trillion US dollars. ¹²	Insignificant.	Global impact is limited.
Moderate fragmentation	Economic restrictions on all exchanges between the three blocs	Varies.	Varies.	All-encompassing influence.
High fragmentation	The Eastern and Western blocs cease all economic exchanges	Varies.	Significant.	Global economy.
Very high fragmentation	Complete economic separation of East and West; neutral countries forced to choose sides	US\$5.7 trillion (about 5% of global GDP)	Increase by more than 5%	Emerging Markets and Economies (EMDEs) face GDP losses of >10%

What Comes Next?

1. **Status Quo** — A continued and accelerating trend toward fragmentation and digital disintegration.
2. **Emergence of International Law** — Progress toward binding global norms and rules, possibly under the UN or similar bodies.
3. **Sovereign Autonomous Domains** — Full realization of a "Splinternet" with multiple incompatible national networks.
4. **Coalition of Openness** — Formation of like-minded blocs (as proposed by CFR) that maintain open, interoperable internet access among themselves, resulting in a multipolar digital world.



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