



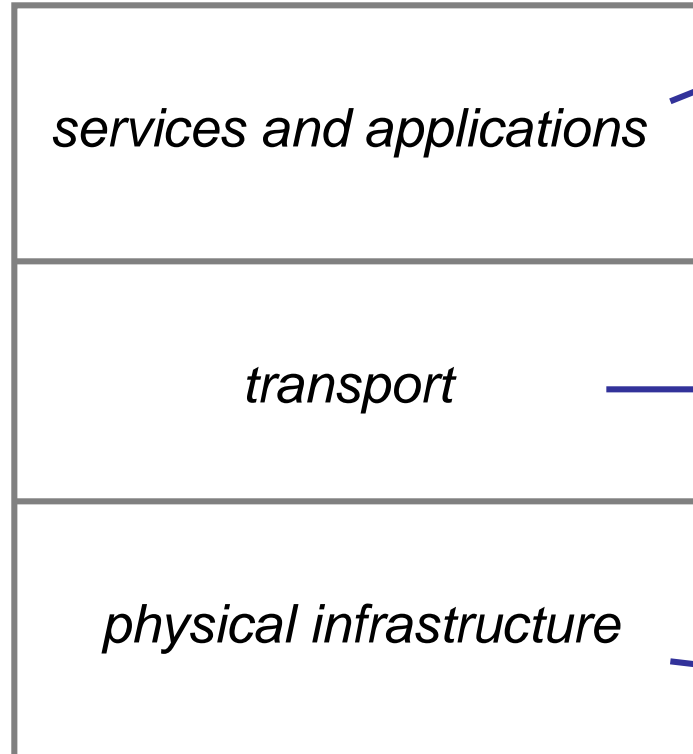
Internet Governance Revisited: Think Decentralization!

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Three Layers of Internet Governance



- protection of personal data
- illegal and harmful content
- spam
- online-gambling

- Domain Name System
- IP- addresses

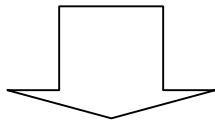
- peering-agreements
- orbit-slots for satellites



Coordination vs. Regulation

IP-Addresses

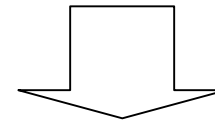
- unique identification
- must only be assigned once
- “indefinite” pool of addresses (IPv6)



require coordination of assignment

Domain Names

- easy to remember
- must only be assigned once
- technically indefinite but semantically scarce



require binding rules for distribution and enforcement



Public-Private Partnership

Pro

- gathers all actors concerned
(governments, private sector, civil society)
- non-hierarchical setting
- comparative advantages
(expertise, flexibility, etc.)
- high problem-solving capacity

Contra

- output-orientation beats input-legitimacy
“Focus on progress and effectiveness over process.” (Stuart Lynn, 2002)
- intense optimism for self-regulation constrains perception of potential conflicts



Back to the Future...

- multilateralization of meta-governance functions
- centralization contradicts the distributed architecture of the Internet
- narrow mission for ICANN
- division of labour along functional confines (subsidiarity)