

14 June 2021

Internet Fragmentation: state of the debate and a case study



Riccardo Nanni
NextGen@ICANN71

What do we mean by 'Fragmentation'?

1

Different info and services available in different places under **different rules**.

2

1. Governmental
2. Commercial,
3. Technical.

3

Does **net neutrality** have anything to do with fragmentation?

4

Technical fragmentation: transport layer incompatibility, different identifiers.

A Case Study

Chinese Stakeholders and ICANN

1

Contestation

(2001 - 2005):

1. **the Taiwan issue;**
2. **Multilateralism;**
3. **WSIS, ITU**

2

IDNs

(up to 2007/2009):

1. **the Chinese-character name space question**

3

"rapprochement"

(2007/2009-onwards):

1. **Back in GAC**
2. **Beijing 2013**
3. **CAC and ICANN50**

A Case Study

Chinese Stakeholders and ICANN

1

Post-IANA transition
(2016-onwards):
1. **A GAC vice-chair**
from China.

2

Meanwhile in the IETF
(2015-2021 c.a.):
1. **Huawei ranks**
second in RFCs.

3

Meanwhile in the ITU:
1. **The New IP:** what
does it mean for
fragmentation?

What do we have now?



1

China uses the same DNS and protocols as other countries.

2

Chinese stakeholders participate in ICANN and the IETF.

3

Why?
Powerful global companies want network benefits, unattainable with split standards.

Conclusions on Fragmentation



1 A 'weapon of the weak'.

2 Best world possible? No, but a resilient one.

3 Emerging economic powers see no benefit in fragmented Internet as they become globally influential.



Thank you!

Riccardo Nanni, NextGen@ICANN71