



**RIPE NCC**  
RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

# Internet Governance in 2022

What's Driving Disruption?

Chris Buckridge | 26 May 2022 | LINX116

# What are we talking about?



- **“Internet governance”** a (growing) umbrella term
  - National legislation and regulation
  - International law (UN conventions etc.)
  - “Soft law” (internationally-agreed regulatory frameworks, norms)
  - Ad hoc arrangements between government and industry
  - Technical standardisation processes and outputs
  - Community policy development
  - **The complex interplay of all of the above**

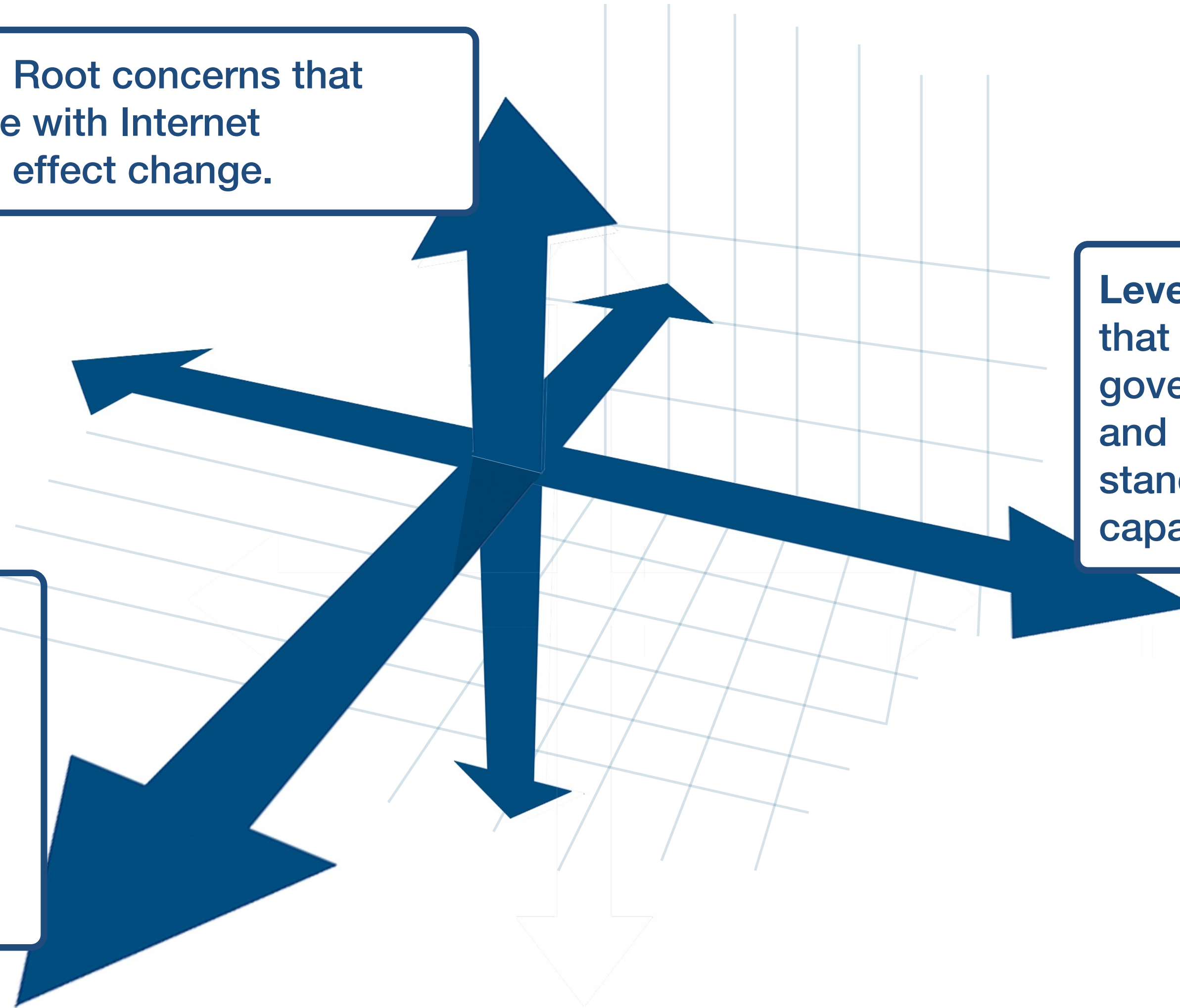
# Internet Governance in 3D (aka the Multiverse™)



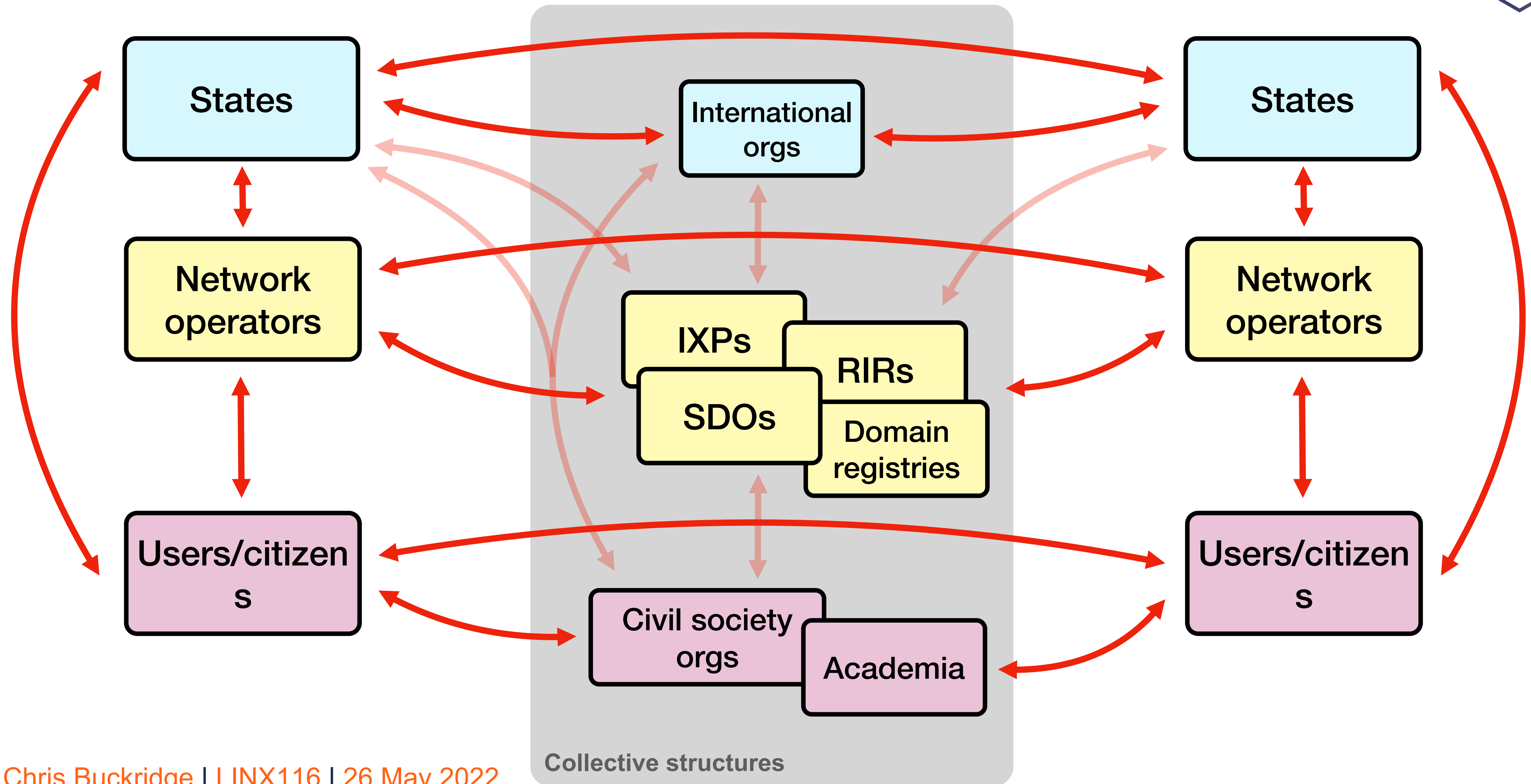
**Issues and concerns:** Root concerns that drive people to engage with Internet governance and try to effect change.

**Levers and tools:** Actions that can be taken to achieve governance goals - laws and regulation, technical standards, policy, or capacity building activities.

**Structure and formations:** Venues where governance can be enacted - technical coordination bodies (RIRs, SDOs), government bodies, collective bodies like the United Nations or OECD.

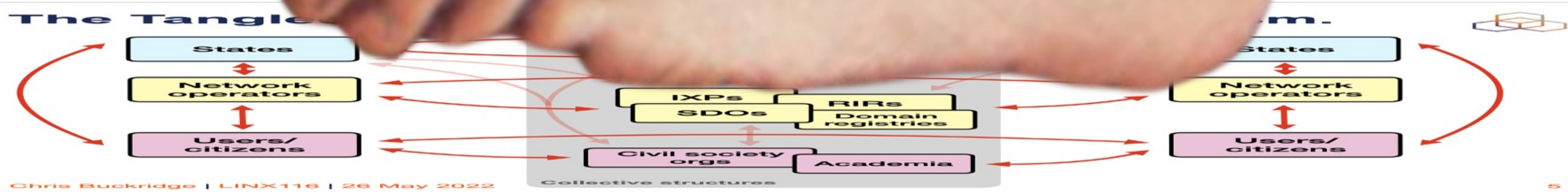


# The Tangled Web of Multistakeholderism





Uh-oh...



# Stomped by Geopolitics



**COVID-19**



**UA Invasion**



**IG Proliferation**



# COVID-19 and Internet Governance



Forbes

HOLLYWOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

## COVID-19 Pushes Up Internet Use 70% And Streaming More Than 12%, First Figures Reveal

Mark Beech Former Contributor ©

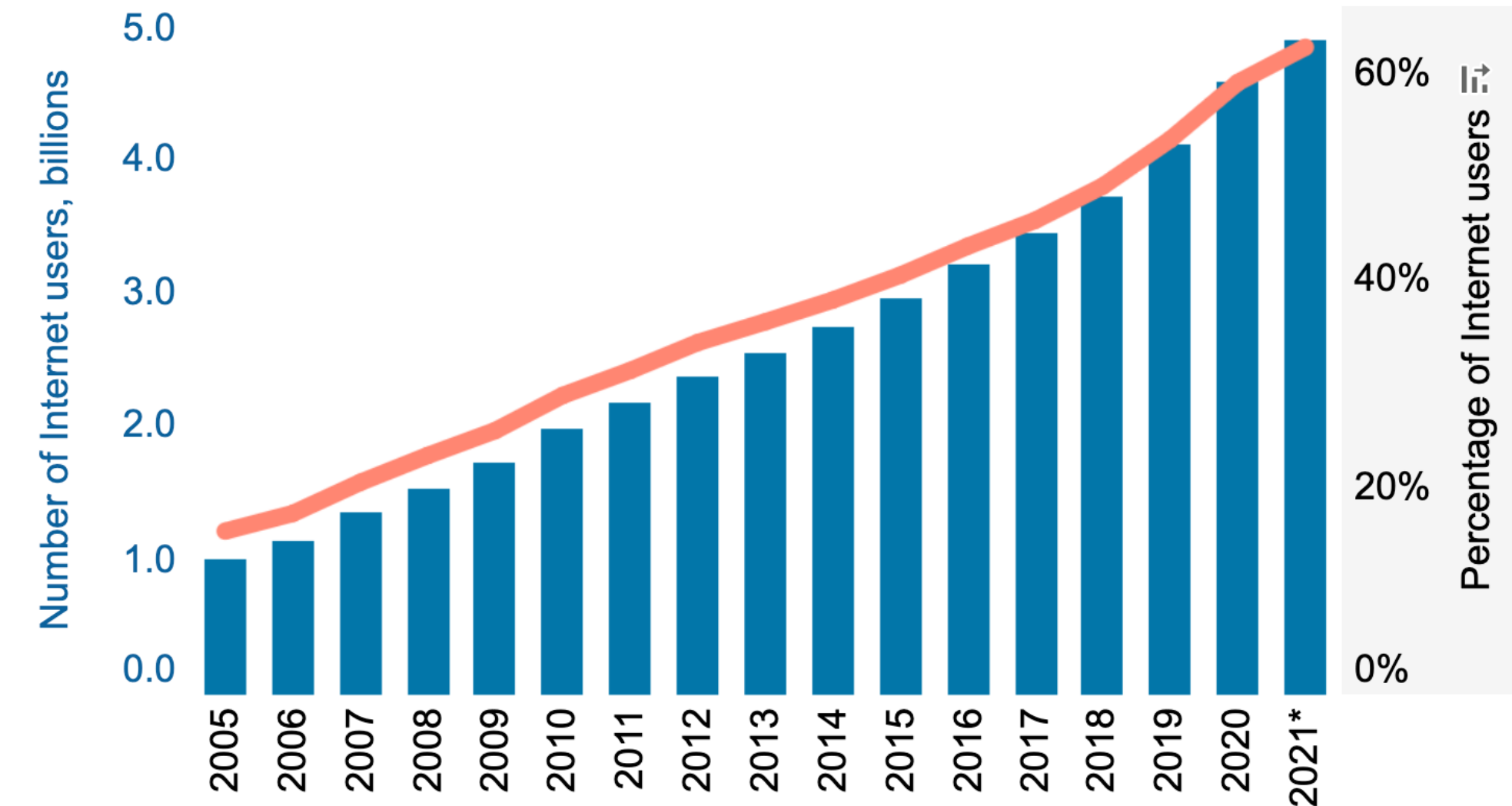
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Mar 25, 2020, 03:49pm EDT

“...global internet bandwidth rose by 29% in 2021. You could consider this a return to normal over the previous year's COVID-driven surge of 34%. ...but we still see a near tripling of bandwidth since 2017.

[Alan Mauldin, Telegeography](#)

Individuals using the Internet



Source: ITU  
\* ITU estimate

“We saw three years of change take place in just three months.”

*John Maw, CEO, IAB UK*



# COVID-19 and Internet Governance



More use/uses/users =

- Greater need to ensure universal(?) access
- Greater need to protect users online
- Increase in online criminal activity
- Greater need to ensure fairness in the market, prevent abuse
- Increased occurrence and reach of dis/misinformation
- Challenges for infrastructure providers (esp. in developing world)



# COVID-19 and Internet Governance



- Legislative developments in the last two years...
  - EU legislation: DSA, DMA, NIS2; DGA, Cyber Resilience Act to come
  - UK legislation: Online Safety Bill

“...no administration has ever tried to regulate the online world as comprehensively as the Online Safety Bill. It really is a mammoth piece of legislation.”

[Caroline Dinenage, former UK Minister of State for Digital and Culture](#)



Lawfare



Slate

- Similar “online safety”-driven laws in Australia, Canada, Brazil...

# Invasion of Ukraine and Internet governance



- On 24 February, the Russian Federation invaded Ukraine
- Politically, global dynamics have shifted
  - The temperature of multilateral diplomacy has increased in all venues
- The “cyberwar” many feared has not (yet) come to pass
  - Cybersecurity concerns have been heightened though
- Governments have looked at all available non-military levers available to influence Russia
  - Economic sanctions
  - Possibly de-registering Russian-held Internet resources

# Invasion of Ukraine: RIPE NCC Perspective



- Response to request from Ukrainian Government to deregister Russian IP addresses
  - “[...] unlikely to have immediate impact on interconnection or traffic in Russia, but it could have unpredictable consequences in terms of harming the global coordination that is necessary for stable Internet operations.”
  - <https://www.ripe.net/publications/news/announcements/ripe-ncc-response-to-request-fromukrainian-government>
- Tracking all developments relating to Ukraine and Russia on a dedicated page on our website:
  - <https://www.ripe.net/participate/member-support/the-ripe-ncc-and-ukrainerussia/>

# Outcomes (after 92 days)



- The global multistakeholder administrative model has held up as intended
  - While the operator community has lived up to its reputation for innovation and cooperation!
  - (and the Internet in Ukraine has proved itself to be impressively resilient)
- However, economic sanctions by Western governments have highlighted an ongoing challenge for the multistakeholder model
  - Non-governmental organisations like the RIPE NCC and other Internet administrative bodies are subject to sanctions
  - This is a serious risk for the trust and cooperation that underpins a unified global Internet.



# National developments: Russia



- An active advocate and implementer of Internet controls
- ‘Sovereign Internet Bill’ (Federal Law #90) introduced in May 2019, includes multiple measures:
  - Requiring operators to install specific equipment (provided by regulator) on their networks to block forbidden or illegal content
  - Network operators must register all number resources, routing policies, network infrastructure with the regulator
  - IXPs must be registered and abide by specific rules re. connections, resilience and stability
  - A “National Domain Name System” has been established, introducing a local proxy DNS resolver to be used by Russian operators
  - Platforms required to register local presence, and fined for hosting “illegal content”



# Internet Governance Everywhere...



- UN Member States are getting more active
  - Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of ICTs in the Context of International Security 2021-2025 will kick off in December
  - Ad hoc committee working towards a proposal for a Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes
- ITU developments
  - The Plenipotentiary later this year sees a race for Secretary-General position between American and Russian candidates
  - “New IP” proposal was shut down in 2020; but expect similar proposals to come, attempting to standardise more top-down control models
- Standardisation high on the agenda at the G7, the OECD

# Meanwhile, at the IGF...



- IGF Leadership Panel
  - “...a strategic, empowered, and multistakeholder body, to address strategic and urgent issues, and to highlight Forum discussions and possible follow-up actions, in order to promote greater impact and dissemination of IGF discussions.”
- The Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
  - Establishment of a UN Envoy on Technology (and Office of the Envoy on Technology)
- Digital issues also featured in the recent 'Our Common Agenda'
  - Leading to a UN Digital Compact as part of a Summit of the Future, to which the IGF will contribute

# Summary: What's Changed?



- The Internet has grown ever more crucial to how societies operate
- Legislation and regulation specifically targeting Internet use and operations becoming common
- Increasing politicisation of Internet standards and governance
- Shifting political window of what is considered “acceptable” regulatory impact
- Increasingly active efforts at UN/global-level policymaking



# The Takeaway



- Many governments reference the principle of maintaining an “unfragmented Internet”...
  - But a fragmented approach to governance risks a fragmented Internet
- Multistakeholder models may still be our best defence against that fragmented approach
  - **But multistakeholder models require multistakeholder engagement!**
    - (But multistakeholder engagement is getting more difficult!)



# Questions



chrisb@ripe.net  
@\_buckr