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LEGAL REGULATION OF INFORMATION ON INTERNET RESOURCES IN THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

This article delves into the legal framework governing information on internet resources within the Republic of Kazakhstan. In contemporary times, both information and its legal regulation possess unique characteristics, particularly evident in the context of the internet. The intricate interplay between global phenomena and the internet amplifies the notion of global governance. Within this expansive system, the self-regulation of information on internet resources necessitates legal oversight. Kazakhstan serves as a case study illustrating the internet's pivotal role as the primary and immediate source of information, facilitating interaction among numerous users. This prominence stems from the distinct characteristics of the internet when compared to traditional modes of information dissemination. A current issue in this field is conducting comprehensive research on the legal aspects of regulating information on internet resources. The goal of this study is to formulate recommendations for enhancing the legal framework governing the development of the Internet in Kazakhstan. This will be achieved through an in-depth, systematic analysis of the legal regulation of information on internet resources. The scientific novelty lies in the comprehensive examination of the legal regulation of information on internet resources in Kazakhstan, their systematization, and corresponding differentiation. The scientific significance of the work lies in the possibility of using the conclusions drawn for deeper theoretical research. The practical importance of this work is the potential application of its provisions to improve the existing legislation Kazakhstan and law enforcement.

Key words: legal regulation, information, internet, legislation, information and communication technology.

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Қазақстан Республикасының интернет ресурстарындағы ақпаратты құқықтық реттеу

Бұл мақалада Қазақстан Республикасының интернет-ресурстарындағы ақпаратты құқықтық реттеу қарастырылды. Қазіргі кезеңде ақпараттық-құқықтық реттеудің Интернет құбылысын айқын көрсететін өзіндік ерекшеліктері бар. Жаһандық үдерістер мен Интернет арасындағы тығыз байланыса отырып, жаһандық саясат тұжырымдамасын жандандырады. Интернетресурстардағы ақпаратты өзін-өзі реттеуді ғаламдық жүйесінде құқықтық тұрғыдан қарастыру қажет. Қазақстан Республикасы Интернеттің ең ауқымды және тікелей ақпарат көзі екенін және көптеген пайдаланушылар үшін өзара әрекеттесу құралы екенін көрсетеді. Бұл ақпаратты берудің дәстүрлі құралдарымен салыстырғанда Интернеттің сипаттамаларына байланысты. Бұл тақырыптағы өзекті мәселе интернет-ресурстардағы ақпаратты реттеудің құқықтық мәселелерін кешенді түрде зерттеу болып табылады. Жұмыстың мақсаты – интернет-ресурстардағы ақпаратты құқықтық реттеуді кешенді, жүйелі зерттеу негізінде Қазақстан Республикасында Интернет желісін дамытудың құқықтық негіздерін жетілдіру бойынша ұсыныстар әзірлеу. Ғылыми жаңалық Қазақстан Республикасының интернет-ресурстарында ақпараттың құқықтық реттелуін жанжақты қарастыруда, оларды жүйелеу және сәйкес саралау болып табылады. Жұмыстың ғылыми маңыздылығы ондағы жасалған қорытындыларды тереңірек теориялық зерттеуге пайдалана білуінде. Бұл жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы Қазақстан Республикасының қолданыстағы заңнамасын және құқық қорғау қызметін жетілдіру мақсатында ережелерді қолдану мүмкіндігі болып табылады.

Түйін сөздер: құқықтық реттеу, ақпарат, интернет, заңнама, ақпараттық-коммуникациялық технология.

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Правовое регулирование информации на интернет-ресурсах Республики Казахстан

В данной статье рассматривается правовое регулирование информации на интернет-ресурсах Республики Казахстан. В настоящее время как информация, так и ее правовое регулирование обладают уникальными характеристиками, особенно очевидными в условиях Интернета. Сложное взаимодействие между глобальными явлениями и Интернетом расширяет понятие глобального управления. В рамках этой обширной системы саморегулирование информации на интернет-ресурсах требует юридического контроля. Казахстан служит примером, иллюстрирующим ключевую роль Интернета как основного и непосредственного источника информации, облегчающего взаимодействие между многочисленными пользователями. Эта известность обусловлена отличительными характеристиками Интернета по сравнению с традиционными способами распространения информации. Актуальным вопросом данной тем является проведение комплексного исследования правовых вопросов регулирования информации на Интернет-ресурсах. Целью данного исследования является формулирование рекомендаций по совершенствованию правовой базы, регулирующей развитие Интернета в Казахстане. Это будет достигнуто за счет углубленного системного анализа правового регулирования информации на интернетресурсах.. Научная новизна заключается в комплексном рассмотрении правового регулирования информации на интернет-ресурсах РК, их систематизации и соответствующей дифференциации. Научная значимость работы заключается в возможности использовать выводы, сделанные в ней, для более глубокого теоретического исследования. Практическая важность этой работы - возможность применения положений в целях совершенствования действующего законодательства Республики Казахстан и правоприменения.

Ключевые слова: правовое регулирование, информация, интернет, законодательство, информационно-коммуникационная технология.

Introduction

The Internet was not established on a secure footing. Its design aimed for openness, with distributed control and mutual trust among its users (Bowrey 2005).

Ensuring free access to information on internet resources is regarded as a key priority for any democratic state. Consequently, state law enforcement agencies, including the prosecutor's office, would be mandated to guarantee this unrestricted operation.

Advancements in technologies like big data, cloud computing, and logistics warehousing have transformed the internet platform industry. It has evolved beyond merely providing network services to integrating deeply with traditional sectors like transportation, communications, education, culture, entertainment, and healthcare. As the number of users, transaction sizes, and usage scenarios of internet platforms rapidly increase, the technological monopoly advantage they hold has become more pronounced (Daniel Sokol 2021).

To make matters worse, the internet, like any technological innovation, can be abused and used against people. For this reason, it is critical that authorities act quickly to stop abuses. The government of our nation has steadfastly and consciously

worked to legally regulate the internet. In light of this, Kazakhstan has approved a number of legislative acts with the aim of regulating material found on online platforms. These include Laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan:

- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Mass Media" dated July 23, 1999 No. 451-I;
- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Communications" dated July 5, 2004 No. 567-II;
- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "About advertising." dated December 19, 2003 No.508-I;
- Law was adopted and the state program "Digital Kazakhstan" was developed (2018-2022);
- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Access to Information";
- Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On Informatization";
- Concept of digital transformation, development of the Information and Communication Technologies Industry and Cybersecurity for 2023-2029, etc.

Kazakhstan passed the Law on Access to Information at the close of 2015. Its enactment was meant to spur significant social reforms and improve the standard of public administration, along with laws pertaining to public consultations and fighting corruption.

In today's era, the regulation of information law has unique characteristics that highlight the role of the internet. The interconnection between global dynamics and the internet fosters the idea of global politics. This global system of self-regulation of information on internet platforms necessitates legal oversight.

The goal of this study is to formulate recommendations for enhancing the legal framework governing the development of the Internet in Kazakhstan. This will be achieved through an in-depth, systematic analysis of the legal regulation of information on internet resources.

The scientific novelty lies in the comprehensive examination of legal regulation of information on internet resources in Kazakhstan, their systematization, and corresponding differentiation.

The scientific significance of the work lies in the possibility of using the conclusions drawn in it for deeper theoretical research.

The practical importance of this work lies in the possibility of applying its provisions to improve the existing legislation of the RK and law enforcement.

Materials and methods

The methodological basis of the research consisted of general scientific (analysis, synthesis, etc.) and individual-scientific (formal-legal, comparative-legal, methods of legal modeling of legal processes) methods of cognition of the legal and ontological nature, structure, and characteristics. All this allowed to comprehend, investigate, and provide a comprehensive constitutional and legal characteristic of the studied subject area, to develop and substantiate the main ideas and concepts of the article. The use of these methods allowed for a comprehensive and thorough study of the object of research. The scientific basis consists of a number of scientific works by Kazakhstan, Russian, and foreign scholars specializing in the field of constitutional and information law: Almeida, V.A., Doneda, D., & De-Souza, A.J., Dutchak S., Opolska N., Shchokin R., Durman O., Shevtsiv M., Froomkin A.M., Gaydareva I.N., Eshev M.A., Markov P.N., Abudzhalilov A.A., Anisimova A.S., Kazaryan E.A., Kasenova M.B., Moiseenko Yu.P., Nesterova E.V., Potovoy V.I., Luzan S.N., Strovsky D.L., etc.

Results and discussion

Currently, the number of spheres of human activity utilizing internet technologies is growing

worldwide, expanding the list of informational interactions that arise from their use.

Information security should be considered in two aspects. When applying a systemic approach, information security becomes a foundational element. It can be likened to the status of the international relations system, characterized by stability and protection from information-based weapons and threats. Additionally, information security can be seen as an idealized model. Various conceptualizations exist regarding what information security should entail. It is viewed through sociological lenses (as a specific state of social relations), technical lenses (adherence to standards and other technical requirements), and legal lenses (adherence to prohibitions and restrictions on the dissemination of data). Drawing from conceptual ideas, information security can be defined as a model for the stable functioning of the information relations system (Talimonchik 2019).

Russian scientist V.I. Potovoy also emphasizes the peculiarities of modern internet legal relations. Legislative norms concerning such relationships should be interdisciplinary and quasi-normative because the specific technological features of internet-related interactions need to be formulated in accordance with the specific technical characteristics of internet-related relationships. This does not presuppose the existence of a unified set of norms encompassing universal regulatory rules (Potovoy & Luzan, 2016).

In order to achieve positive outcomes in optimizing relationships stemming from internet network usage, it's essential to address the practical gaps encountered. This can be accomplished by developing and implementing appropriate legislation. Therefore, the primary task is to steer the state's efforts in internet regulation towards a new qualitative basis, based on factual information and monitoring, ultimately providing us with a chance (Schulz 2005).

On one hand, some regulatory (or deregulatory) strategies pursue objectives that are largely internal to the first sector. For instance, in the current architecture of the internet, unique assignment of Internet Protocol numbers; control over mechanisms governing the allocation of potentially critical resources; and determining when, how, and by whom standards underlying them can be changed are critical for the internet, which is currently internal to the first sector. Similarly, regulating the creation of new top-level domains (TLDs) and regulating the allocation of second-level domains (SLDs) primarily concern issues within the first sphere, although they are

influenced by external rules such as trademark law (Froomkin 2003).

The amount of governmental and legal data that is available online has grown dramatically. Governments' distribution of this information as well as researchers' access to it have changed as a result of information technology advancements. Governmental efforts to create an online library of publications and the ability of Internet technology to provide topic-specific information in customized streams via Web logs and RSS news aggregators are the two main causes of this publication boom (Yvonne 2005).

Website traffic is frequently used by internet platforms as the pricing benchmark for market transactions. In order to influence user behavior, many platforms create reward and punishment systems that match to the amount of traffic generated. As a result, users are more likely to prioritize attention maximization than honesty. The dynamics of political and social discourse on online platforms often involve users engaging in discussions through methods such as commenting, expressing strong opinions, and participating in trending topics. These discussions can be emotionally charged and have the potential to incite online violence and group antagonism (Tian 2022).

Furthermore, governments often rely on internet platforms to regulate user behavior and content due to technical limitations and the high costs associated with law enforcement. Consequently, platforms are mandated to assume primary responsibility for managing information, reviewing content, identifying violations, and implementing disciplinary actions. However, the absence of uniform standards and clear delineation of responsibilities in these private regulatory activities poses risks of infringing upon user rights (Kong 2020).

As Internet platforms gradually expand their power, there is a simultaneous increase in the risk of infringing user rights and triggering governance crises due to encroachment on public rights. Consequently, Internet platform governance presents a significant challenge to modernizing government governance capabilities. Balancing private and public rights is crucial to safeguarding the legitimate interests of all parties while harnessing the role of Internet platforms in optimizing resource allocation, advancing technological progress, and improving efficiency (Tian Yifei, 2023).

Platform power primarily stems from technical capabilities, enabling Internet platforms to control data and influence the behavior of other parties. By analyzing big data, platforms can create accurate

user profiles, enhancing trust and transaction dependence while unilaterally affecting users' realization of rights and behavioral choices, thus consolidating their influence and control. The dominance of these platforms extends to critical data, algorithms, and infrastructure, giving them substantial control not only over non-platform entities within the industrial chain but also over goods and service producers through their platform users. This concentration of power creates imbalances in the pluralistic relationship between various stakeholders (Rahman 2017).

In conclusion, Internet platforms derive power from three main sources: technological empowerment, user agreement rights transfer, and government authorization (Ma Zhiguo, Zhanni, 2003). Platform power emerges from the amalgamation of private law regulations and public law regulations, embodying a fusion of private and public authority.

The concept of equity imposes more rigorous requirements on internet platforms to safeguard public interests and protect users' lawful rights and interests. Consequently, the regulatory obligations of internet platforms encompass ensuring fair competition, safeguarding the security of user data, monitoring platform content and user interactions, overseeing online trading activities, and collaborating with law enforcement agencies. To overcome the limitations of a singular regulatory approach, the legal framework governing internet platforms can be strengthened through three primary regulatory approaches: self-regulation, administrative regulation, and cooperative regulation (Sutter, 2003).

In Kazakhstan, various levels of regulatory legal acts are actively being developed to regulate digitization, the utilization of information technologies, data processing, and other related processes. This process reflects a natural phenomenon that facilitates the digital transformation of industries and the advancement of digital technologies, with an innovative economy serving as a crucial component in achieving global competitiveness.

The National Development Plan of Kazakhstan until 2025 outlines specific objectives and strategies for advancing digitalization, including the establishment of infrastructure for implementing analytics, automation, and digitization leveraging artificial intelligence and big data. Additionally, it emphasizes the digital transformation of enterprises across various industries and aspects of daily life.

In line with this, the Government of Kazakhstan has approved the Concept of Digital Transformation, Development of the Information and Communication Technology Sphere, and Cybersecurity for 2023-2029. This concept provides a framework for addressing contemporary challenges in public services, serving the population and business community, modernizing public administration, and further leveraging digital technologies for economic sector development.

It's crucial that all digitalization and informatization initiatives adhere strictly to the regulatory legal framework. Despite being similar to many countries worldwide, Kazakhstan is yet to establish a comprehensive legal framework governing the introduction and development of digital processes at an appropriate level. A significant concern in Kazakhstan's legal regulation of the digital environment is the absence of legislatively defined principles and methods for developing regulatory requirements.

The Concept of Legal Policy until 2030, endorsed by the President of Kazakhstan, highlights several key objectives, including the need for legal regulation of artificial intelligence and robotics. This involves determining liability for damages caused by their actions and defining intellectual property rights concerning creations produced with the involvement of artificial intelligence. Additionally, it explores the feasibility of granting legal status to robots and, consequently, holding artificial intelligence accountable under the law.

The effort to revise legislation on personal data and its protection aims to harmonize it with several fundamental principles derived from the existing legal framework in this domain. This includes regulating non-discrimination in the utilization of big data technologies and imposing constraints on unchecked gadget usage for citizen surveillance.

The Law "On Informatization" governs public relations within the realm of informatization within the territory of Kazakhstan. This law outlines the responsibilities and interactions among state bodies, individuals, and legal entities concerning the creation, development, and operation of informatization objects, as well as state support for the growth of the information and communication technology industry.

However, the cornerstone legislation defining the principles, methods of regulation, and foundational legal institutions and structures of digital environment regulation should ideally be the Digital Code of Kazakhstan. Its adoption is scheduled for 2024 as part of the action plan for implementing the concept of digital transformation, development of information and communication technologies, and cybersecurity for 2023-2029. Nonetheless, ongoing development of legal acts at various levels is un-

derway in anticipation of the Digital Code's adoption. For instance, in the past three years alone, 12 amendments and additions have been made to the Law of Kazakhstan "On Information."

Despite these efforts, many unresolved issues persist regarding the legal regulation of the digital environment, leading to the introduction of individual norms and rules. For instance, while the Civil Code of the Russian Federation (Article 43-2) stipulates state ownership of data acquired through various means, the Civil Code of Kazakhstan does not classify information (data) as objects of property rights. This discrepancy highlights existing challenges in legal harmonization.

In the conceptualization of regulations governing internet usage, it's imperative to delineate the characteristics of these relations to understand the mechanisms for their regulation. The involvement of technical experts is crucial to ensure a comprehensive understanding of both legal and technological aspects, thereby mitigating potential gaps in practical implementation. Approval of such a Concept at the legislative level can serve as the foundation for the legislative framework and offer solutions to various regulation challenges.

Additionally, the Law on Access to Information classifies information into three categories: public information, information with unrestricted access, and information with restricted access. The latter category encompasses state secrets and various sensitive classifications. However, discrepancies in the classification of data, such as designating information as "for use in service" by government agencies, can lead to complaints, disputes, and disagreements.

These rules establish the possibility of broad interpretation of information criteria, the dissemination of which is restricted, and moreover, the list of criteria is not exhaustive, allowing the restriction of access to information if, in the executor's opinion, it may be used to the detriment of the interests of the government agency. These norms, in turn, allow for abuses of restrictions and the unlawful concealment of socially significant information.

Another problem is the non-compliance with the law by government agencies, which often confuse the Law on Access to Information and the Law on Appeals of Individuals and Legal Entities. The differences between similar and ambiguous concepts determine how requests are treated and responded to. The main grievances against government agencies include lack of timely responses, ignoring requests, incomplete responses, references, and refusals. The law does not provide for anonymous appeals, which

hypothetically obstructs the realization of citizens' rights.

Furthermore, the law does not provide for a unified format for publishing information, so this issue remains at the discretion of each government agency. For example, information of a general nature is disclosed on internet resources, but in practice, information about inspections is not disclosed. Or the inspection plan is posted, but there are no inspection results. Information about the government services provided is presented partially, with varying degrees of detail, usually not for all services, but in a simple and understandable format.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe has released a report titled "Control for Internet," indicating that approximately 20 countries are included in the "black list" for Internet censorship. In some authoritarian nations, information flow and access to the global online space are artificially restricted by blocking specific websites and services. Additionally, certain countries limit their citizens' access to the World Wide Web while providing access to a restricted internet. European governments also submit numerous requests for content blocking and filtering, as shown in the biannual Google Transparency Report. Furthermore, proposals have been made in some states to assign internet users a single open IP address to simplify monitoring all online communications, potentially curtailing freedom of expression (Dutchak 2020).

Many countries impose limitations or partial restrictions on free access to information, often under government control. North Korea is notably the most closed-off country globally, having blocked access to social networks since the internet's inception. Similarly, China restricts access to foreign social media platforms like Google, Facebook, and Twitter, favoring domestic alternatives. Saudi Arabia actively blocks "immoral" websites, including Wikipedia and Google Translate, and completely shut down access to YouTube in 2012 (Dutchak 2020).

Consequently, the Google Transparency Report plays a crucial role in understanding internet users' privacy, security, and access to information. Prior to its creation, Google regularly received requests from authorities in various countries to disclose users' personally identifiable information on a broad scale. Issues of internet security and surveillance have gained significant attention following events such as Edward Snowden's revelations and cyberattacks on Sony Pictures Entertainment, sparking discussions on encryption and privacy (Dutchak 2020).

Indeed, almost all states enforce certain restrictions on internet resources to manage the dissemination of content. For example, countries like the USA, France, Germany, and the UK criminalize the production and storage of prohibited content, with internet service providers mandated to report such content to relevant authorities. However, despite efforts to restrict access to undesirable content, modern technologies for censorship and surveillance often fall short of achieving complete effectiveness. Many researchers note the persistent operation of resources even after being blocked, allowing owners to continue generating income. Various methods for circumventing content blocks exist and are continuously evolving. Ordinary internet users can readily find specific instructions for accessing blocked websites online. The widespread acknowledgment of methods such as specialized proxy servers, browser extensions, and applications for computers and smartphones underscores the ongoing challenges in regulating internet content access (Balashov 2016). However, implementing measures to counteract these bypassing techniques poses significant challenges due to resistance from internet users, prompting the continuous search for new circumvention methods.

A survey conducted by the "Public Opinion" Foundation revealed that only 22 percent of respondents believe internet users should pay for the content they consume, while 52 percent hold the opposing view. Notably, low-income groups are particularly prominent among those who advocate against user payment for accessing online content.

While efforts to regulate the internet space may be viewed as undemocratic, the absence of clear legal standards for internet regulation leaves authorities with limited options to protect information security. Consequently, attempts to block unnecessary and harmful information distribution remain a primary recourse for modern countries' authorities.

In Germany, laws prohibit online gambling and casino websites. Internet service providers are mandated to shut down such sites upon authorities' request, and banks are required to block transfers to these resources. Additionally, online betting through companies located outside the country is illegal in Germany (Hu 2016).

Article 6, Paragraph 2 of the Law on Gambling Business in Kazakhstan explicitly prohibits the provision of online casino and electronic casino services within the territory of Kazakhstan. (https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=30085891).

The direction of electronic entertainment, particularly online gaming through the internet, is a significant aspect shaping the development of information technologies today. With hundreds of millions of people worldwide spending billions of hours each year playing computer and mobile games, it's evident that online gaming holds considerable sway. It's worth noting that online casinos utilize applications from various manufacturers.

In the realm of online gaming, one important concept is the Return to Player (RTP), which represents the player's chance of winning in the casino and is expressed as a percentage in a specialized program code. In official casinos, manufacturers typically receive a certain percentage of the production of their creations within the gaming sphere.

Given the legislator's negative stance on gambling, as evidenced by its prohibition, it's apparent that gaming establishments influencing gambling organization operate from outside the jurisdiction. In cases where internet service providers solely offer internet access without any connection to online casino owners, their activities cannot be considered as facilitating gambling organization or implementation. Visitors accessing gambling through foreign casino sites on the internet, such as via home computers, highlight the need for a new approach to regulating this activity, considering its organization and legal definition.

In light of this, online casinos are explicitly prohibited by law as their establishment revolves around entering into contracts for participation in gambling activities. To counteract attempts to circumvent regulations governing gambling organization and conduct on casino sites, the prosecutor's office has developed a practice of restricting access to such sites by implementing rules for filtering online IP addresses through court websites targeting internet service providers. However, many casino users can still access these gambling platforms by using virtual private networks (VPNs).

The procedure for blocking a gaming platform, as well as any resources prohibited by law, typically unfolds as follows: within three days, the supervisory authority issues a notification to the resource owner or hosting provider mandating the removal of prohibited content. Upon compliance, the site is removed from the registry; otherwise, the operator restricts user access to the resource.

Currently, there are two legal grounds for blocking a site: by a legally binding court decision or by a decision of the competent state information author-

ity endowed with relevant powers. Judicial proceedings concerning the blocking of gaming sites usually involve prosecutors as initiators of the lawsuit, with the case deliberated in a court hearing.

Conclusion

The analysis suggests that the internet serves as a contemporary platform for freedom, enabling individuals to express themselves and access reliable information. Absolutely, the evolution of modern society has introduced considerable challenges in the legal regulation of telecommunications, the protection of rights, and the safeguarding of interests in transmitting information across global computer networks. As technology continues to advance rapidly, traditional legal frameworks may struggle to keep pace with emerging issues such as privacy concerns, cybersecurity threats, and the proliferation of misinformation. Finding a balance between fostering innovation and ensuring accountability and protection for users is an ongoing and complex task for lawmakers and regulatory bodies worldwide.

Given these circumstances, it is imperative to implement a series of measures to enhance the management of the internet. This includes:

Thus, in particular, it is necessary to:

Conducting a systematic review of legal statutes governing internet public relations and enhancing the regulatory framework through specialized legislation, such as the "Regulation of Information on Internet Resources" Code;

Addressing gaps in the current legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan (RK) to ensure comprehensive coverage.

Organizing and consolidating norms governing internet public relations to establish fundamental principles and a unified conceptual framework.

Some social networks and browsers (YouTube, TikTok, Facebook, Twitter, etc.), such as the Chinese government, should be restricted by law.

Additionally, integrating the public-law principle of justice into the legal framework governing internet platforms would entail obliging platforms to offer alternative services in line with user rights, ensuring equitable access to platform services, and adherence to legal standards.

In essence, these measures aim to strike a balance between upholding freedom of expression, protecting individual rights, and maintaining the integrity of online information within the evolving landscape of internet governance.

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