

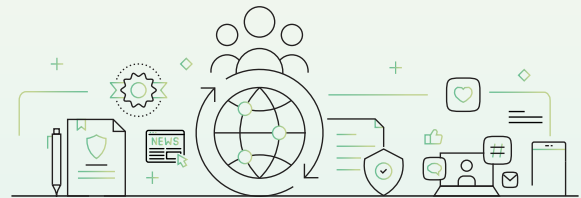


Three layers of the internet



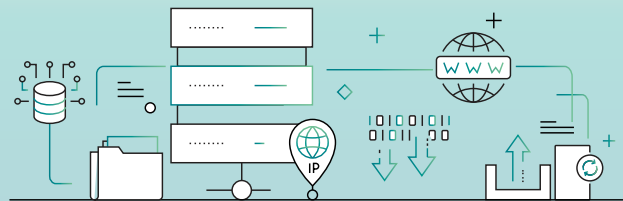
Content layer

This layer (also referred to as the application layer or societal layer) includes social media platforms, applications, websites and other content which runs on the Internet. These platforms and applications are subject to various national and international policies depending on where they operate. Key issues include content moderation on social media, governance of AI applications and systems, and cybersecurity for Internet users.



Logical layer

This layer (also referred to as the technical layer) includes the protocols and services which are necessary for the Internet to function. This covers the Domain Name System, IP addresses and Internet protocols such as TCP/IP, as well as the multistakeholder forums and processes which govern these systems. These services ensure that Internet connected devices can be uniquely identified and can communicate with each other all over the world. Rules and policies for these services are set internationally by bodies such as ICANN, the RIRs and the IETF.



Infrastructure layer

This layer includes the physical infrastructure which the Internet functions on, such as cables, satellites, telephone towers and internet exchange points. This infrastructure may be constructed and owned by governments or the private sector, with varying policies from country to country. Key issues include building out infrastructure to provide universal access to the Internet, allocation of spectrum for mobile and satellite Internet, and the resilience of critical infrastructure during natural disasters.

