

## Internet Society 2021 Impact Report

### Video Introduction Transcript

Hello. I'm Andrew Sullivan, President and CEO of the Internet Society.

Since the Internet Society was founded in 1992, we have always worked to ensure that everyone can enjoy connectivity and the opportunity it brings.

The ongoing presence of COVID-19 throughout 2021 continued to show us the importance of the Internet. People depended on it to help sustain them through the pandemic. Because of its design, the Internet kept on working even as more and more demands were made of it.

The pandemic also highlighted the unequal burden placed on those who are disconnected or have inadequate connectivity. The question is properly only how fast we can extend connectivity for business to continue, for children to continue to learn, and for people to stay in touch. Social developments, including armed conflicts around the world tested the Internet with attempts to shut it down, impede it, or limit its capabilities. We cannot now doubt, if we ever could, the importance of an open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy Internet.

In this environment of 2021, we labored together to grow and strengthen the Internet. The whole Internet Society worked not only to increase the reach and reliability of the Internet now, but also to ensure its solid future. We trained people to build new networks and solve their own connectivity challenges. We connected communities, strengthened Internet access, influenced policy decision-making, and defended the Internet against attempts to undermine it.

Many people played their part all year in growing and strengthening the Internet. I hope you are as inspired as I am by the stories of commitment and success in this report.

Our task is not over. As long as the Internet faces threats from those who want to control it, own it, or shut it down, the Internet Society will keep striving to ensure that the Internet is for everyone.