

GFCE Triple I: the Internet Infrastructure Initiative

Achievements and Perspective per December 2019

Triple-I is a GFCE initiative with the aim to enhance justified trust in Internet (connection, email and browsing) through awareness raising on open internet security standards and instigating roll out based on good practices and experience.

This initiative is proposed by the Netherlands and has the support of the GFCE community, as well as from members of the global “technical community”. This report provides an overview of where we stand per end of 2019, and the perspectives towards further deployment of the Triple-I work.

Aim was to set up and execute a number of workshops around the world, in collaboration with relevant partners, to develop and demonstrate the power of awareness raising and action planning with different stakeholders in a region together in a room. Since 2018, the Triple-I facilitator has worked with the GFCE Secretariat and the global Internet community to prepare and set up a total of seven workshops and ensure constant communications about progress to the GFCE Community.

Preparatory phase

Following exploratory meetings in 2017 and the first quarter of 2018, it became clear the it was important to have a clear focal point for driving the GFCE Triple-I events, and to have that person both to drive preparations, and to be present on the day itself, locally, to facilitate the workshop. From GFCE the following resources were made available to all events:

- The GFCE Good Practices Document on Triple I developed by TNO in 2017;
- Practical in-person support by the Triple-I facilitator for making the events happen;
- Financial support for project logistics and travel support for a limited number of local experts and other contributors whose participation is important for the event.

In preparation of the events, we developed the following resources:

- 1- A model agenda for the GFCE Triple-I Day
- 2- A model “hold the date” message, indicating date, location and setup of the event, to pre-announce the event and invite subscription

In addition, we have a growing list of inspirational practices to draw from, as appropriate, for inspiring new events. Most contributors to the Triple-I Days so far are available for future events, in principle. The content per event is determined in close collaboration with the local host, ISOC, and other supporting organisations such as the RIRs (in particular APNIC, AfriNIC, LACNIC) and ICANN, and overall we try to find a good balance between local inspiring practices, and more global inspiring practices that offer relevant experience for the specific reason.

Establishing partnerships

How to set up events, and where to organize them, has been the result of multiple face-to-face meetings and email exchanges with people from the global technical community, including Internet Society and the Regional Internet Registries.



Fig. 1 - overview of committed Triple-I support organisations.

Communications

The GFCE website provides the “home” for publications about the GFCE Triple-I events, as well as the registration facilities. Next to a “news” item, the GFCE website has resource pages. Emails in preparation of events are sent out by the Triple-I facilitator, and by the supporting organisations. Communications with the GFCE members are sent out by the GFCE Secretariat.

Next to communications about the events, the Triple-I facilitator has presented the Triple-I activities at request by the GFCE Secretariat at the WSIS in Geneva on March 22, and helped prepare presentations during the GFCE Global conferences on September 19 and 20, 2018, in Singapore, and on October 8 – 10, 2019 at the AUC premises in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In addition, at request of the sponsoring Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy, at a number of meetings of the Dutch Platform Internet Standards.

Workshops and results in 2018 and 2019

Preparations and collaboration resulted in seven workshops:

- 1- 7th of May 2018, during the Africa Internet Summit in Dakar, Senegal, hosted by AfricaCERT and AFRINIC, and in collaboration with ISOC, AfNOG. The workshop was opened by Mr. Nii Quaynor, Africa’s “Father of the Internet” and Internet Hall of Fame inductee, and there were about 50 participants from all stakeholder groups. The results are published at <https://www.thegfce.com/news/news/2018/05/08/gfce-triple-i>
- 2- 25th of September 2018, during the RIPE NCC Regional Meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, hosted by RIPE NCC and Kazach Telecom, and in collaboration with ISOC and SIDN. The panel was introduced by Paul Rendek, Director of External Relations of RIPE NCC, and there were more than 120 participants in the audience. The results are published at: <https://www.thegfce.com/news/news/2018/12/17/second-gfce-triple-i-meeting-kazakhstan>

- 3- 12th of October 2018, prior to the Indian School of Internet Governance (INSIG2018), hosted by the Indian Ministry of Electronics and IT, and in collaboration with ISOC , INSIG2018 and APNIC. The workshop was opened by Shri Ajay Sawhney, Secretary of the Indian Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), and there were about 50 participants. The results are published at <https://www.thegfce.com/news/news/2018/11/12/succesful-gfce-triple-i-new-delhi-meeting>.
- 4- 23rd of February 2019, during APRICOT2019, hosted by the APRICOT organization, and in collaboration with APNIC, Internet Society, and ICANN. The workshop was opened by Kuo Wei Wu, Chairman of TWIGF, Internet pioneer in the Asian region, and there were about 25 participants. The results are published at <https://www.thegfce.com/initiatives/internet-infrastructure-initiative/news/2019/03/29/gfce-triple-i-workshop--at-apricot2019-daejeon-south-korea>.
- 5- June 16th, 2019, the African Internet Summit hosted the GFCE Triple-I Internet Infrastructure Security Day for the second year in a row. This workshop was supported by AfriNIC, AfricaCERT, AFNOG, WACREN, ICANN, Internet Society, and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. The workshop was opened by Mr. Nii Quaynor, Africa’s “Father of the Internet” and Internet Hall of Fame inductee, and there were about 50 participants from all stakeholder groups. The results are published at <https://www.thegfce.com/initiatives/internet-infrastructure-initiative/news/2019/06/25/fruitful-gfce-triple-i-kampala-meeting>.
- 6- August 5th, 2019, the LACIGF hosted the GFCE Triple-I Day in the LAC region. This workshop was supported by LACIGF, LACTLD, LACNIC, LACAAWG, nic.br/cgi.br, ICANN, Internet Society and its Bolivian Chapter, and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. The workshop was opened by Iván Zambrana, the Bolivian Vice-Minister for Telecommunications, and there were about 50 participants from all stakeholder groups. The results are published at <https://www.thegfce.com/initiatives/internet-infrastructure-initiative/documents/reports/2019/09/02/gfce-triple-i-la-paz-report>.
- 7- November 14th, 2019, INSIG hosted the GFCE Triple-I Day for the second time in India. This workshop was supported by APNIC, ICANN, Internet Society, and its West-Bengali Chapter, and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. The workshop was opened by Paul Wilson, Director General of APNIC, and there were about 35 participants from all stakeholder groups. The results will be published shortly on <https://www.thegfce.com/initiatives/i/internet-infrastructure-initiative/regional-meetings-gfce-triple-i>.

All workshops were well received by the participants. The results were published on the GFCE website, including:

- Meeting report ,including suggestions for action as brought forward by participants;
- Presentations, where available;
- Pictures of the event.

Following the workshops, most organizing partners and presenters have expressed interest in involvement in further events. Internet Society (ISOC) is committed to future events, and concrete requests for events in 2020 have come from Asia (India), Africa (Congo), and Latin America (Chili), and further explorations are with APNIC.

Lessons learned

The seven Triple-I sessions were all a success, as such. The Kazakhstan panel was less effective, as it turned out that government representatives in the end decided not to participate to the RIPE NCC hosted event. Major success contributors to the other events included the strong involvement of ISOC, APNIC, ICANN, LACNIC, and other global and regional Internet organisations, and highly respected hosts to open the event (Nii Quaynor in Dakar and Kampala, Paul Rendek in Kazakhstan, Shri Ajay Sawhney in New Delhi, Kuo Wei Wu in Daejeon, Ivan Zambrana in Bolivia, Paul Wilson in Kolkata). The reports of the meetings were well appreciated by the contributors to the Triple-I days. It was good to see many inspired people at the end of each of those events.



Fig. 2 – All workshops are adapted to local habits and possibilities. above: New Delhi; below: Dakar

Overall, the developed approach proved to be working well, and repeatable. The “library of inspirational cases” is growing. Organisations that have been partnering before, show interest to get on board of future events.

There is a big interest for such capacity development supporting awareness and action planning events, and the set up and conduct of the Triple-I events in 2018 and 2019 was well appreciated. This is clear from the active interest to organize again Triple-I events in Africa (in the context of the African Internet Summit in future years), India (in the context of Indian School for Internet Governance in future years), and Latin America (in the context of LACIGF in the year to come). In addition, there is potential interest for such workshops in Indonesia.

I therefore recommend to engage with local organisers in Africa, India, and Latin America early on as to fully embrace the opportunity to establish and further grow the partnerships for the events, as well as get the global inspirational practices to commit to participation and presentations at these events.

During all workshops, a consistent theme was how to support introduction of state-of-the-art Internet standards. For that, the tests developed for the website www.internet.nl have been widely appreciated. In multiple regions the interest has come up to set up regional instances of the Dutch/international website that includes the test-tools. Knowing how safe websites and email addresses are is an important first step in awareness raising. With the integrated information on “what to do to improve”, it is a small step towards further improvements. However: currently, the backend with testing code is not easy to implement in other website. Making this code better available for embedding in other regional settings would IMHO be a major contribution to capacity building and a safer Internet, around the world.

I therefore recommend to engage with Platform Internet Standards and the technical operator, NLnet Labs, on finding a way forward that would allow easy implementation in regional settings, i.e. “internationalization” of internet.nl.

Proposed way forward in 2020

Following the seven successful events in 2018 and 2019, and as there is already an active interest expressed by several relevant partners, it seems to make sense to **continue to support more events in the year(s) to come**. By building on the work done so far, it should be possible to organize at least three GFCE Triple-I events in 2020 by **supporting local organisers that have been involved, before, based on:**

- 1- Experience with and inspiration by earlier events;
- 2- **access to the library of resources for organizing such events** that have been developed over the years;
- 3- access to a broader network of supporting organisations and committed leaders in the global Internet community;
- 4- financial assistance in covering the costs of the local event in terms of logistical costs and contribution to travel costs of key participants.

If this is to be pursued, it would be important to appoint a contact person on behalf of GFCE Triple-I who can ensure the appropriate support for regional organisers. In addition, it would be good to ensure **continued reporting on the events via the GFCE website, continued collection and making available of presentation material used during events, and keeping track of key organisers that are willing and able to help make this happen**. And last, but not least: **it may be good to include an explicit look back at the impact of the events in the region that took place in previous years**. In particular in India and Africa, 2020 would see the third GFCE Triple-I event, and looking back at the findings of the 2018 and 2019 events (in different locations in India and Africa) may result in finding better ways forward.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to be of service to GFCE as Triple-I coordinator. Please count on me for continued support, where useful.

Rotterdam, 18 December 2019



Maarten Botterman

maarten@gnksconsult.com

ANNEX I – Model Agenda for GFCE Triple-I Day

Over time, the following agenda was developed and proved to provide a good starting point for successful workshops. This agenda is adapted to local needs.

GFCE Triple-I Day - typical

<date>, <location>

Starting time: 09:00 registration for a 09:30 start <may vary per location>.

09:30 Opening by Host

Welcome and intent of the day

10:00 Block I: Better Use of Today's Open Internet Standards:

Moderated discussion about the use and usefulness of Open Internet Standards such as DNSSEC, TLS, DANE, DMARC, DKIM, SPF and IPv6 (with invited experts [to be named] in the room to inform participants).

12:00 lunch

13:00 Block II: Inspiration from Good Practice Actions

(We foresee a number of other good practices from the region, and beyond, to be presented during this "Block II", potentially including international speakers such as from ISOC, Cybergreen, M3AAWG, and Internet.nl. This information will be updated as soon as we know.)

15:00 Block III: Planning for a More Trusted Internet: Marketplace for Action

(Facilitated brainstorming using the Open Access method)

16:30 Conclusions and Closing Remarks

17:00 Ends

+++Save the date+++Save the date+++Save the date+++Save the date+++Save the date+++

Triple I Capacity Building Day | The Internet Infrastructure Security Day

Creating a more Trusted Internet experience, together

On <date>, <place>, <host> will host The Internet Infrastructure Security Day; a workshop in which participants together:

- learn more about Open Internet Standards such as DNSSEC, TLS, RPKI, ROA, DMARC, DKIM, SPF, DANE and IPv6, in support of more trusted communications;
- be inspired by Good Practice experience that helped improve reliability of the Internet and collaborative security. Good practice examples will be presented from the region, and from elsewhere that may be of interest in the region;
- with a collaborative foundation, work to develop and commit to specific actions that will help improve the region's Internet economy. For this we will work according the *Open Space* methodology which means that the participants set the agenda, together.

Participants are sought across regional Internet stakeholder groups, including government, business and technical community. Collaborative security is how we build trust in the Internet's infrastructure. You are called to join this workshop in order to improve the trusted Internet experience in the region. You may want to stimulate people you would need to work with as well to register for this workshop. Participation is upon confirmed registration, only, and limited in numbers.

This workshop is initiated by the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (<http://www.thegfce.com>), and is supported by <local supporting organisations>, Internet Society (<http://www.informationssociety.org>), <regional internet registry>, <...>, and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

If you are interested in improving the trusted Internet experience in your region ... if you are eager to meet with like-minded people from other sectors and learn together ... join us in <location> on <date>. Please register using [this link <provided by GFCE Secretariat>](#).

When you register, your data will be used for purposes of preparing for the workshop, and for direct follow-up to the workshop. After that, your data will be deleted, unless you explicitly agree to continue to be involved in follow-up activities.

The day starts with registration from 08:30 onwards for a 09:00 start, and will last until 17:00. Lunch will be provided. A more detailed agenda and speakers' list will be presented shortly.