



IFIP IP3 at WSIS 2020

Abstract

Overview of WSIS Thematic Workshop, Session Outcomes, and Outcomes Briefing

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WSIS Thematic Workshop Proposal

Living the standard – how can the Information and Knowledge Society live to an ethical and FAIR Standard and leave nobody behind?

Held on 15 July 2020 12:00 to 13:00

Topics addressed:

- What role does a Codes of Ethics play?
 - Should an exemplar Code of Ethics, recently created by IFIP, be used as a starting point and if necessary be amended and augmented to suit specific situations? The plethora of Codes of Ethics – some 180+, does not improve the situation and allows people to pick the one that suits them best (confirmation bias).
- Complementing Codes of Ethics with Law and Regulation.
 - As generally Codes of Ethics are not legally binding, have Law and Regulation stepped in to complement the gaps to improve the public's trust in goods and services that use new technologies including AI?
- How can we create Trust in Digital?
 - Should we create and refine a body of knowledge, and an education program around how to behave as an ICT professional? The FAIR principal should dominate, must be included to the benefit of all: FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Although this standard was set for data, it is applicable to every digital resource.
- Does a digitally skilled citizenry drive economic growth in all countries?

The WSIS Action lines C4, C5, and C10 are central in the workshop

- AL C4 Capacity Building - Specifically building capacity and trust in the supply-side of ICT
- AL C5 Building confidence & security in use of ICTs -What concrete steps can be taken by different parties in the wake of the growth of cyber-crime, which has surged during the COVID-19 pandemic? Can IFIP, AI for Good, Rotary and security specialist organizations such as ECSO work together to reduce the scourge? Confidence and trust will be built as the Information Society – including consumers and users - becomes better educated on Digital Skills.
- AL C10 Ethical Dimension of ICT - Digital Ethics and Trust are being spoken about at every level. But how do we live an ethical life, without than having to consult a Code of Ethics. Is Trust reinforced by ethical behavior?

Panelists:

Moira de Roche IP3 chair – will chair the workshop

Jan Lukas Ket – Director, Rotary International

A Min Tjoa– Vice chair CSTD representing the IT community

Don Gotterbarn – ICT Ethics specialist chair and writer of ACM and IFIP code of conduct

Liesbeth Ruoff – member of CEN TC 428 representing the perspective of ICT professionalism

Anthony Wong – Vice President IFIP, technologist and lawyer, speaking on AI

Planned Outcomes

- A comprehensive understanding of the role Codes of Ethics has in ensuring trust in computing, and how everyone in the Information Society can and should live to these standards. The effect of law and regulations on Codes of Ethics and living the standard.
- How do we ensure that all ICT products and services conform to the FAIR standard?
- Actions needed to promote and provide digital skills for everyone, everywhere, and the project IFIP IP3 is working on to achieve this goal.

SDG Links

SDG4 & SDG5 - Trustworthy computing and digital skills to enable learning and economic opportunities for all, at all life-stages.

SDG8 - Digital skills for all which are accessible and FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable

SDG10 - Societies that are digitally skilled will be more competitive, both internally and with other countries

Sessions Link to 15 years if WSIS Implementation

Considering the development and provision of Digital Skills to assist the implementation of WSIS. The role of Professionalism on the Supply-side of ICT to ensure that the goals for the Information Society are progressed.

The challenge that progress is slow, and there is not sufficient promotion of professionalism on the supply-side to promote trust. Twenty-first-century digital skills are not common to all communities. The devastating impact of Cyber-security hampers progress.

The opportunity is to create Digital Skills frameworks for implementation in all societies, in a FAIR way. A second opportunity is to promote professionalism in ICT: professionals are ethical, trustworthy, accountable, and skilled, so this goes a long way to ensuring that products and services are not harmful to the Information Society.

IFIP IP3 Outcomes Document (submitted to WSIS)

1) Title of your session

Living the standard – how can the Information and Knowledge Society live to an ethical and FAIR Standard and leave nobody behind?

2) Name of Organisation(s) organizing the session

IFIP IP3

3) Relevance with the WSIS Action Lines – please specify the Action lines C1 to C11

C4, C5, C7c, C10

4) Did your workshop highlight any issues related to COVID-19? If yes, please explain.

No, not specifically. We did refer to how the world is and will continue to change post COVID-19, but did not specially highlight these

5) Key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, and commitments

We announced the finalization of an IFIP Code of Ethics, which can and should be used as an exemplar.

IFIP and the Rotary Organisation will be exploring opportunities to work together to promote Digital Skills amongst the most disadvantaged. We will do this in collaboration with CSTD.

6) Main outcomes highlighting the following:

I. Debated Issues

- The ethics of “leaving nobody behind”, and how Integrity was a founding principle for Rotary.
- The FAIR standard is perhaps not applicable to developing countries, and needs to extend to include Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility, and Ethics (CARE) (GIDA2019)
- The number of Codes of Ethics that are available (70+ for AI alone), is confusing the issue. If we are to have a code for AI, then should we have one for every other technology and service, such as BAAS (Blockchain as a Service).

II. Quotes

“The commonly held belief that we are ethically good, belief coupled with the ease with which we make most of our day to day ethical decisions leads us to believe in the “Fatal Premise” -“Evil is done by evil people; I am not an evil person and therefore I cannot do evil.” We must take the extra time to consider a [computer] system's potential impacts on a broad range of stakeholders.” Don Gotterbarn, ACM, IFIP

“Digital Transformation across all sectors is accelerated in the Planetary Reset of 2020. This new 5th Machine Age, post 4th Industrial Revolution (WEF 2016), now Society 5.0 (Japan 2019) and Smart Humanity (KNVI 2018), transcends our 2020 shared reality into co-creation integrating for positive change into society, culture, governments, industry, academia. Foundational to this inflection point are standards capturing measurable and assured competence/skills/experience at the professional level, accountability, responsibility, transparency, fairness, ethics/trustworthiness, security, equity, diversity, explainability, contestability.” Stephen Ibaraki, Founder AI for Goo, Director Redds Capital.

III. Overall outcomes of the session highlighting

- *main conclusions reached during the discussion*

Need for Adaptation of Standards to achieve our ultimate goal for a **World where nobody should be left behind**

To “Live the standard”, especially as regards AI, it is incumbent on ICT professionals and professional societies to raise ethical issues and ensure they are widely debated, so that appropriate and intelligent decisions can be made for the changes, risks and challenges ahead? ICT professionals are well placed to address the risks and challenges during the design and lifecycle of AI-enabled systems, and they should assist government, legislators, regulators and policy formulators with their unique understanding of the strengths and limitations of the technology and its effects.

A code of ethics gives voice to values. There should be one or two exemplars that set the standard – these are formed through a consultative process. Substantial Codes of Ethics that go beyond simply saying “Be Good” may help in this process. When much ethical decision-making is unconscious, it is important to raise consciousness when it comes to new situations. Examples of ethical decision making are essential. Enforcement of codes of ethics is the wrong focus, we need to work toward ethics as part of everyone’s “DNA” (living the values).

WSIS 2020

The European vision of “Living the standard” is a shared definition of competence, with transversal aspects: Accessibility, Ethics, ICT Legal Issue, Privacy, Security, Sustainability, Usability We noted that several of these overlap with the FAIR and CARE principles.

Three principles: Always comply with SDGs; Leave nobody behind, prioritise human life, and take care of the most vulnerable communities; Ethics by design.

- ***the vision for implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015***

Within Action Line C4 and C7c: e-Learning, we need special efforts towards:

- People (especially children) with disabilities (special needs)
- Refugees
- Indigenous people
- Local languages
- etc. etc.

Urgently needed are ETHICAL Standards on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence-based Solutions according to Action Line C4 and C7c in:

- virtual tutoring/mentoring for self-learning
- self-assessment
- analysis of data individual learning
- personal interests
- personalized and customizable knowledge acquisition

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (please specify the SDGs)

SDG4 & SDG5 - Trustworthy computing and digital skills to enable learning and economic opportunities for all, at all life-stages.

SDG8 - Digital skills for all which are accessible and FAIR – Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable

SDG10 - Societies that are digitally skilled will be more competitive, both internally and with other countries. This will aid the economy in these countries

- Emerging Trends related to WSIS Action Lines identified during the meeting**
ALC4 Capacity Building, and ALC7c Elearning have been shown to be critical as the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way the world learns and works. ALC5 Building Trust & Confidence is essential in a world powered by Digital technologies as never before.

V. Suggestions for Thematic Aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2021

The “planetary reset” post COVID-19 and the shared reality for positive change in society, culture, governments, industry, academia. How can we deploy digital technology safely to ensure no-one is left behind?

Aligning Education Curricula with the SDGs.

WSIS Outcomes Session 17 July 2020 Feedback Presentation

Key opportunities and challenges

A code of ethics gives voice to values. There should be one or two exemplars that set the standard – these are formed through a consultative process. Substantial Codes of Ethics that go beyond simply saying “Be Good” may help in this process. We must need to work toward ethics as part of everyone’s “DNA” (living the values).

There is a need for standards to be adapted to achieve our ultimate goal for a **World where nobody should be left behind, based on** Three principles: Always comply with SDGs; Leave nobody behind, prioritize human life, and take care of the most vulnerable communities; Ethics by design.

Case Study

Rotary in their quest to serve humanity has eradicated Polio in all but two countries. Although their work to date has mostly focused on basic needs such as clean water, health, etc., COVID-19 has brought the importance of Digital Skills for everyone as a critical issue. Rotary was founded on the principle of integrity, so ethics are not in question. Their 1,2 million members worldwide share their professional skills to support their work – true examples of professionals.

Not really a case study, but something to consider - A misuse of “ethics” is ethics-washing, or ethics theater, where companies give the appearance of being very concerned about ethics to avoid the application of EXTERNAL regulations, and yet do nothing to mitigate or respond positively to those concerns when they do arise. For example, promoting “AI for Good” while developing and selling questionable surveillance software is ethics-washing.

The IFIP Code of Ethics includes three case studies which use the facts from a real case, but then use storytelling to create a scenario of the process using the proactive CARE process: Consider, Analyze, Review, Evaluate (Not to be confused with the CARE Principle which expands the FAIR principle)

Partnership and publications

The IFIP Code of Ethics guide will be launched in digital format at the IFIP General Assembly in September and launched in published form in September 2021 at IFIPs 60-year celebration.

A collaboration between Rotary, IFIP and CSTD is being formed to research how to best roll out “Digital Skills for everyone, everywhere”. A pilot study is in progress in Botswana, investigating the needs of the people. Representatives from Computer Society Botswana and Rotary are involved with this project.