



IEEE Session Report

IGF 2020 OF #42 Personal Sovereignty: Digital Trust in the Algorithmic Age

Open Forum

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TRUST

1. Key Policy Questions and Related Issues

1. During Covid-19, we have seen how digital technologies have been a lifeline for many people in very different situations and around the world. What is your key message about personal sovereignty, digital identity, and data governance?
2. Do you see any changes that are needed in how we fundamentally approach technology development and think about solving problems?
3. What do you view as an important technology or development that you think will impact (and enable) personal sovereignty and our online / offline experiences?

2. Summary of Issues Discussed

Panelists agreed about:

1. Data is a commodity and is generated and, therefore, owned by us, the individual. As such, we have to demand our rights. Trust has to be earned.
2. Enforceable laws are needed, and the general public has to think about how it will give its data to companies. People need to know what is happening to their data, and governments need to protect the people.
3. The need for collective effort on the part of governments, the private sector, civil society, and the technical community to [achieve] personal sovereignty.
4. Data must be seen and owned by us and used with our permission, supported by enforceable laws to help us.
5. Standards can play a critical role in scaling solutions; including in empowering people, in helping to create digital literacy frameworks, which help empower people with the necessary skills.
6. Human dignity needs to be at the core of our thinking whereby the technology should serve people's needs and their communities.
7. It is possible for companies to build customer trust within a model of data sovereignty.
8. Consumer data use that leaves out individuals who do not fit into set profiles is a concern.
9. IEEE and IGF are excellent fora in which to discuss the topic of child online protection.



3. Key Takeaways

1. All actors, including governments, the private sector, the technical community, and civil society, must work **together collaboratively to create tools for citizens**, such as data governance frameworks and machine readable privacy terms for all, to place citizens at the center of their data and to empower them to advocate for their personal sovereignty.
2. AI is being used to measure trends for business, but analysis of trends in health or trends in humanitarian issues **will not happen unless driven by citizens**. One such issue is child online protection, and the panelists agreed that IEEE and the IGF are excellent fora in which to discuss the topic.
3. IEEE helps to educate about the crucial role of **standards in helping to create these ecosystems and tools for citizens**: Standards are building blocks that can make best practices more accessible to all actors in society.
4. Currently available technologies, along with related IEEE communities and standards, **can be used to empower Personal Sovereignty** to become ubiquitous in the age of the algorithm.

4. Policy Recommendations or Suggestions for the Way Forward

1. **What policy sector(s) does this fall under? (leave blank if not sure):**

Technical

Overarching governance issues

Issue and Recommendation:

A model of data sovereignty, built collaboratively by all relevant actors, is needed to create digital literacy frameworks - such as machine readable privacy terms - that serve to build trust among all stakeholders. Every individual or entity is invited to participate in IEEE's standardization work: As a global, consensus building standards development body, the IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA) is committed to increasing trust in the specific sector of A/IS and their underlying and related technologies: Through appropriate standards and other consensus-built products that contribute to transparency, education at all levels of expertise, technical community building and partnerships across regions and nations, thus serving humanity. IEEE offers a process that provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to participate in an open and transparent manner on the key issues, and to work together, in a consensus-driven process, to develop tangible and actionable resources and programs.

Who should take it?:

Governments and the private sector



2. What policy sector(s) does this fall under? (leave blank if not sure):

Overarching governance issues

Issue and Recommendation:

Society can evolve the logic of a physical passport to a digital framework where people can be placed at the center of their data. The creation of privacy by design-focused legislation allows individuals (or their caregivers) to better understand and influence the collection and use of their (or their children's) data. This alleviates the current lack of data sovereignty tools, such as data governance frameworks and machine readable privacy terms for all, and empowers citizens to access, curate, and share their data as they choose.

Who should take it?

Government and the private sector

5. Other Initiatives Addressing the Session Issues

1. Initiative:

Digital Inclusion, Identity, Trust, and Agency: <https://standards.ieee.org/industry-connections/diita/index.html>

Driving innovation by identifying technology solutions that enable all to participate online without barriers and building consensus in the market The IEEE Global Initiative on Artificial and Intelligent Systems: <https://standards.ieee.org/industry-connections/ec/autonomous-systems.html>. Its mission is to ensure every stakeholder involved in the design and development of autonomous and intelligent systems is educated, trained, and empowered to prioritize ethical considerations so that these technologies are advanced for the benefit of humanity.

IEEE Standards Association Statement of Intention:

<https://standards.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-standards/standards/web/documents/other/ethical-considerations-ai-as-29mar2018.pdf>

IEEE's Role in Addressing Ethical Considerations of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (A/IS) The Open Community for Ethics in Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (OCEANIS): <https://ethicsstandards.org>. A Global Forum for discussion, debate and collaboration for organizations interested in the development and use of standards to further the development of autonomous and intelligent systems.

The Ethics Certification Program for Autonomous and Intelligent Systems (ECPAIS): <https://standards.ieee.org/industry-connections/ecpais.html>

Developing metrics and processes towards the implementation of a certification methodology addressing transparency, accountability, and algorithmic bias.



6. Final Speakers

- John C. Havens, IEEE
- Dr. Salma Abbasi, eWorldwide Group
- Moira Patterson, IEEE

7. Reflection to Gender Issues:

The IEEE Open Forum “Personal Sovereignty: Digital Trust in the Algorithmic Age” (#42) did not discuss gender issues as the focus was on digital trust and personal sovereignty.

8. Session Outputs:

- Webpage: <https://standards.ieee.org/events/2020/igf-2020.html>
- Blog: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xPKQhUwpfy-15xrXlkAcK8Tklh4K20GIBKpaOgCx-20/edit#>
- IGF Report: Internal link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eBRROICRNTbLxOqzYdsud7-ilLn7jssJkECdJ8e38TQ/edit?ts=5fada779>
- This IGF Session Report
