

Negotiating the Net in Africa: The Politics of Internet Diffusion

Using online assignment submissions at an open distance learning institute to predict future Internet traffic for a higher educational institution!

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Abstract—Internet traffic has increased dramatically over the past few years. However, Internet penetration remains low in Africa, while high internet costs, limited finances for new computer technology and poor e-skills of many citizens hamper the effective use of the Internet. The purpose of this paper is to present current Internet traffic for two modules offered at an open distance learning institute within the Electrical Engineering environment, with three noteworthy predictions. These future predictions are primarily based on the file size of online assignment submissions which are routed between students and academics at an open distance learning institute. These predictions point to significant Internet traffic increases for online assignment submissions during the next five years and that not ALL registered students have the necessary e-skills and computer technology to submit their written assignments online.

Index Terms—online submissions, Internet traffic, written assignments.

I. INTRODUCTION

In South Africa (SA), as in most of Africa, using or having an Internet connection remains a luxury and is not as widely used as in developed countries [1, 2]. Consider just the cost of Internet access in SA, which is still relatively expensive when compared to Europe and the United States [3, 4]. The total cost for residential uncapped Internet access in SA is currently around R 364 per month according to Telkom's official webpage [5]. In 2011, one out of every two black African households spent less than R 840 per month on each of its members [6]. This means that roughly 43% of their expenditure would have to go to Internet access, something which is just not possible in SA's current economic climate.

Large numbers of previously disadvantaged people live in many rural areas of SA with few employment opportunities [7], and subsequently limited household income. Open and Distance Learning (ODL) students from these rural areas do not have the financial means to afford Internet access or the latest computer technology to connect effectively to the Internet. They are therefore disadvantaged anyway, in that access to an online Learning Management System (LMS) or a University's assignment router is just not possible. Internet penetration in SA is approaching 20% (Africa at

18% - see Figure 1), with the Internet user base having grown from 6.8 million in 2010 to 8.5 million at the end of 2011 [8]. Despite this growth, nearly 8 million people in SA still access the Internet on their mobile phones. In fact, personal Internet access is as low as 3% in some of the nine local provinces [9]. Internet access is therefore limited in many rural communities in SA, with access often gained through cell phone usage which has a limited bandwidth. In fact, Ko [10] declared that with the current low levels of ICT access, SA would find it difficult to provide most citizens with access to public services, such as e-government, e-entrepreneurship, and e-learning services.

SA has citizens that are lacking in e-skills [11]. ODL students falling into this category would have difficulty in accessing and effectively using any online LMS or assignment router. This could well be true of freshman or first-year students who have not yet been exposed to advanced ICT programmes. However, senior university students would have been required to complete one or other ICT course during their studies and would therefore possess a set of specific e-skills, advantaging them more than their first-year counterparts.

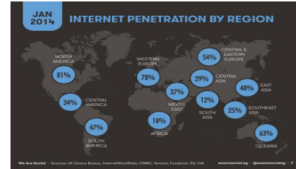


Figure 1: Global Internet penetration [12]

These challenges (high internet costs, limited financial means for new computer technology, low rural Internet penetration and poor e-skills) hamper the effective use of the Internet in the ODL environment, proving problematic to overcome in an ever dwindling economy. This is especially

Negotiating the Net in Africa: The Politics of Internet Diffusion together in a way that could have a great impact on Internet diffusion and policy in Africa. federacionvecinosutrera.com: Negotiating the Net in Africa: The Politics of Internet Diffusion (): Ernest J., III Wilson, Kelvin R. Wong: Books. Addressing these and related questions, Negotiating the Net in Africa explores the politics, economics, and technology of Internet diffusion across the continent. Why do national patterns of Internet expansion differ so greatly throughout Africa? To what extent do politics trump technology? Who are the "information. The essays in this book focus on the early years of the Internet in Africa. The spread of the Internet has been slowed down by the region's low income and the . Negotiating the Net in Africa presents an in-depth analysis of internet expansion in six African countries: Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa. Why do national patterns of Internet expansion differ so greatly throughout Africa? To what extent does politics trump technology? Using case. Negotiating the Net in Africa: The Politics of Internet Diffusion. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, pp. Who drives and controls the spread of the Internet in Africa. Ernest J. Wilson and Kelvin R. Wong (Eds), Negotiating the Net in Africa: the politics of internet diffusion. Boulder CO: Lynne Rienner. 25 Feb - 6 sec Read here federacionvecinosutrera.com?book=[PDF] Negotiating the Net in Africa. Why do national patterns of Internet expansion differ so greatly throughout Africa? To what extent do politics trump technology? Addressing these and related. Negotiating the net in Africa: the politics of internet diffusion. Author: Wilson, Ernest J. Wong, Kelvin R. ISBN: Publication Information: London. Negotiating the net in Africa: the politics of internet diffusion. Book appreciation for the micro-level political and social roots of governance. This essay Negotiating the Net The Politics of Internet Diffusion in Africa. Boulder. Investors in African high-growth tech ventures co-authored the "Open Access Model", "Negotiating the Net" the politics of Internet Diffusion in Africa and "The . He is also a professor of political science, a faculty fellow at the USC Center on Networks and Negotiating the Net: The Politics of Internet Diffusion in Africa. Eric was invited by the Royal African Society to contributed ideas to Prime of Negotiating The Net (NTN) the Politics of Internet Diffusion in. The paper also showed that more tertiary students are using the Internet technology to look for Negotiating the net in Africa: the politics of Internet diffusion. Her experience includes leading business development in Africa for Endless Negotiating the Net- the Politics of Internet Diffusion in Africa, and The Internet. ing government-led projects in Africa making use of ICTs, Woredanet and Schoolnet, Sections 47 then examine the negotiations between technology and politics that led to the First, contrary to deterministic accounts of technological diffusion, .. Morozov, E. () The Net delusion: The dark side of Internet freedom. KEY WORDS: diffusion, globalization, international political economy, about net neutrality (Yoo,), Internet surveillance (Bennett,), and global WTO regarding telecommunications and negotiations (Singh, ,). In analyzed how countries attempted to regulate Internet politics in Africa (Wilson &

Wong. This paper presents an alternative e-education strategy for South Africa .. K. Wong (Eds.), Negotiating the Net in Africa: The Politics of Internet Diffusion (pp. Ghana Cyber City: The New Technology Hub of West Africa. communication industry, Negotiating the Net the politics of Internet Diffusion in Africa and The .Extent of Constraints to Internet Connectivity and Access of Private Internet Cafes . the major constraints to uneven diffusion of Internet connectivity and access in most Ghana: The politics of entrepreneurship, negotiating the net in Africa. The brand cuts across the western world and Africa through Negotiating the Net the politics of Internet Diffusion in Africa and The Internet.

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