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## INTERSECTION OF TECH & POLICY FROM INDIAN PERSPECTIVE

Connections 2024

# TECHNOLOGY



# Present Scenario

New Tech Powers

Growing Geopolitics

Rise of BigTech

Concerns of Sovereigns

- National security concerns
- Inability to shape legislations to protect its citizens and interests
- Rise in Hate Speech, privacy & security breaches, political interference.

# Indian Regulatory Landscape

## Existing Regulations being rehailed

- Competition Amendment Bill, 2023;
- Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023;
- New Amendment of the IT Rules 2021
- Telecommunications Act of 2023
- Post Office Bill 2023
- The Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
- The Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023
- The Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023

## New Regulations being drafted

- -Digital India Act
- -Digital Competition Act

## Strategies being Formulated

- -Cybersecurity Strategy

# Challenge: How do we ensure

Policies are future Proof

Achieve the objectives

Rights respecting

Do not stifle innovation yet protect users

Nuanced

Have adequate Accountability & Transparency for all actors

Cause minimum unintended harm



# The Need of The Hour

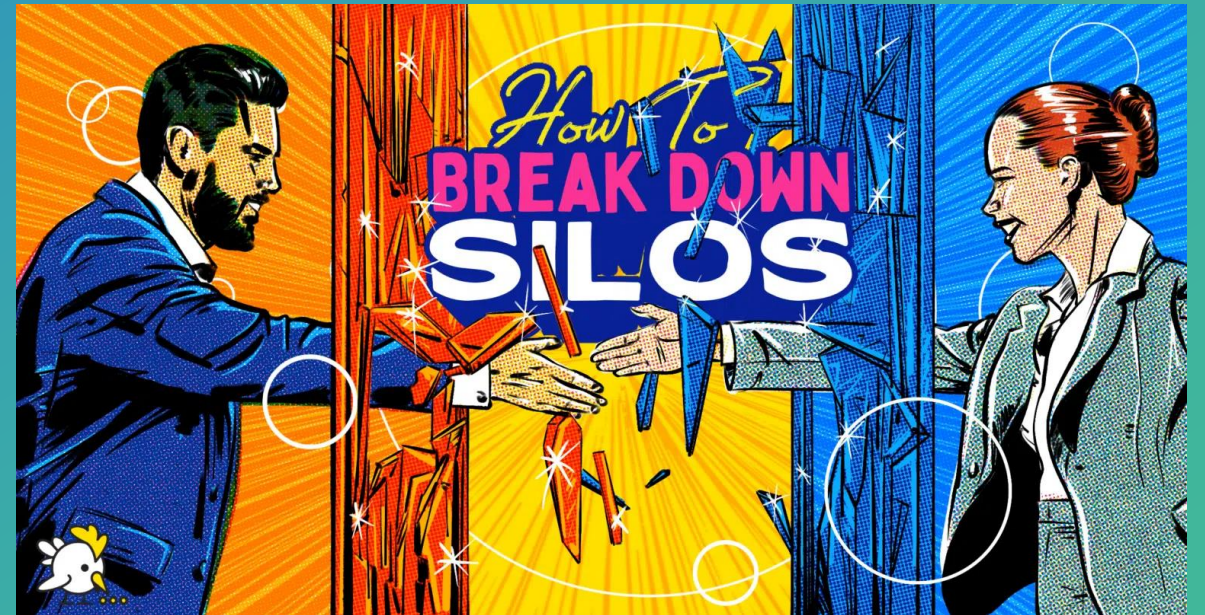
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- Create awareness & build capacity among different stakeholders on:
  - How Technology works
  - How to use tech for good
- Encourage stakeholder discussions to explore alternate options to address current day issues.

# TECH & POLICY CANNOT WORK IN SILOS



# FEW OF THE ONGOING DEBATES



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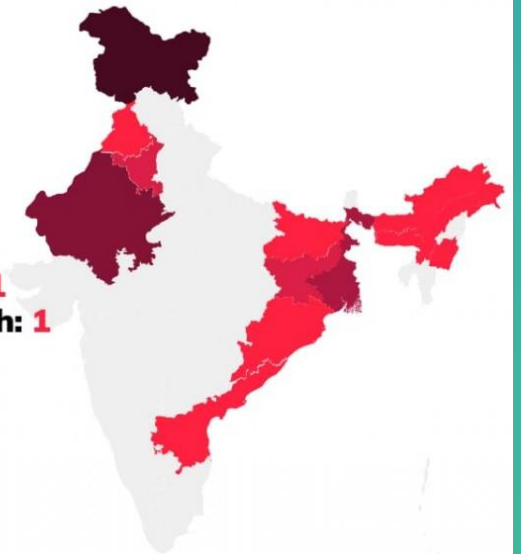


# INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

Number of internet shutdowns in India by state in 2022

#KeepItOn

Jammu & Kashmir: 49  
Rajasthan: 12  
West Bengal: 7  
Haryana: 4  
Jharkhand: 4  
Andhra Pradesh: 1  
Arunachal Pradesh: 1  
Assam: 1  
Bihar: 1  
Manipur: 1  
Meghalaya: 1  
Odisha: 1  
Punjab: 1



Is Selective Shutdown the solution?

# NETWORK USAGE FEES

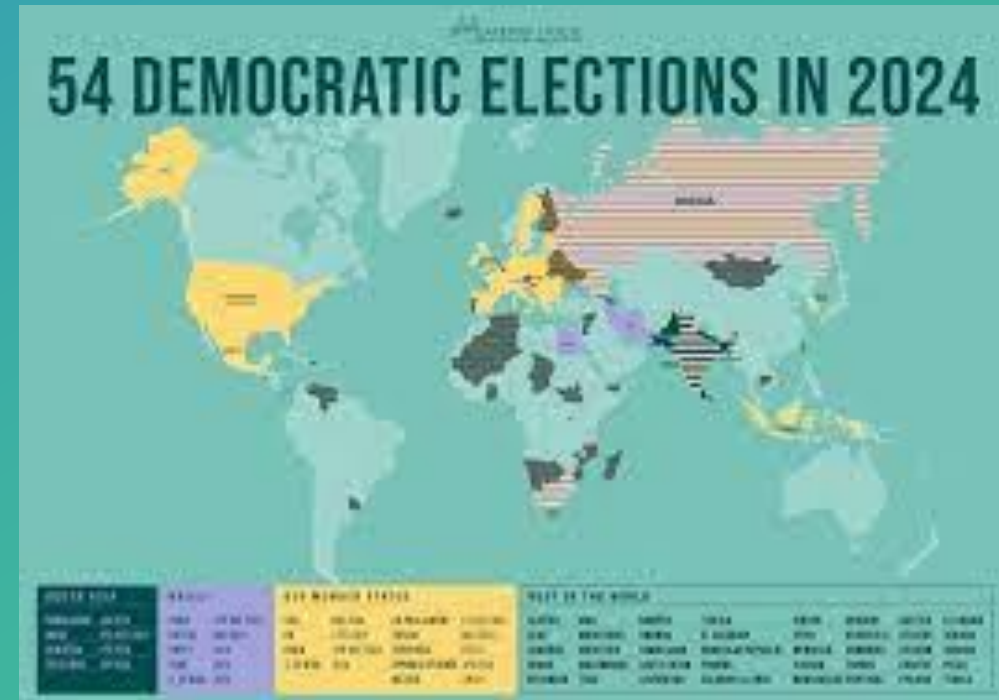




# DEEPFAKES & MISINFORMATION

# & ELECTIONS

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# BEST APPROACH FOR AGE VERIFICATION



**YOUR  
INVOLVEMENT  
IS NECESSARY**



# How to be involved

- Keep updated
- Subscribe to newsletter on Tech Policy
- Share your views on the current debate or forums
- Participate in Tech Policy Discussions
- Share your views when consultations are on

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**ANY  
QUESTIONS?**






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# THANK YOU

You can reach me at  
[amritachoudhury@ccaioi.in](mailto:amritachoudhury@ccaioi.in)

A decorative network diagram in the top right corner, consisting of various sized circles connected by thin lines, set against a teal background.

# How Internet censorship changed in Russia during the 1st year of military conflict in Ukraine



**OOONI**

2024-02-04 Connections 2024 - Simone Basso

# OONI

<https://ooni.org/>

# About

Founded in 2012, the **Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI)** is a non-profit free software project that aims to empower decentralized efforts in documenting internet censorship around the world.

To this end, we work on:

- **Free software for measuring internet censorship.** Through our [OONI Probe app](#), you can measure the blocking of websites, instant messaging apps, and circumvention tools, and you can measure network performance. We aim to empower the public to independently detect information controls on the internet.
- **Real-time analysis and open publication of censorship measurements from around the world.** As soon as you run OONI Probe, your test results are automatically published as open data in real-time [OONI Explorer](#) and the [OONI API](#) enable the public to track censorship events around the world in real-time based on openly available measurement data that can potentially serve as evidence.
- **Research reports documenting censorship events around the world.** In collaboration with our [partners](#), we publish [research reports](#) documenting cases of internet censorship around the world. These reports share relevant OONI measurements and aim to enable human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and lawyers to use these censorship findings as part of their work.

# OONI Probe

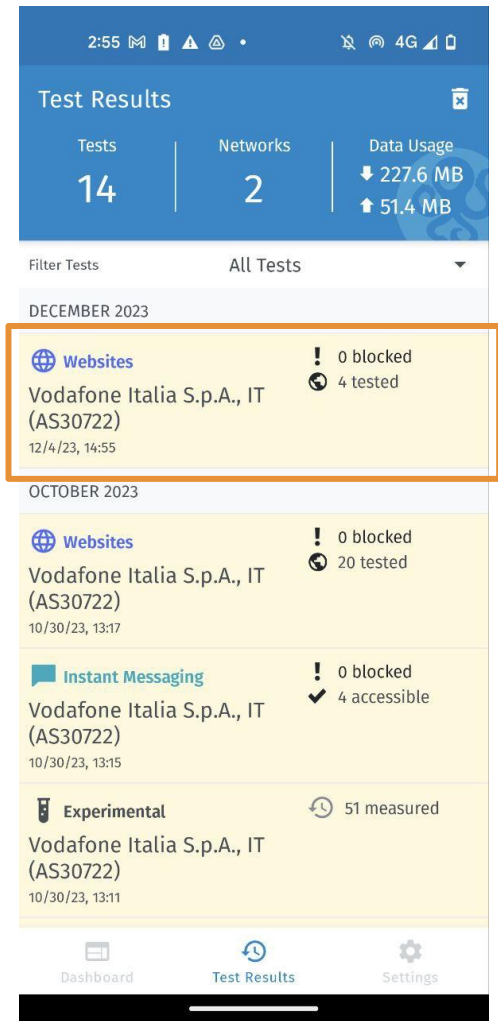
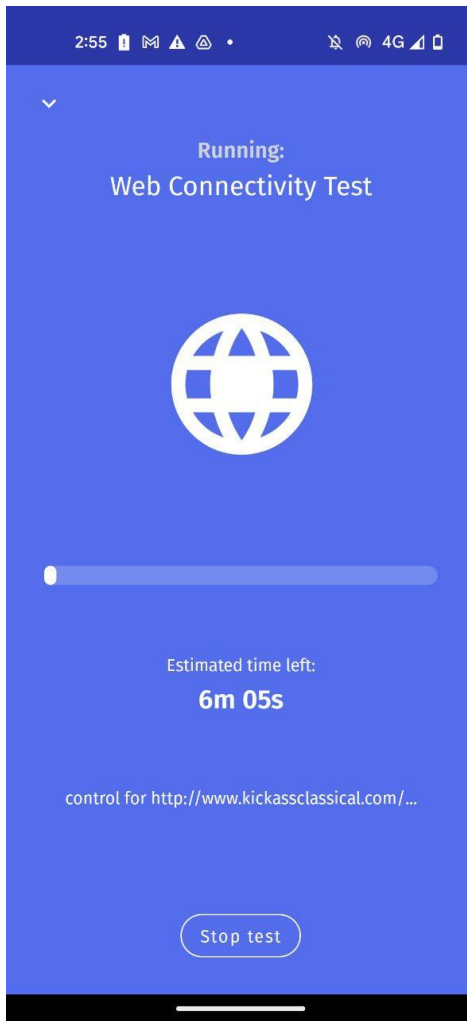
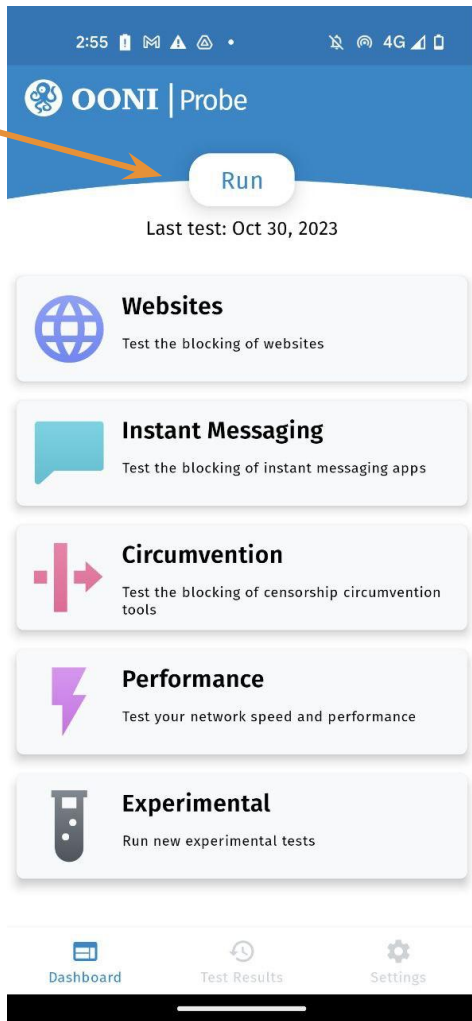
<https://ooni.org/install/>

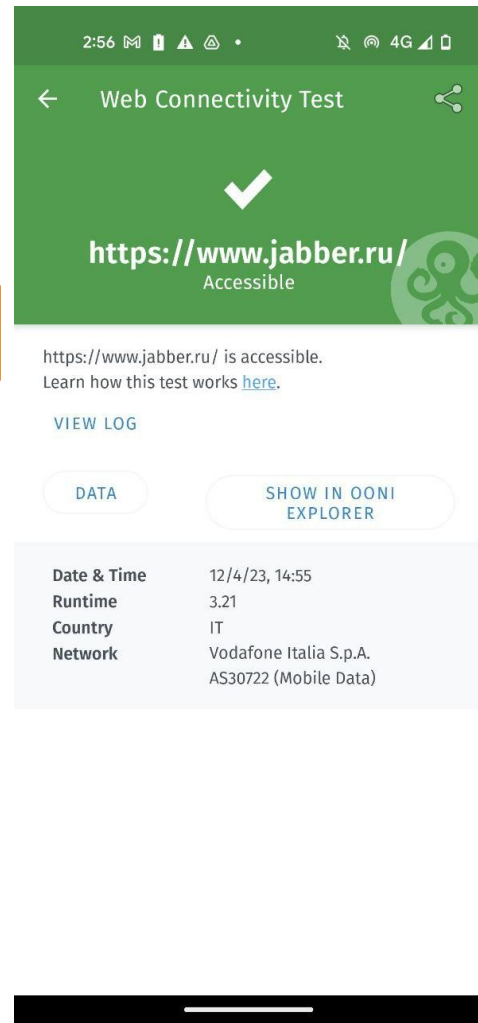
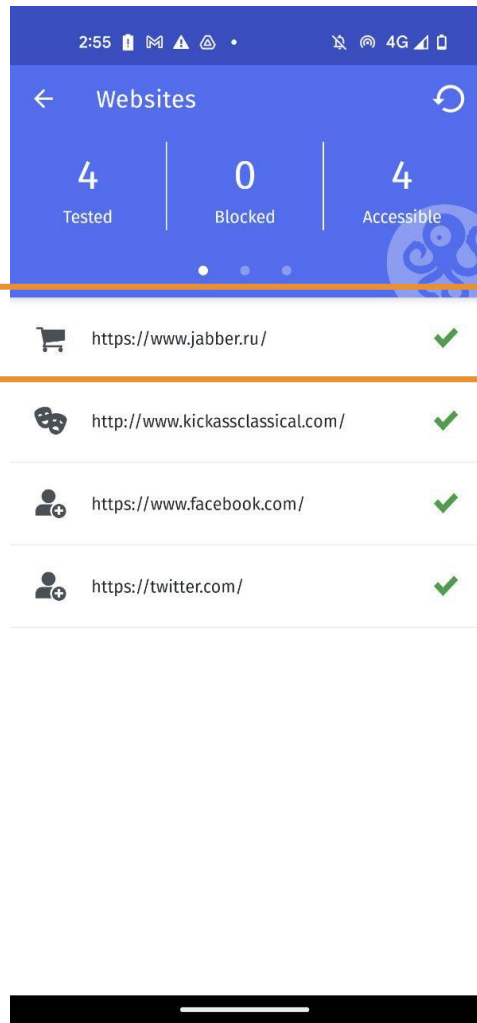
<https://github.com/ooni/probe-cli/>

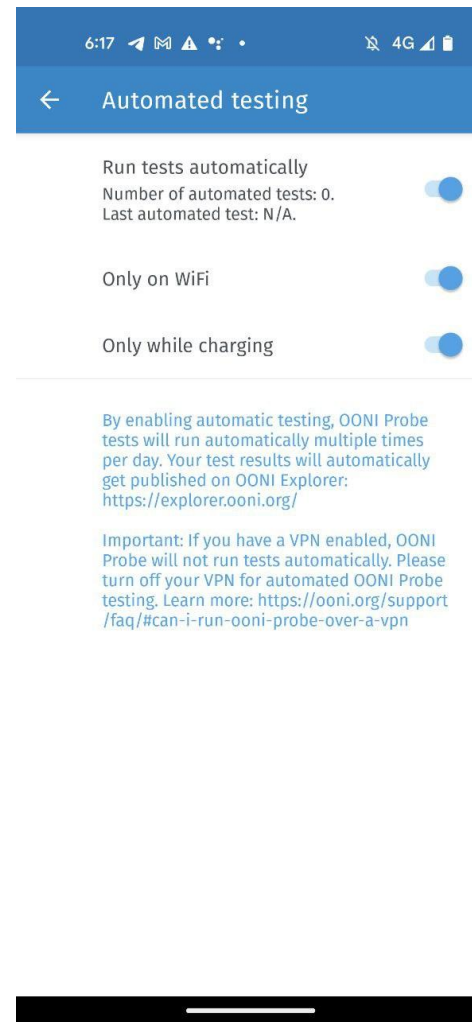
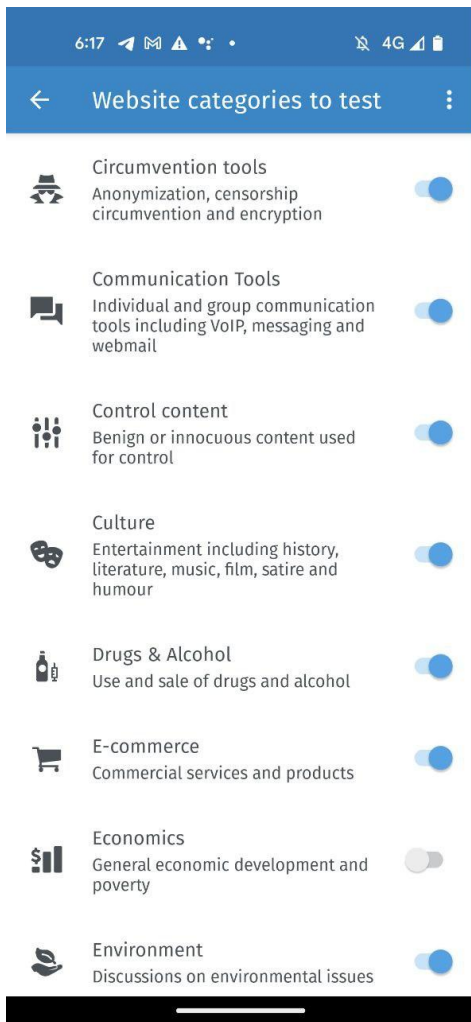
<https://github.com/ooni/probe-android/>

<https://github.com/ooni/probe-ios/>

<https://github.com/ooni/probe-desktop>









# OOONI Explorer

<https://explorer.ooni.org/>

Country

Any ▼

ASN

e.g. AS30722

From

2023-11-04

Until

2023-12-05

Test Name

Any ▼

Website Categories

Any ▼

Domain

e.g. twitter.com or 1.1.1.1











Input

e.g., https://twitter.com/

Status

- All Results
- Confirmed
- Anomalies

Hide failed measurements

US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://cloudflare-dns.com/dns-query...">https://cloudflare-dns.com/dns-query...</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://cdn.sstatic.net/img/home/...">https://cdn.sstatic.net/img/home/...</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://1.1.1.3/dns-query...">https://1.1.1.3/dns-query...</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/">https://www.youtube.com/</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/">https://www.instagram.com/</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://twitter.com/">https://twitter.com/</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Web Connectivity Test	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/">https://www.facebook.com/</a>	Accessible
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 15:07 UTC	Tor Snowflake Test		Anomaly
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 14:57 UTC	STUN Reachability	<a href="stun://stun.l.google.com:19302">stun://stun.l.google.com:19302</a>	
US		AS 33363	2023-12-04 14:57 UTC	STUN Reachability	<a href="stun://stun.voys.nl:3478">stun://stun.voys.nl:3478</a>	

December 4, 2023 at 1:55:19 PM UTC



VERIFY

✓OK

<https://www.jabber.ru/>



Italy

AS30722 Vodafone Italia S.p.A.

WEBSITES

Web Connectivity Test

Runtime: 3.2s

Share on Facebook or Twitter

On December 4, 2023 at 1:55:19 PM UTC, <https://www.jabber.ru/> was accessible when tested on AS30722 in Italy.

### Failures



HTTP Experiment

✓ null

DNS Experiment

✓ null

Control

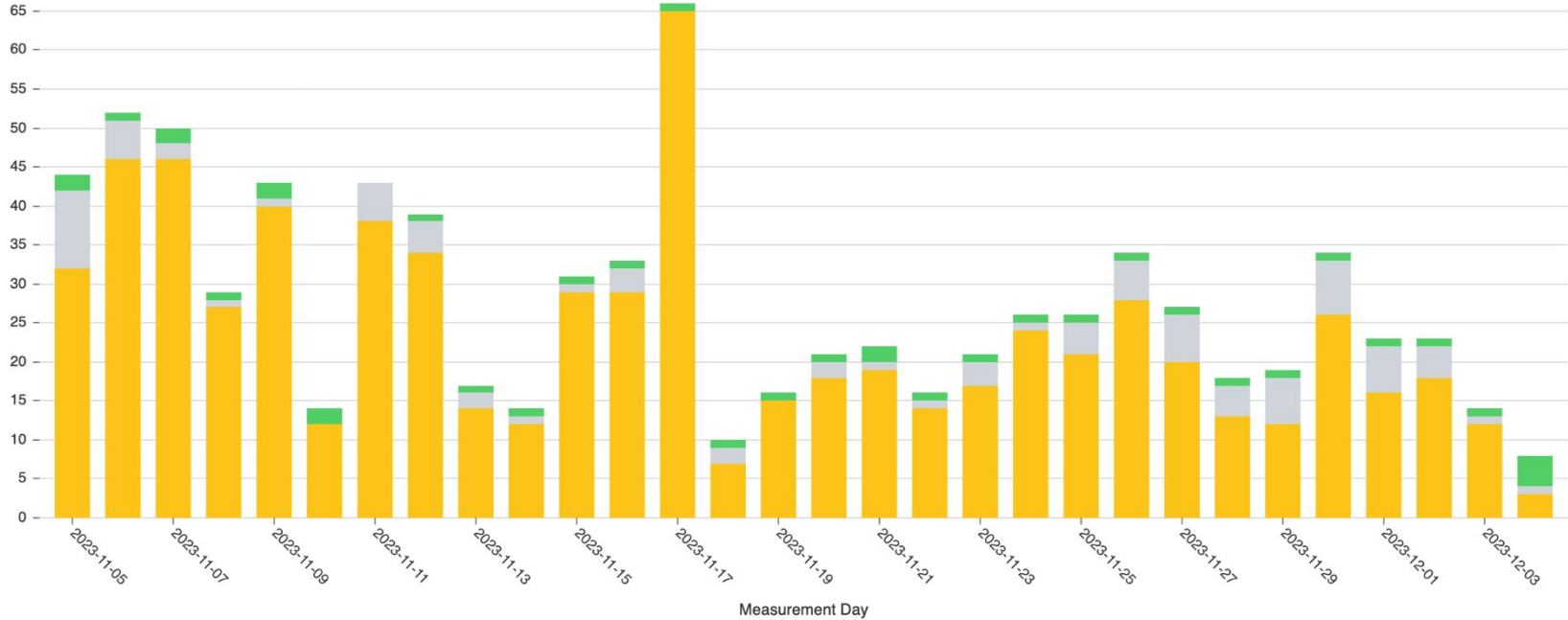
✓ null

# Web Connectivity Test, twitter.com

China



OK Confirmed Anomaly Failure



[JSON Data](#) [CSV Data](#)

MAT = Measurement Aggregation Toolkit

# Test Lists

<https://test-lists.ooni.org/>

<https://github.com/citizenlab/test-lists/>

# Test List

 Italy
 ▼

## Add new URL

**URL\***

**Category\***

▼
**Notes**


Add

URL	Category	Date Added	Source	Notes
<a href="http://www.torrentdownload.ws/">http://www.torrentdownload.ws/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  
<a href="http://torrentroom.com/">http://torrentroom.com/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  
<a href="http://www.torrentroom.com/">http://www.torrentroom.com/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  
<a href="http://torrentvia.com/">http://torrentvia.com/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  
<a href="http://www.torrentvia.com/">http://www.torrentvia.com/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  
<a href="http://yourbittorrent.com/">http://yourbittorrent.com/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  
<a href="http://movie2k.tv/">http://movie2k.tv/</a>	File-sharing <sup>1</sup>	Apr 12, 2017		Site reported to be blocked by AGCOM - Italian Authority on Communication  

agrabeli Merge pull request #1645 from ooni/user-contribution/1669c14... 9be191e · 2 days ago 4,681 Commits

.github/workflows	moved to workflows dir and renamed some parts for clarity	4 years ago
lists	Added <a href="https://factfocus.com/">https://factfocus.com/</a> to PK.csv	2 days ago
output	Add output directory to use for writing json files to	9 years ago
scripts	Fix error message	3 months ago
.gitignore	Bump travis	7 years ago
README.md	Link the list of categories from README.md	2 years ago

README

# Usage

### About

URL testing lists intended for discovering website censorship

- csv
- csv-files
- censorship
- network-test
- network-measurement

- Readme
- Activity
- Custom properties
- 390 stars
- 47 watching
- 338 forks

Report repository

### Releases

No releases published  
[Create a new release](#)

# Web Connectivity

<https://github.com/ooni/spec/blob/master/nettests/ts-017-web-connectivity.md>



## Specification version number

---

2024-01-30-001

- *status*: current

## Specification name

---

Web connectivity

## Test preconditions

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- An internet connection
- The ability to reach the web connectivity test helper

## Expected impact

https://www.example.com/

getaddrinfo  
"www.example.com"

<<fork>>

Connectivity  
part

TCPConnect  
93.184.216.34

TCPConnect  
2606:2800:[...] ]

TestHelper API call  
https://www.example.com/  
93.184.216.34  
2606:2800:[...] ]

TLShandshake  
"www.example.com"

TLShandshake  
"www.example.com"

<<join>>

web part

HTTP GET Following Redirects  
"https://www.example.com/"

# **How Internet Censorship Changed in Russia during the 1st year of the conflict in Ukraine**

<https://ooni.org/post/2023-russia-a-year-after-the-conflict/>

# How Internet censorship changed in Russia during the 1st year of military conflict in Ukraine

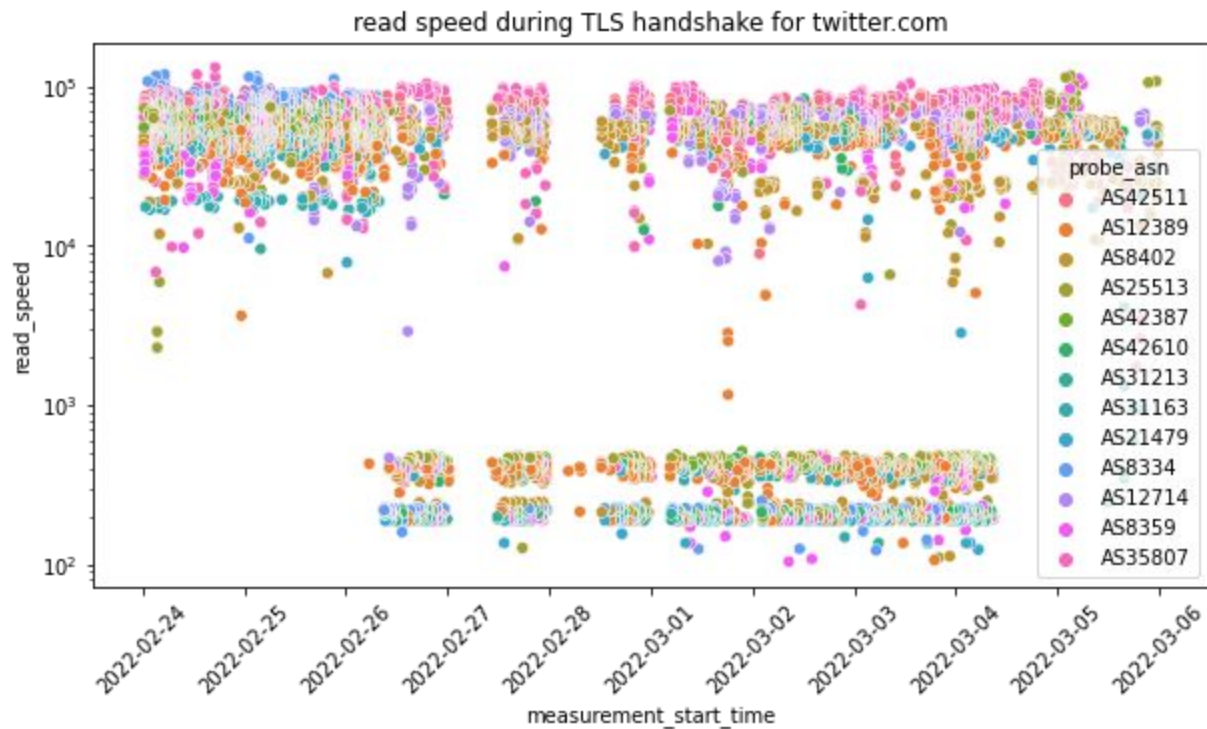
Roskomsvoboda, OONI, 2023-02-24

## Translation(s):

- [ru: Год военной цензуры в России](#)

As of today, last year, Russia started its [military operation in Ukraine](#). This was followed by increased levels of internet censorship, as Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Russia started [blocking access to several news media websites](#). In early March 2022, OONI published a [report](#) documenting these blocks, as well as the [blocking of a site](#) (200rf.com) that shares information about captured and killed Russian soldiers in Ukraine. OONI also reported that Russian ISPs started [throttling access to Twitter](#) on 26th February 2022, and switched to [blocking](#) it by 4th March 2022 – at which point, they also started [blocking access to Facebook](#).

# Twitter throttling in 2022



## Key Findings

Our analysis of [OONI Web Connectivity measurements collected from Russia](#) between January 2022 to February 2023 shows the **blocking of 494 domains**, 48 of which do not appear to be included in [Roskomnadzor's official blocking registry](#). Overall, the blocked domains fall under a wide range of 28 different categories, suggesting pervasive levels of internet censorship in Russia.

New blocks that emerged over the last year include:

- Blocking of **international human rights websites** ([Human Rights Watch](#) and [Amnesty International](#));
- Blocking of **Russian human rights websites** ([Moscow Helsinki Group](#));
- Blocking of **investigative journalism** ([Agentura.Ru](#)) and **independent news media** sites ([The Bell](#));
- Blocking of [Instagram](#), [SoundCloud](#), and [Patreon](#).

Access to the Tor Project's website was [temporarily unblocked](#) (between 15th to 28th July 2022), while several discontinued sites have been unblocked (possibly as part of a “blocklist cleanup”).



ROSKOMNADZOR

## UNIFIED REGISTER

of the domain names, website references  
and network addresses that allow identifying websites containing information  
circulation of which is forbidden in the Russian Federation

Viewing the register

Accepting messages

To hosting providers

To Service Providers

### Decree #1101 of the Government of the Russian Federation dated October 26, 2012, Moscow

"On the Uniform Automated Information  
System of the Russian Internet Blacklist".  
Regulations on Establishing, Building, and  
Maintaining the Uniform Automated  
Information System of the Russian Internet  
Blacklist" [PDF \(rus\)](#)

### Extracts from Federal Law #149-FZ dated July 27, 2006

"On Information, Information Technologies,  
and Information Protection" setting forth the  
procedure to establish, build, and maintain  
the Uniform Automated Information System  
of the Russian Internet Blacklist" [PDF](#) ; [DOC](#)

### The procedure

for cooperation between the Blacklist  
Operator with the hosting provider [PDF](#) ;  
[DOC](#)

You may receive **data** on the Unified Register of the domain names, website references and network  
addresses that allow identifying websites containing information circulation of which is forbidden in the  
Russian Federation through the application published below.

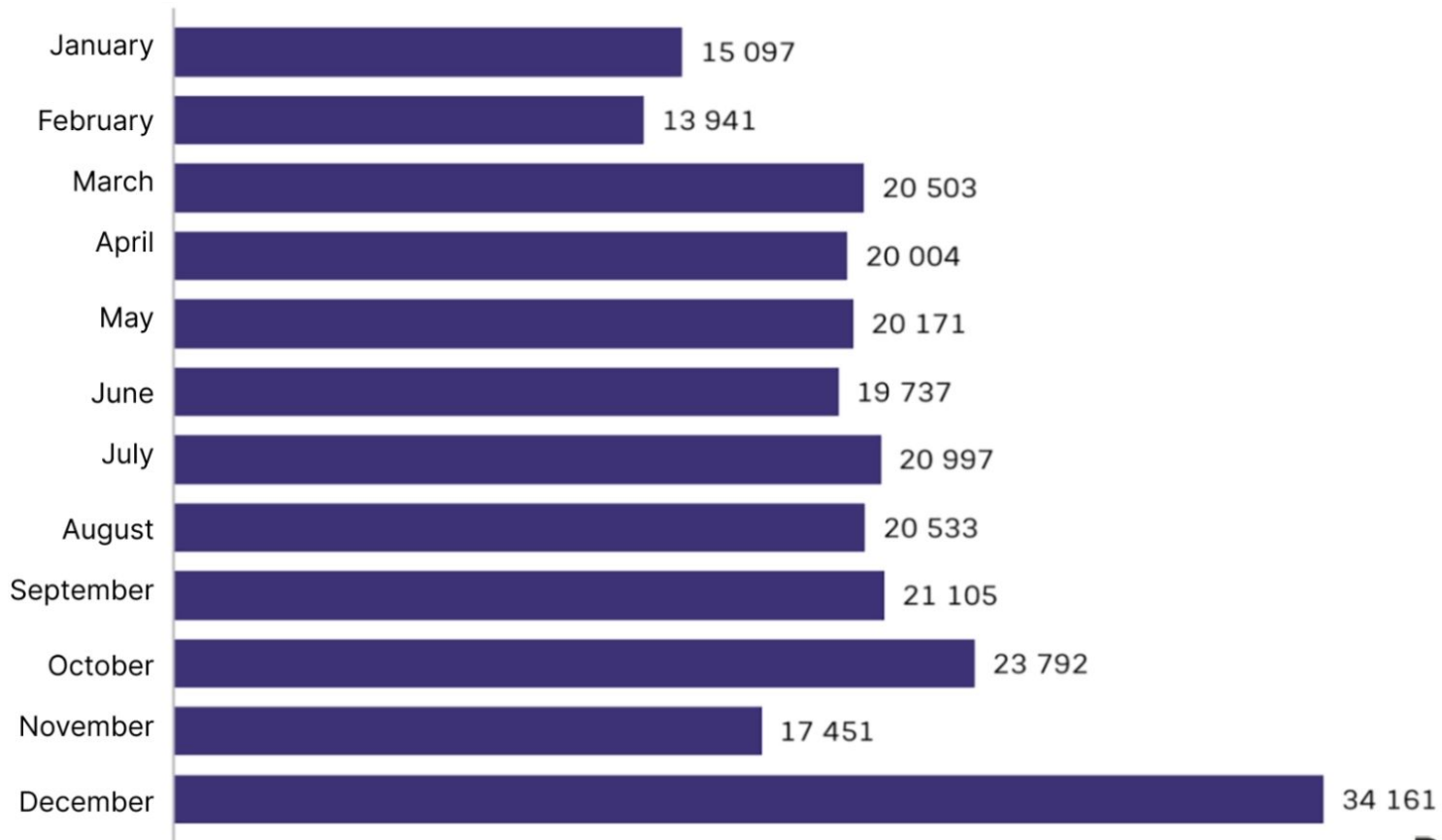
### Resource

Examples: [1.2.3.4](#) (for ip address)  
[domain-xxx.ru](#) (the domain name)  
[http://www.domain-xxx.ru/news/?id=2](#) (URL address)

### Protection code:

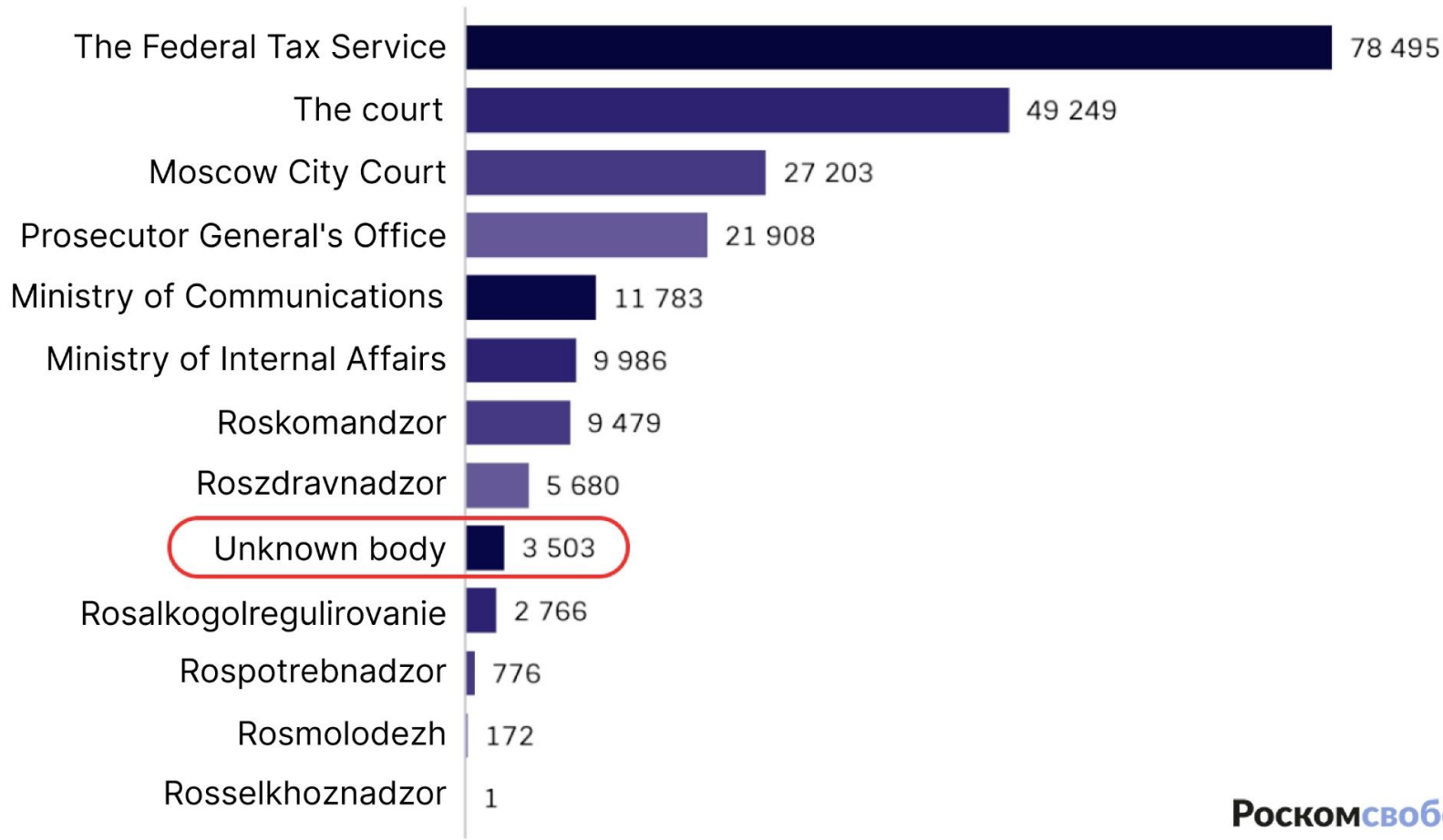


Find



Additions to Roskomnadzor's block list by month in 2022



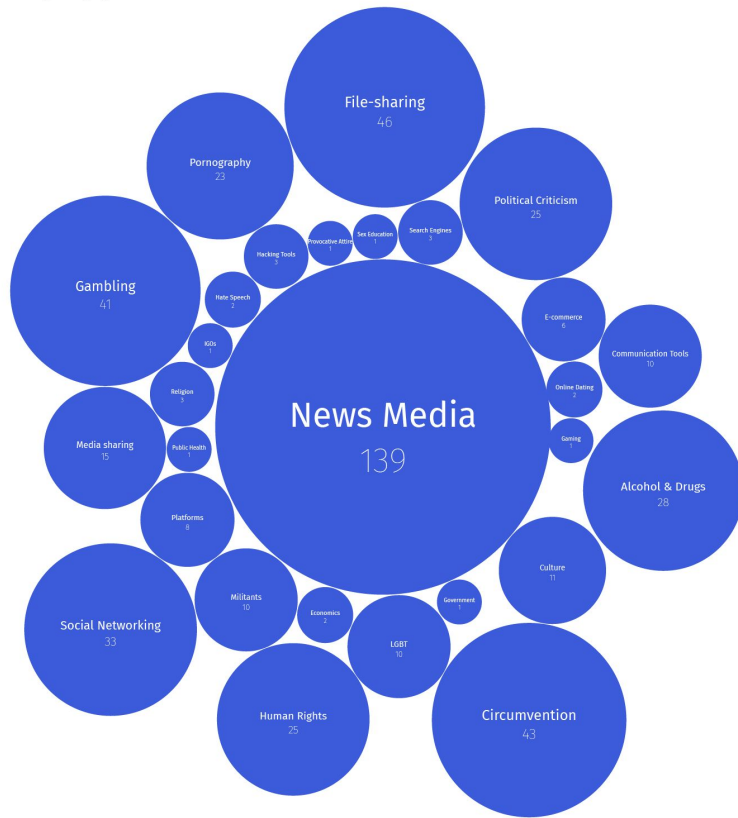


# Blocked Websites\*

\*Based on fingerprinting and limited by our test lists composition

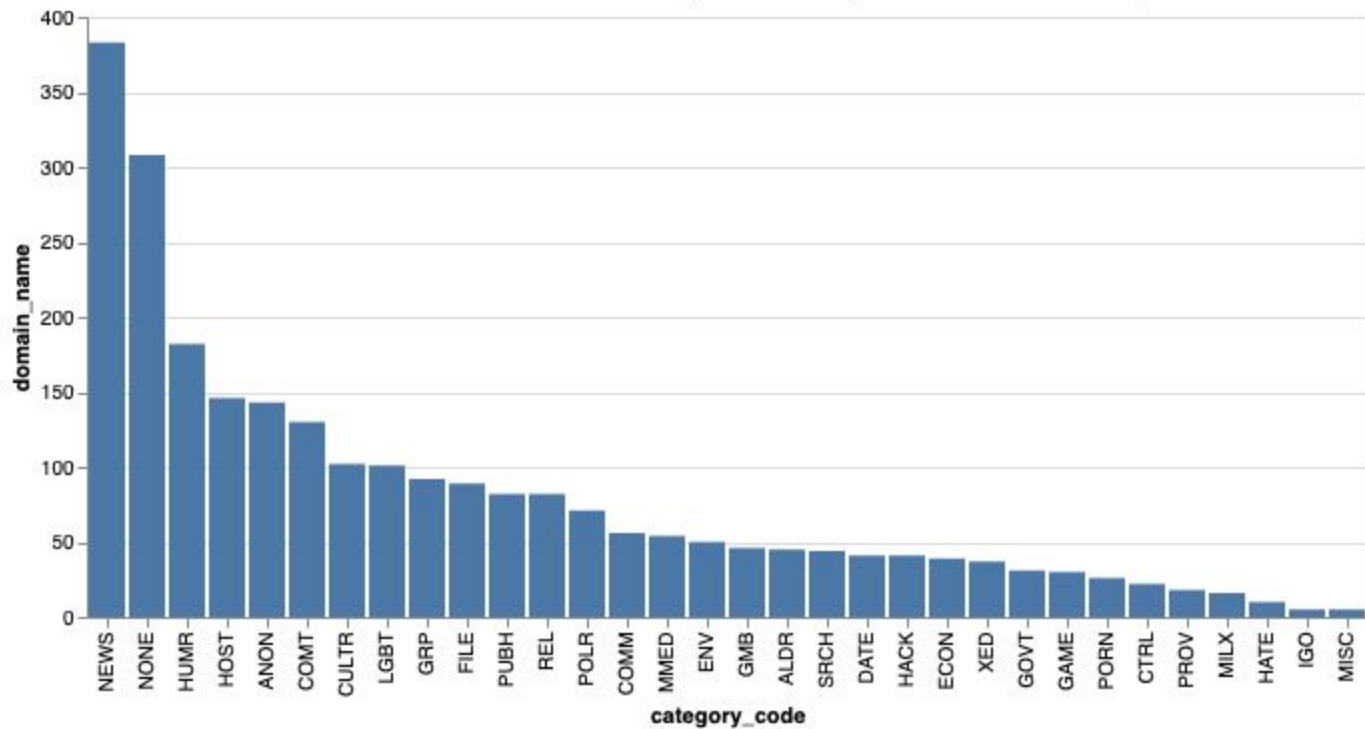
# Categories of restricted content in Russia

Domains found to be blocked in Russia from January 2022 to February 2023 by category.



Source: OONI measurements from 1st Jan 2022 to 15th Feb 2023

Domains with sufficient coverage in Russia (2022-01-01 - 2023-01-20)



# **Notable changes in blocking over time**

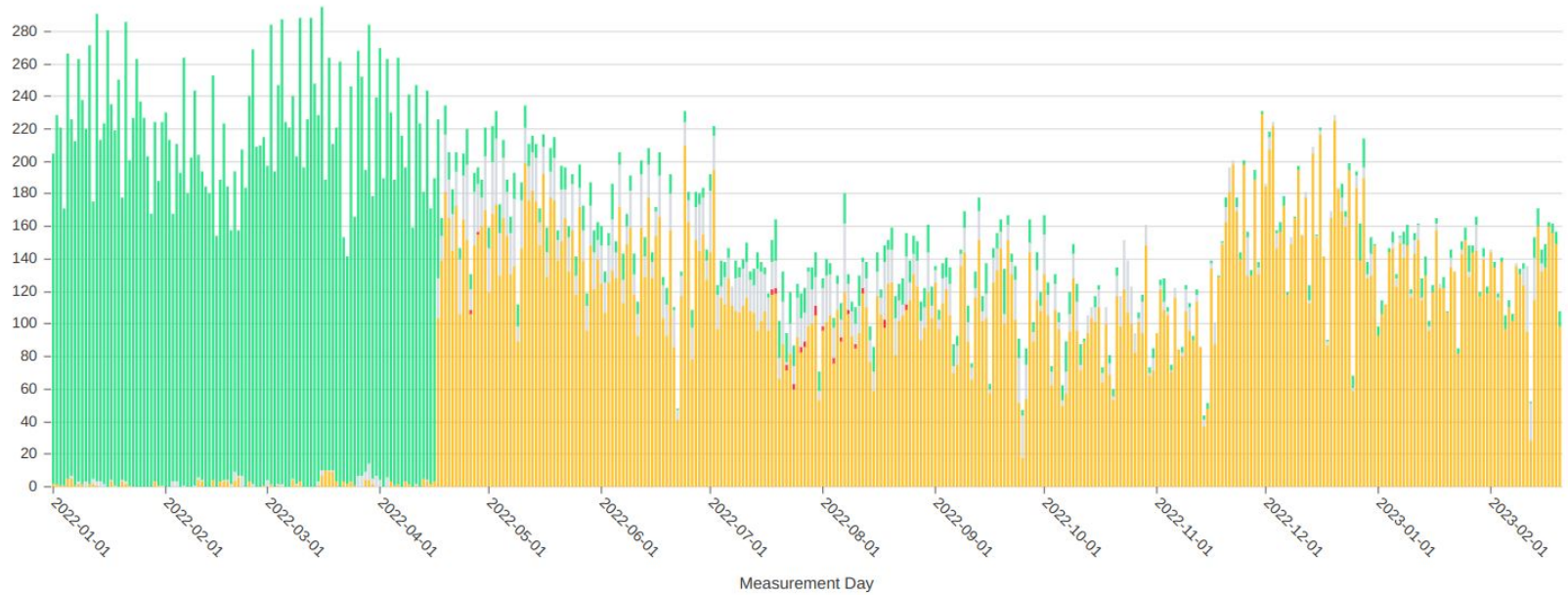
- Human Rights
  - Human Rights Watch
  - Amnesty International
  - Moscow Helsinki Group
- Investigative journalism and news media
  - Argentura.ru
  - The Bell news media website
  - Hromadske.ua (Ukrainian News Media website)
- YouTube (potential block)
- SoundCloud
- Patreon
- Tor Project (temporary unblocking)
- Other cases of unblocking



# Russia

Web Connectivity Test, www.hrw.org

OK Count Confirmed Count Anomaly Count Failure Count

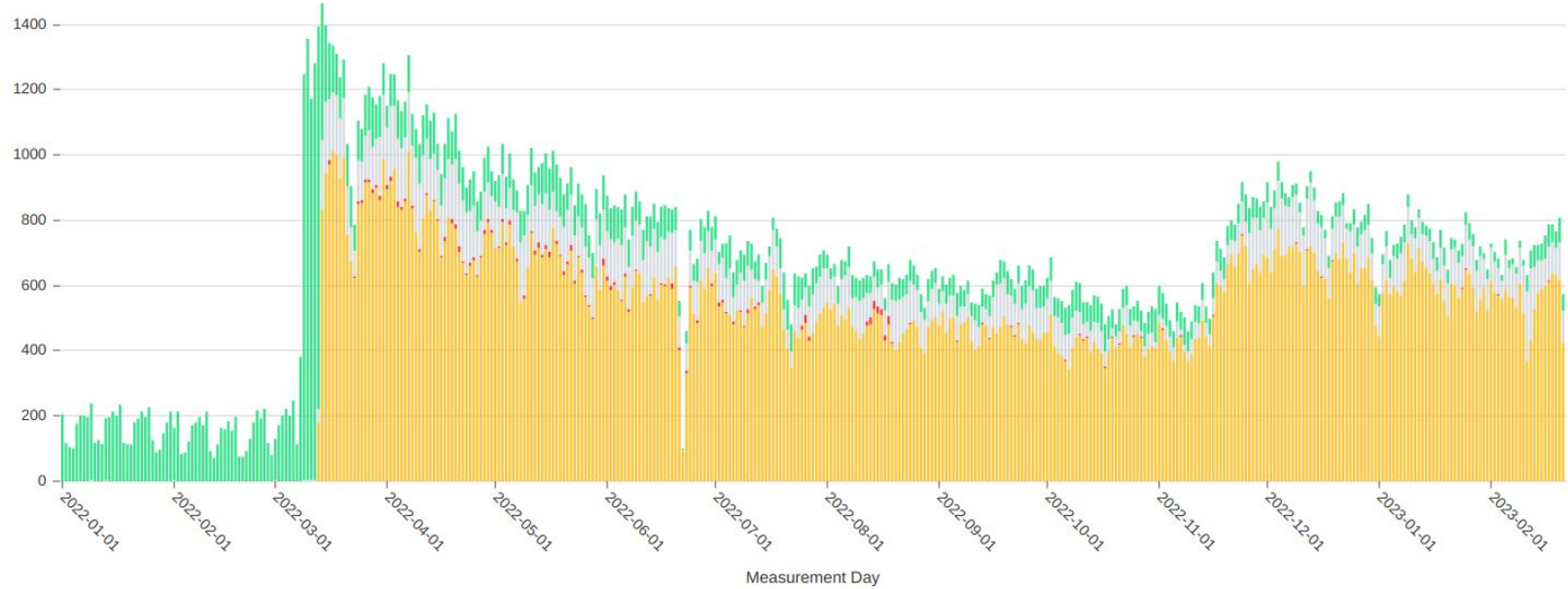




# Russia

Web Connectivity Test, www.instagram.com

OK Count   Confirmed Count   Anomaly Count   Failure Count

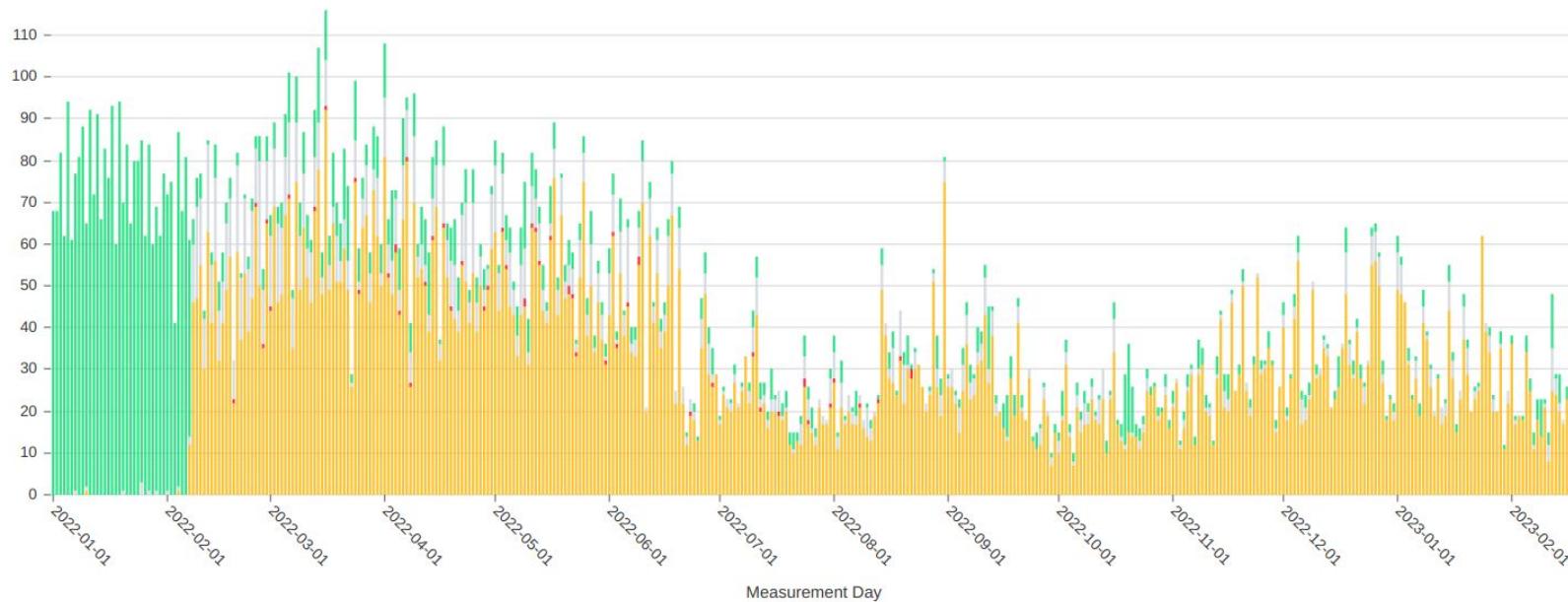




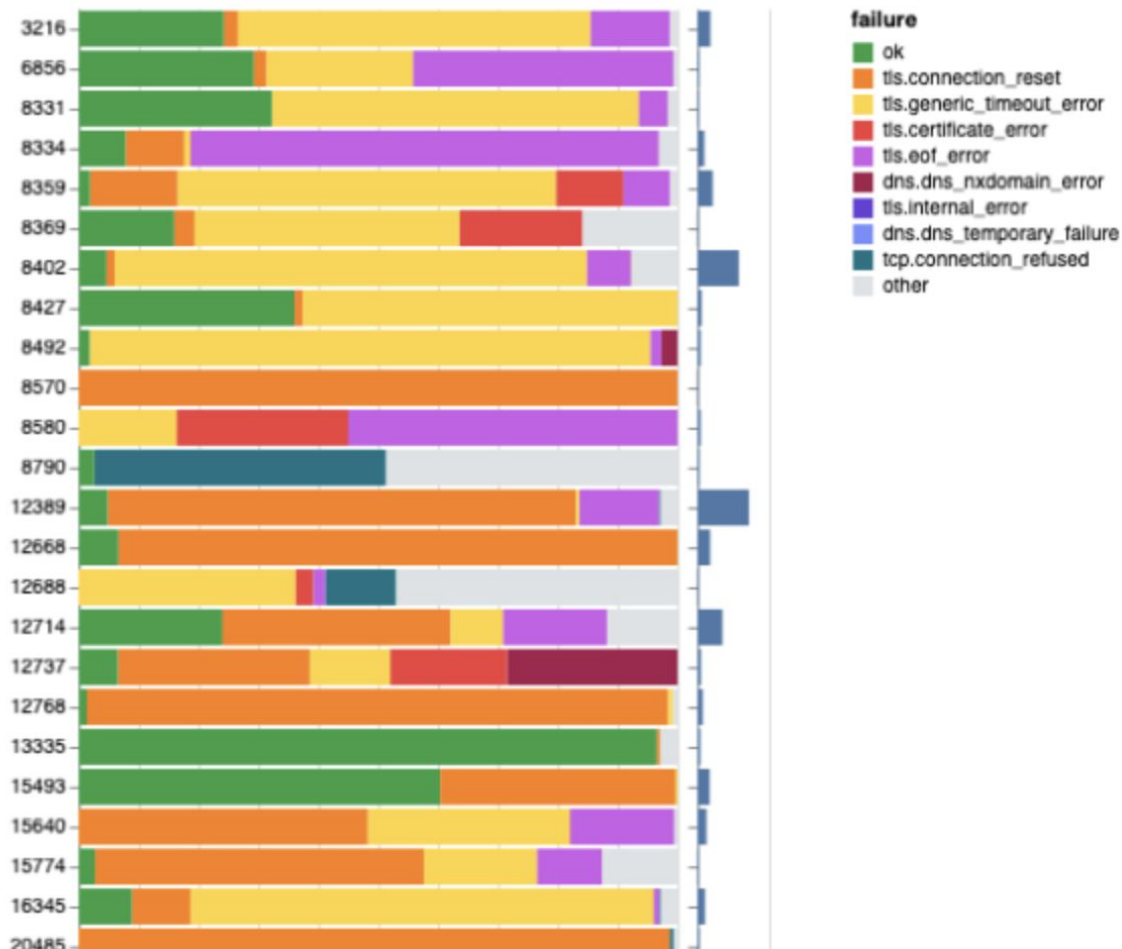
# Russia

Web Connectivity Test, hromadske.ua

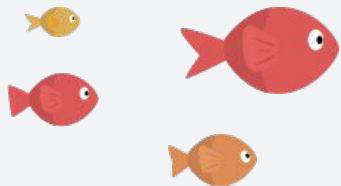
OK Count Confirmed Count Anomaly Count Failure Count



Failures for hromadske.ua in Russia by ASN  
7th Feb 2022 to 18th Feb 2023



# Thank you!



- <https://ooni.org/>
- [simone@ooni.org](mailto:simone@ooni.org)

