The Internet in Cuba – bad news; good news

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Blog on the Cuban Internet: http://laredcubana.blogspot.com/

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http://som.csudh.edu/fac/lpress/presentations/statedepartmentpanel.pptx

The Cuban Internet in context, 2016

UNDP Human
Development Index
LA&C

Chile
Argentina
Barbados
Uruguay
Bahamas
Panama
Antiqua and Barbuda
Trinidad and Tobago
Costa Rica
Cuba

Source

Freedom House
Internet Freedom rank
65 countries

Cuba
Uzbekistan
Ethiopia
Iran
Syria
China

Source

ITU ICT Development
Index (IDI)
175 countries.

Cuban Rank

IDI: 135
Access: 167
Use: 150
Skills: 57

Source

Discussion from 2014 reports

Freedom House country report for Cuba

Internet Freedom Scores

Overall Score

79/100

Obstacles to Access
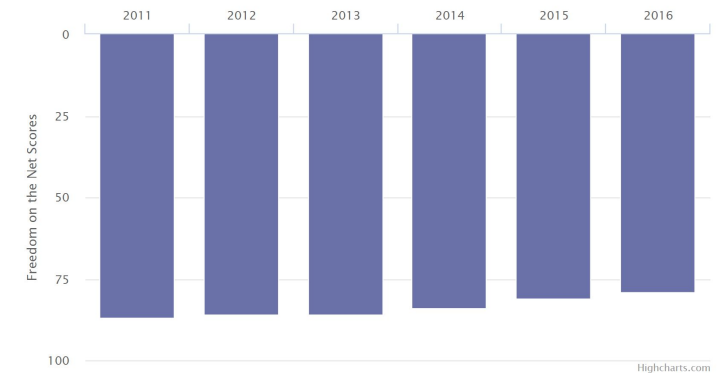
21/25

Limits on Content

26/35

Violations of User Rights

32/40

(Freedom on the Net Score:
0=Most Free, 100=Less Free)

Quick Facts

Population:	11.4 million
Internet Penetration:	5-31 percent
Social Media/ICT Apps Blocked:	Yes
Political/Social Content Blocked:	Yes
Bloggers/ICT Users Arrested:	Yes
Press Freedom Status:	Not Free

FOTN Score over Time

Highcharts.com

Freedom on the Net Scores

2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016

Source

The dictator's dilemma and the special period

One telex can cost twelve dollars [whereas] the same message costs 75 cents in the form of a fax and 3 cents via the Internet ... in spite of our blockaded circumstances, we are in a relatively good position [to face the challenges of such scientific and technological changes], due to the educational and scientific work developed by the revolution.
Carlos Lage, Executive Secretary of the Council of MinistersMarch, 1966

Glasnost which undermined the USSR and other socialist countries consisted in handing over the mass media, one by one, to the enemies of socialism.
Raúl Castro, October, 1997

What is the problem?

1996: fear of political and cultural impact and $$$

Today: power, greed, bureaucracy and $$$

[Source](#)

So the Cubans are trying to **maintain control.** They're not interested in democracy they're not interested in respecting the rights of people but they realize they have to have a better economic relationship with the US. …. Raúl Castro is like "I am going to open up, but **I am going to open up as little as I can and hold on for as long as I can**"... The Cubans are trying desperately to hold on to control, and they are finding it harder and harder to do.

Dan Restrepo was Special Assistant to President Obama and Senior Director for Western Hemisphere Affairs, The White House

[Source](#)

Hyped, obsolete drops in the bucket

353 WiFi hotspots

ETECSA home – 358 paid subscribers

3G mobile trial

Kcho + Google hotspot

Source

Source

Source

Source

An opportunity to leapfrog technology

Disappointment after President Obama's trip to Cuba

- Stripe assistance to entrepreneurs
- CISCO network training at UCI
- Google wireless

- Even tractors will be made in Alabama

[Source](#)

China (Huawei) won the first infrastructure round

Undersea cable

Basckbone network

Public access

Home Internet

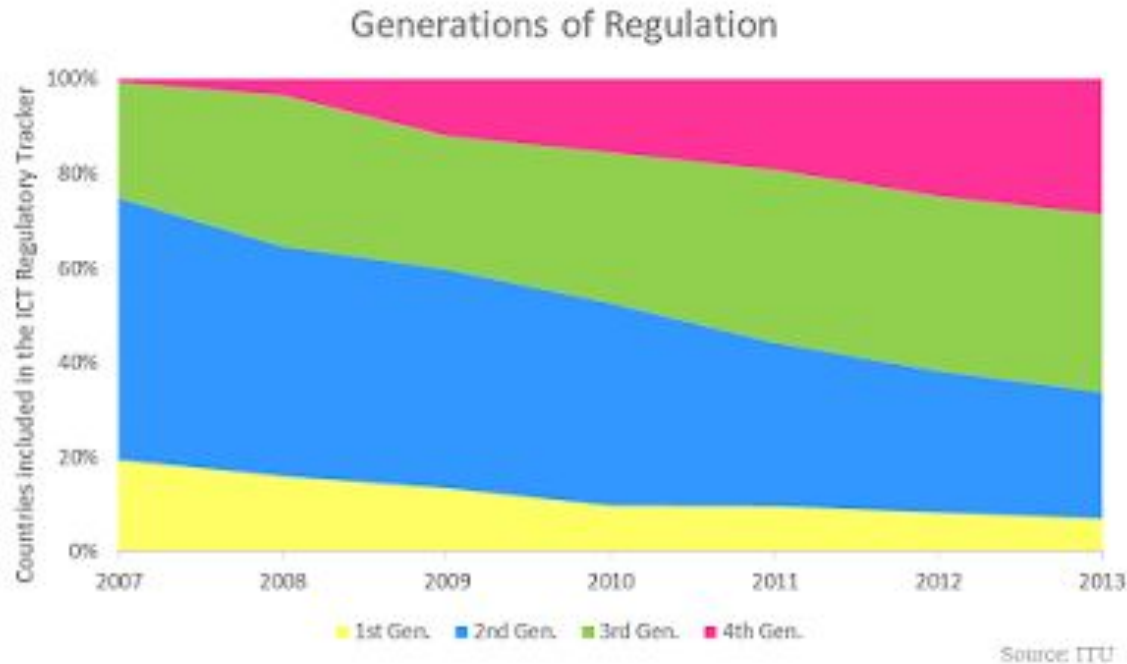User devices

Huawei office location

Other suppliers

- Cisco in the beginning
- Selective enforcement of restrictions by Trump?

Infrastructure ownership and regulation

Generations of Regulation

Source: ITU

- G1: Regulated public monopolies – command and control approach
- G2: Basic reform – partial liberalization and privatization across the layers
- G3: Enabling investment, innovation and access – dual focus on stimulating competition in service and content delivery, and consumer protection
- G4: Integrated regulation – led by economic and social policy goals
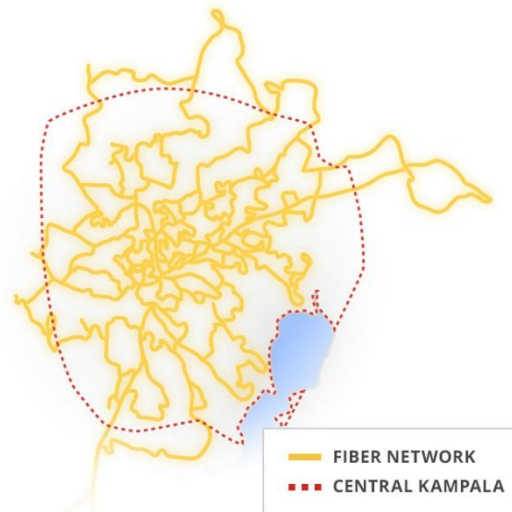
An opportunity to leapfrog policy

Roles for both national and local government

Backbone network

Cities like Havana, Stockholm, Accra or Kampala

Small towns and villages

Network structure

Source

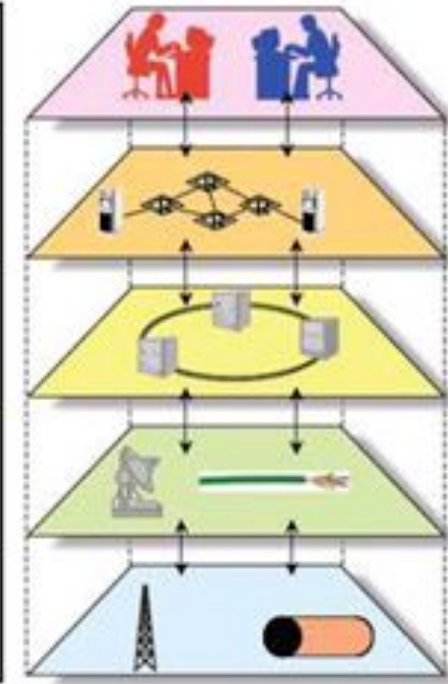FIBER NETWORK
CENTRAL KAMPALA

Source

Source

Cuba should look at alternatives from around the world

Government as wholesaler

Wholesale

Retail competition

Natural resources	use of and access to land, ducts and spectrum
Infrastructure	passive cables and masts
Transmission	equipment for transportation of bit-streams
IP/Internet	equipment for traffic direction and IP addressing
Content and services	content, services and end user equipment

Source

Who is running the show?

Owner	Class	Percent
Telefónica Antillana SA	A	51.006
Rafin SA	B	27.003
Universal Trade & Management Corporation SA	B	11.086
Banco Financiero Internacional SA	B	6.157
Negocios en Telecomunicaciones SA	B	3.825
Banco Internacional de Comercio SA	B	0.923
		100

Source

Entrepreneurial startup scene

Occupation	Active	Inactive	Total
Button coverer	405	254	659
Clown	625	291	916
Computer programmer	1,432	1,665	3,097

2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
1	8	59	88	140	144	271	514	207

Source

Goofy list of self-employment occupations

Entrepreneurial startup scene

merchise

NINJACUBA

CubaOutsource

revolico

Cubisima·com

porlalivre
Anuncios Clasificados en Cuba

BACHECUBANO...

YouTube

NETFLIX

tics 2017 TALLER DE INFORMÁTICA Y COMUNICACIONES PARA LA SOCIEDAD

Off-shore programming   Startups   Positive change

Miguel Díaz-Canel

- [Next president?](#)
- Internet for all
- for the benefit of all
- must be used legally

[What he's said and done](#)

[News coverage of talk](#)

[Full transcript](#)

"The State will work to make this resource available, accessible and affordable for everyone."

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