Subject: Confirmation - 2026-2027 SIG Topic Proposal Template
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Internet Society

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2026-2027 SIG Topic Proposal Template

Name of Topic:	Community Networks & Community Infrastructures
Contact E-mail	isoc-cnci-sig@networkcommons.org
Short Topic Description:	Foster Community Networks & Infrastructures through multistakeholder approaches to connectivity, uniting a global community, while strengthening local resilience, amplifying mutual-aid efforts supporting implementation and endurance.
Introduction Section:	Community Networks and Community Infrastructures are a versatile and sustainable way to bridge the digital divide and create affordable connectivity and first class Internet participation for underconnected communities.

CNCI SIG's aim is to work alongside local communities and regional stakeholders by co-designing flexible frameworks for meaningful community-centred infrastructures that empower local leadership and focuses on digital inclusion and longitudinal sustainability while advancing a shared vision of an open, accessible, decentralised and resilient Internet.
We aim to lower the bar for the creation and implementation of community networks & community infrastructure through:
+ mutual knowledge sharing with movement building and technical domain experts
+ interconnection of key up to date external knowledge sources
+ development of living documentation and shared experiences
+ methods of developing the community network specific situation awareness
+ methods of dealing with local authorities for CN-friendly policies
+ fostering and promoting the development & maintenance of Community Infrastructure ready software
Continued support, R&D and implementation and maintenance best practises of self-hosted Community Networks is crucial to equip communities, particularly in marginal and underserved remote regions, to tackle the digital divide and to build capacity to develop solutions to the needs of specific local contexts.
Under the stewardship of CNCI SIG leadership group, we aim to develop a systems-based decentralised 'engagement' model to form a strong and resilient foundation that is capable to engage with a wide range of contributors.
CNCI SIG plans to achieve this through R&D, capacity building, cross network knowledge sharing, providing comprehensive support, and generating dynamic opportunities multilateral collaboration for people not only access the Internet, but also participate in infrastructural resource and service provisioning as first class Internet citizens.

Supporting Internet Society's Mission:	Community Networks CN as a Special Interest Group (SIG) Topic for ISOC 2026–2030 amplifies ISOCs 2025 priorities and supports the 2030 Directions to:

• Further support the Connecting the Unconnected initiative by investing in local community initiatives to establish and sustain resilient infrastructural services and resources for first class Internet participation.

• Supporting equitable connectivity to vulnerable populations including Indigenous communities, remote disadvantaged regions, women-led enterprises, and displaced constituents;
• Advocate for policies and regulations that enable community-based connectivity models to thrive, creating positive and enduring impact, including:

• Meaningful Internet participation across broad a cross-section population of remote constituents;

• Community led local Internet governance structures supported by advocacy and policy implementation support;

In order to empower and mobilise community-centred connectivity networks grow and thrive, we also need to bring attention to:
• Supportive legal and policy environments
• CN involvement in multi-stakeholder bottom-up Internet governance processes
• Community infrastructure governance models that reflect shared values
• engagement with regional technical enablers such as community IXPs, local interconnection points, as well as local open source based service and resource providers.
The CNCI SIG is focused on community networks & community infrastructures – locally built, community-owned networks and resources that empower people to own and participate in the establishment and sustainability of their own local digital resources and Internet connectivity from the ground up. This work supports ISOC's mission by promoting resilience, openness, and digital sovereignty through grassroots connectivity. Expanding topics include local community networks and services, decentralisation, open technologies, upstream connectivity methods, sustainable and scalable network design methodologies, interfacing with community-friendly IXPs, and enabling effective policy frameworks for dealing with local regulatory bodies.

Activity Section:	Activities planned include research and development, remote digital conferences and in-person events for community members and regional stakeholders designed to incorporate tools and build competencies and hands-on skills for building, defending and maintaining an affordable, reliable, and safe Internet for everyone. Initial planned activities include: +Research, collate & update best practices, standards, methods and policies creating living documentation that allow community networks to form, thrive, grow and scale as first class Internet participants while keeping local ownership and relevance. +Partner with further ISOC Chapters and regional IXPs to expand multilateral cohesion of a stakeholders providing a knowledge sharing network and encouragement of regional community networks and infrastructure initiatives. +Innovative Research to harness the benefits and opportunities of a locally anchored Internet presence to be consistent with the protocols and lived lores of local custodians and knowledge keepers. +Workshops/Webinars: Scope specific digital inclusion and infrastructure challenges for disadvantaged, remote and marginal constituents. +Develop a Capacity Roadmap: outlining steps, skills and resources required to sustainably deploy and maintain Internet infrastructure with local community planning events for design, deployment and maintenance and growth capacity of meaningful community-centered infrastructural solutions. +Empower Local Leadership: Facilitating skills sharing in the development of community-driven networks, enhancing autonomy and self-reliance. +Co-Design Cost Effective Solutions Engage communities in the implementation, maintenance of CN and peering Internet infrastructure that

Lead Facilitator:	minimises environmental impact at sustainable operating costs. Adam Burns, ISOC Member Number: 90144, United Kingdom
	Adam was technical manager for Australia's first national ISP, co-founder of the Australian chapter of the Internet Society & founder of Europe's first open community wireless network. He served as a supervisory board member for the EC Horizon project netCommons that worked withCNs across Europe. He was awarded a Prototype Fund grant to enable simple, secure distributed dynamic DNSSEC resource updates for community networks. Adam is a member of Förderverein Freie Netwerk e.V., the non-profit umbrella group supporting Freifunk, the German decentralised community network initiative. He currently works with the Dyne.org foundation, maintains Raspberry Pi images for the Devuan Linux distribution, and co-hosts a podcast. Published, interviewed, filmed and quoted in numerous publications and documentaries (including Sarai Reader & Steal This Film 2), he is an advocate for open source as well as open and equitable access and participation.
Assistant Facilitator:	Mathew Lubari, ISOC Member Number: 000450867, South Sudan
	Mathew is a repair activist, digital literacy advocate, and Co-founder/ Executive Director of Community Creativity for Development (CC4D), a Ugandan and South Sudanese #ASKnet hub. He promotes sustainability by linking technology, environmental impact, and community empowerment. Mathew serves on the steering committees of The Maintainers and #ASKnet network and is part of the Restarters community, a global group advancing repair and maintenance practices. Through repair cafés and community networks, he connects communities while reducing e-waste. His current project integrates ICT and repair by training refugee youth, women, and girls in Rhino Camp (Uganda) and Yei (South Sudan) on digital skills, electronics repair, and cybersecurity, strengthening resilience and promoting safe technology use.
Secretary	Nancy Mauro-Flude, ISOC Member Number: 2274966, Australia
	Nancy Mauro-Flude is a participatory design researcher with expertise in fostering diverse solidarities through anti-colonial ecofeminist knowledge sharing. Nancy is a proud generational Tasmanian, who grew up and lives in the remote coastal fringes of lutruwita/Tasmania, a region with the lowest score for digital literacy and skills levels of all jurisdictions in the country for a decade.
	In 2025 she is an inaugural ISOC Community Networks Fellow. Her digital inclusion advocacy plan seeks to mobilise decades of cooperation and strategic alliances across grassroots, community, non-profit, academic, public as well as private sectors and NGO initiatives worldwide.
	Currently Nancy is a Regenerative Future Fellow at RMIT University, she codesigns transdisciplinary courseware for delivery to learners in cross-sector contexts including the Masters of Design Innovation and Technology. Nancy is founder of ESP – Ecofeminist School Permacomputing nuruturing cooperative-artist-held-ordonnances approaches to communications infrastructure and computing arts.
Additional Member #1 (If needed)	Mathias Jud, ISOC Member Number: 2265473, Switzerland
	Mathias is a member of the ISOC Switzerland chapter. He is co-founder and project manager of qaul.net, an off-the-grid p2p mesh messenger App. He kickstarted and supported many Wifi Community Networks, e.g. with the Romany community in France, and various community networks in the SWANA region. Mathias is part of Freifunk Germany and co-organizer of (un)conferences, workshops and events around the topic of community networks and community infrastructures, such as the battlemesh conference, and events during the CCC congress and camps. He is a regular speaker on various conferences around the world, such as bread & net Lebanon, splintercon, Wifi community weekend, etc.

Additional Member #2 (If needed)	Nils Brock, ISOC Member Number: 2342639, Germany Journalist and media developer with focus on community media and community networks. Experience as freelance journalist and media activist in Brazil, Chile and Mexico, collective creator of the first Linux/GNU software compilation for community media flujos-vivos in Latin America; later international consultant with AMARC Brasil (a.o Pororoca project) working on media regulation, digital broadcasting and media training. Consultant for special projects for Rhizomatica.org, especially work on community-centred connectivity and local services with LocNet. Member of the Global Innovation Gathering (GIG) network. Co-coordinator of the open-source digital newsroom Colmena (DW Akademie and partners) co-created and maintained with CSOs in the Global South.
Additional Member #3 (If needed)	Dr Jan Hendrik Brueggemeier, ISOC Member Number: 2340905, Australia Jan is a media producer, researcher, and lecturer in Media and Communication at RMIT University, Melbourne. His work focuses on community media and hybrid technology cultures. At RMIT, he is a Regenerative Futures Fellow, developing a low-carbon online publishing initiative. He also co-founded Commoners Coop, which supports community action and solidarity economies aimed at connecting people, place, and planet, and helping members move toward more sustainable practices. Jan's media projects have been presented internationally, including at M+ in Hong Kong, the Marrakech Biennale, Sonohr Festival Zurich, and Meteor Festival in Bergen. He holds an MFA in Media Arts and Design from Bauhaus University Weimar and a PhD in Creative Practice from La Trobe University, Melbourne. Before moving to Australia, he worked in London as a project developer at the Architectural Association School of Architecture.
Call to Action:	Join us to support community networking initiatives to build on community-centred infrastructures, services and resources that empower local ownership and focuses on digital inclusion and sustainability while advancing a shared local vision of an open, accessible, and resilient Internet. Let's make locally owned and operated infrastructure a global priority!