



FAST FACTS

HEADQUARTERS
Washington, DC

ANNUAL BUDGET
\$40 million (FY23)

NUMBER OF
PROJECTS SUPPORTED
450+

USERS OF OTF-SUPPORTED
TECHNOLOGY WORLDWIDE
2 billion+ daily

MISSION

Open Technology Fund works to advance internet freedom in repressive environments by supporting the research, development, implementation, and sustainability of technologies that provide secure and uncensored access to the internet to counter attempts by authoritarian governments to repress the internet and to enable citizens worldwide to exercise their fundamental human rights online.

Open Technology Fund

The Open Technology Fund (OTF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing internet freedom in the world's most repressive environments. OTF supports the applied research, development, implementation, and maintenance of technologies that provide secure and uncensored internet access to enable citizens worldwide to exercise their fundamental human rights online.



PROGRAMS

OTF funds internet freedom technologies at every stage of the development cycle from proof-of-concept, to on-the-ground deployments, to multi-year efforts. This ensures that USAGM journalists and audiences have the tools they need to safely access an uncensored internet while investing in innovative solutions to stay ahead of evolving censorship threats. OTF solicits applications through a fully open and competitive process designed to attract innovative applications from expert technologists, frontline journalists, human rights defenders, researchers, and digital security specialists. In order to provide comprehensive support to internet freedom projects, OTF provides resources through a variety of implementation mechanisms.

Direct Funds: OTF provides direct funding to support the research, development, implementation, and sustainability of technologies that enable censorship circumvention, protect the freedom of the press, ensure secure communications, and enhance user security and privacy online.

EXAMPLES OF TOOLS SUPPORTED BY OTF:

- Signal
- Lantern
- Psiphon
- WireGuard
- GlobaLeaks
- Snowflake
- Deflect
- Geneva
- Mailvelope
- OONI
- Tor
- Tails
- F-Droid
- Certbot
- NoScript
- K-9 Mail
- NewNode
- Briar

INTERNET FREEDOM
TOOLS TRANSLATED INTO

200+
LANGUAGES

including Mandarin, Russian,
Farsi, Spanish, Arabic, Tibetan,
French, and Vietnamese

PROVIDED RAPID
RESPONSE ASSISTANCE
TO JOURNALISTS
IN MORE THAN

40
COUNTRIES

Labs: OTF's Labs provide translation and localization services, security and public safety audits, usability and accessibility assessments, and knowledge sharing for the internet freedom community. These expert services ensure that the technologies incubated and supported by OTF are as effective, secure, and usable for USAGM audiences as possible.

Fellowships: OTF supports individuals to carry out cutting-edge applied research projects examining how authoritarian states are restricting the free flow of information and ways for citizens to overcome those tactics.

USAGM network support: OTF provides USAGM networks with assistance to protect their content online and ensure it is resistant to censorship. For example, OTF integrated multiple circumvention solutions into USAGM newsreader applications, making it easier to access content for non-technical users. OTF also supports mirror websites, which have allowed users to directly access USAGM content directly without the need of a separate circumvention application.

Rapid Response: OTF provides emergency support to independent media outlets and journalists facing digital attacks to get back online and mitigate future attacks.

IMPACT

Billions of users worldwide: Today, over 2 billion people use OTF-supported technology daily. More than two-thirds of all mobile users globally have technology incubated by OTF on their device.

Best-in-class tools: OTF supports anti-censorship, privacy, and security tools that are regularly used and recommended by leading media and human rights organizations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, UNESCO, Reporters Without Borders, Human Rights Watch, and Freedom House, among many others.

More timely, accurate censorship detection: Through OTF funding, timely detection of censorship events in repressive contexts worldwide is observed and documented via hundreds of thousands of measurements taken monthly in more than 210 countries.

Rapid response: OTF has provided rapid response assistance to individuals and organizations facing digital emergencies in more than 40 countries, including Iran, China, Brazil, Ukraine, Philippines, Russia, Egypt, and Afghanistan, among others.

Combating Internet Shutdowns: OTF has supported the development of technologies that preserve content sharing and secure communications even when internet connectivity is shut off.