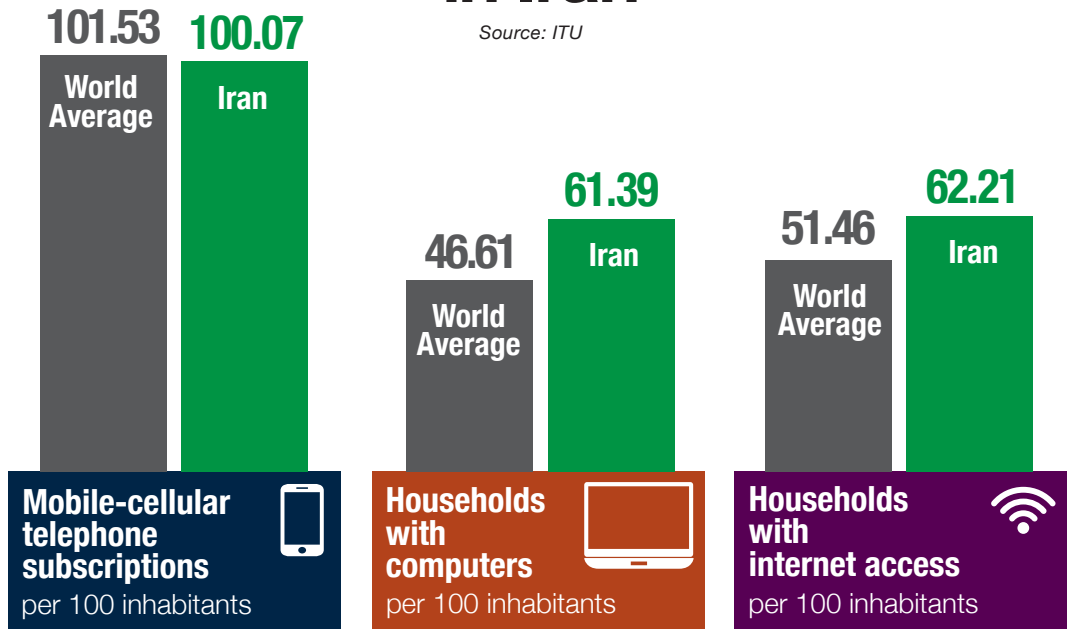


Internet use in Iran

Source: ITU



FACT Sheet

INTERNET IN IRAN

March 2019



The internet is accessed primarily via phones

Iranians have

3X

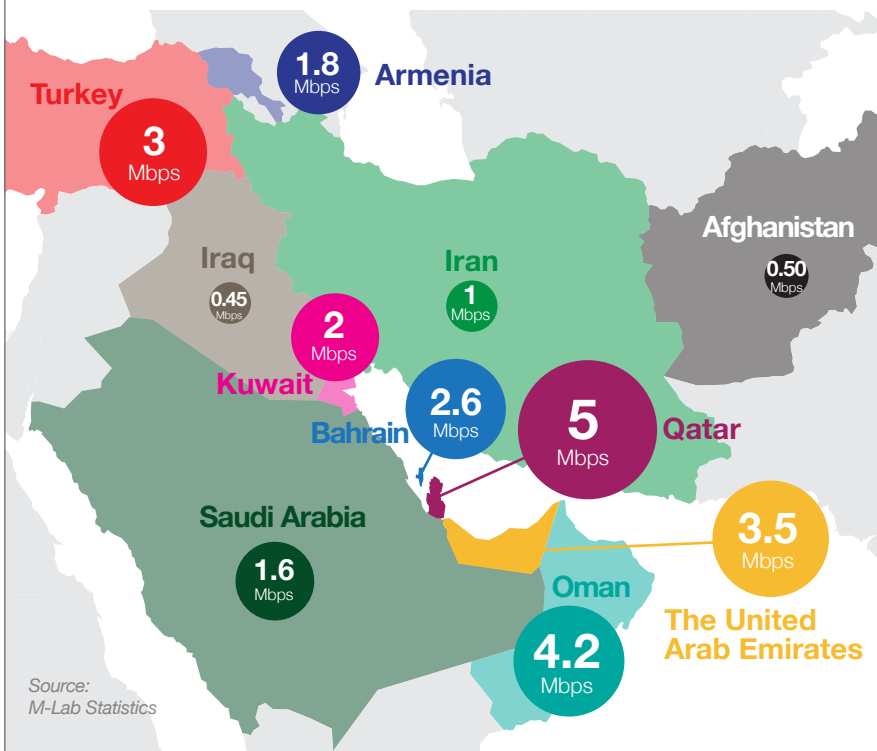
as many active mobile-broadband subscriptions as they do fixed (wired)-broadband subscriptions

Internet speed

Why is SPEED important?

Allows journalists, activists and others to share large multimedia files with graphics, audio, video, etc.

Iran's internet speed compared to its regional neighbors:



Fixed broadband speed

Iran ranked

109

out of

133

countries

Mobile speed

Iran ranked

57

out of

124

countries

Source: M-Lab Statistics

7 Things
to know about Iran's

National Information Network (NIN)

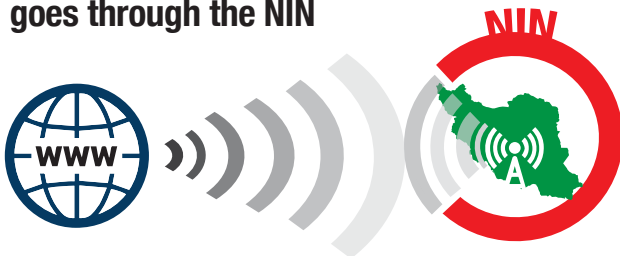
1 The NIN is Iran's **STATE-CONTROLLED** internet



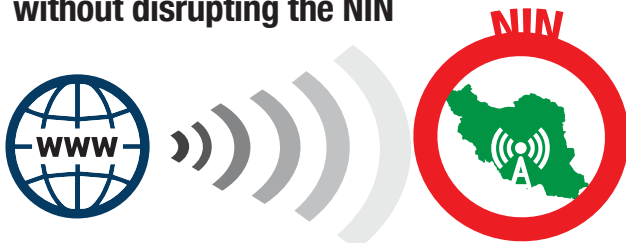
2 Only **STATE-APPROVED CONTENT** is on the NIN



3 **ALL INTERNET TRAFFIC** goes through the NIN



4 The state can **CUT OFF ACCESS TO THE GLOBAL INTERNET** without disrupting the NIN



5 The state steers Iranians onto the NIN via **FASTER AND CHEAPER** service



6 The NIN helps the **STATE SPY** on its citizens online



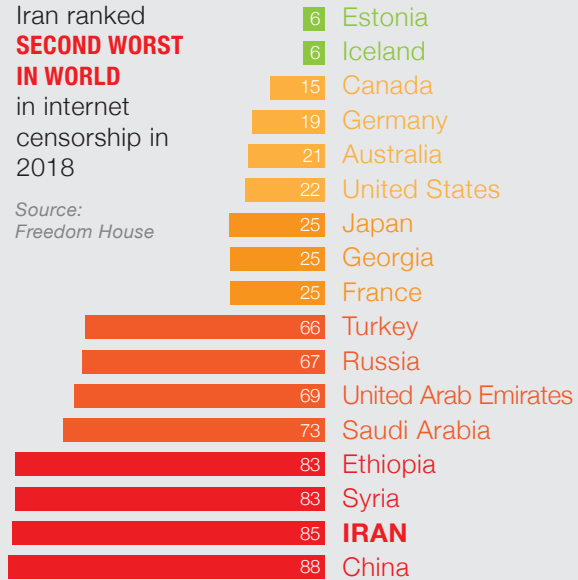
7 Development of the NIN has taken place under **PRESIDENT ROUHANI**



Internet Censorship

Iran ranked **SECOND WORST IN WORLD** in internet censorship in 2018

Source: Freedom House



Freedom on the Net 2018 rankings (most free: 0; least free: 100)

Prosecutions for online content

Iranians are PROSECUTED for online content unlawfully obtained by intelligence and security agencies. For example:

SOHEIL ARABI

Posting content challenging religious dogma

SENTENCE:
7.5 years in prison



SINA DEGHGHAN

Posting content challenging religious dogma

SENTENCE:
Death



SAEED MALEKPOUR

Developing open source software for uploading photos

SENTENCE:
Life in prison



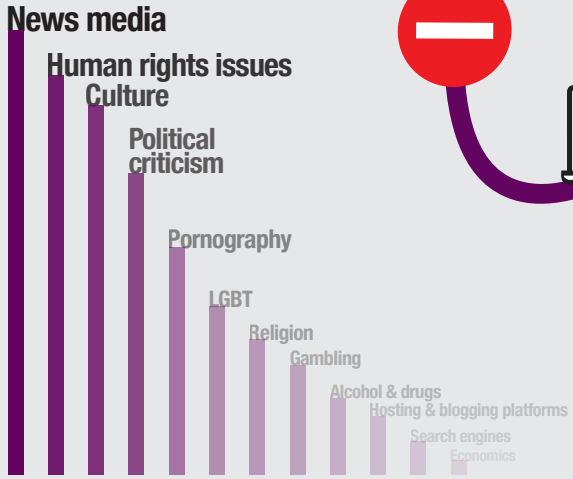
HENGAMEH SHAHIDI

Writing commentary critical of the state

SENTENCE:
12 years, 9 months in prison

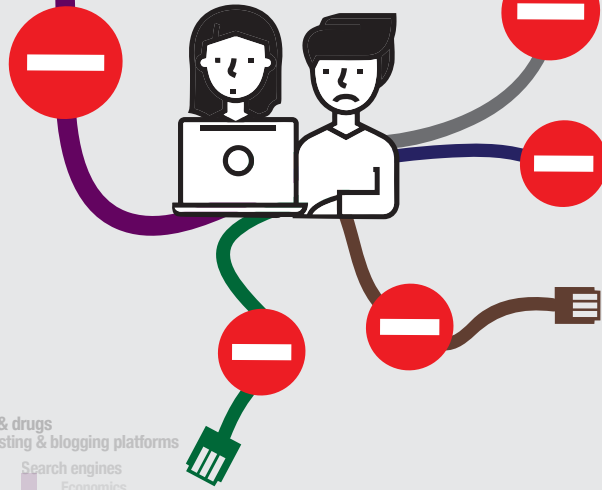


MILLIONS OF WEBSITES BLOCKED



Blocked domains in Iran (2014-2017)
Source: OONI

WHAT IS CENSORED?



MAJOR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS BLOCKED



CONTENT FILTERED
by key word or phrases

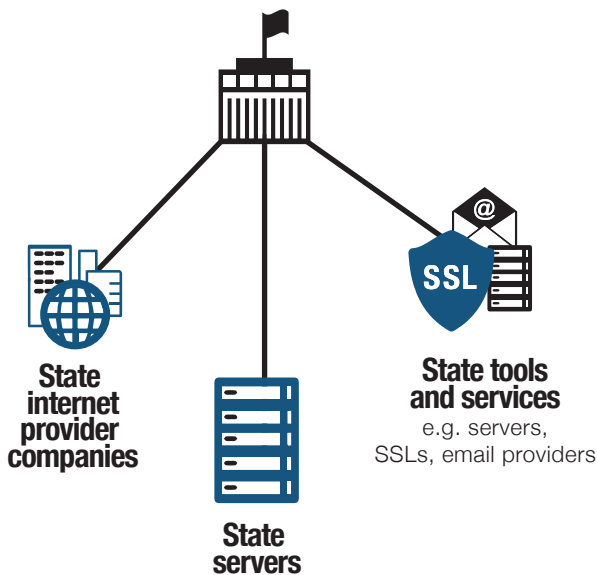
ENCRYPTED MESSAGING APPS BLOCKED
e.g. Telegram, Signal, CryptoKat

ACCESS TO CIRCUMVENTION TOOLS BLOCKED e.g. Psiphon, Outline and other VPNs

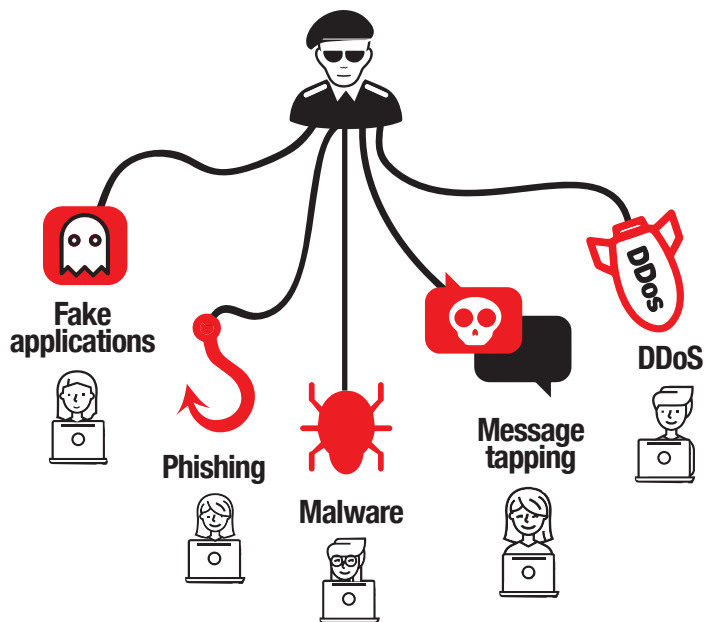
State online surveillance & cyberattacks

How does the state access and monitor personal accounts?

The state's ICT infrastructure



Cyber attacks



Who controls internet policy in Iran?



SUPREME LEADER
ALI KHAMENEI

SUPREME COUNCIL OF CYBERSPACE
Top internet policy body

WORKING GROUP TO DETERMINE INSTANCES OF CRIMINAL CONTENT
Main filtering body

JUDICIARY
Can shut sites/
order blocks

CYBER POLICE (FATA)
Can block content/
make arrests

Other sources of power
ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARDS CORP (IRGC)

- INFLUENCES policies
- TARGETS sites & users for censorship/surveillance
- HACKS private accounts
- INTIMIDATES users
- COLLUDES with judiciary to investigate, arrest & prosecute

Rouhani's record on internet freedom

Positive

- ✓ Improved and expanded ICT infrastructure
- ✓ Faster internet (removed limits on speeds over 128kbps)
- ✓ Expanded mobile phone use (opened licensing for 3G and 4G services)
- ✓ Unblocked WhatsApp

Negative

- ✗ Strengthening censorship and surveillance via the NIN
- ✗ Millions of websites blocked
- ✗ Twitter, Facebook and YouTube stay blocked
- ✗ Blocked Telegram May 2018
- ✗ Circumvention tools blocked
- ✗ Encrypted apps blocked
- ✗ Silent on state-sponsored cyberattacks
- ✗ Violates net neutrality (Higher prices for international internet traffic)
- ✗ Increased influence of intelligence organizations in ICT Ministry