Updates (June 12 2018)

- **Incorporated data** from
  - http://internetshutdowns.in/ (to date)
  - https://moseskaranja.com/tracking-internet-shutdowns-in-africa/ (2016 and 2017)
  - https://cipesa.org/?wpfb_dl=252 (2016 and 2017)
  - http://killswitch.pk/ (2016 and 2017)
  - @InternetIntel (2018)
- **Discrepancy in number**: due to the methodological difference, there are slight variations in number between trackers. As the tracker keeps updating, new retrospective information and discoveries may also change the number of shutdowns as well as the duration of them.
- **Unconfirmed shutdowns and grey area**: to avoid confusions or skewed analysis result, this tracker does not include shutdown instances that are not yet verified through the #KeepItOn Coalition or other trusted sources as well as network/service disruptions caused by factors beyond our scope, such as natural disaster, technical issues, etc.
- **"Curfew" style shutdowns**: this kinds of shutdowns present frequent disruption instances of one or multiple networks/services within a period of time, in which each instance takes place for several hours. In scenarios like India, we followed the approach in http://internetshutdowns.in to record such kind of shutdowns individually, as each of them may be caused by a standalone government order. In other scenarios, such as Iraq and Syria during school exams, we recorded consecutive shutdowns as one instance, as they are often caused by one conglomerate government order during the exam period.

Shutdown Tracker Optimization Project (STOP)

The #KeepItOn Shutdown Tracker Optimization Project is created and maintained by Access Now as part of the #KeepItOn campaign toolkit. This tracker aims to document and contextualize internet shutdown cases around the world under the definition developed by the #KeepItOn coalition for policy advocacy purposes. To date, the current tracker contains data from the years 2016 and 2017.

Methodology / How our shutdown tracker works

1. Our tracker uses both quantitative and qualitative data to record the number of internet shutdowns in the world in a given year and to characterize the nature of the shutdowns, including their magnitude, scope, and causes. Sometimes we can confirm an internet shutdown through means such as technical measurement, while at other times we rely upon contextual information, such as news reports or personal accounts. We also work

hard to document how a particular shutdown impacted society and why and how it happened.

2. An internet shutdown is defined as an intentional disruption of internet or electronic communications rendering them inaccessible or effectively unusable, for a specific population or within a location, often to exert control over the flow of information. This definition was created in 2016 with the help of technologists, policy makers, and activists.
   a. This tracker includes full network shutdowns, bandwidth throttling, and service-based blocking for **two-way communication platforms**.
   b. Instances in which it is unclear whether the disruption was intentional may be included in the tracker until it can be confirmed or denied that the disruption was due to technical problems. Those instances included in a separate tab in titled "Unconfirmed (Year)"
   c. Ongoing situations (i.e. an increasing censorship trend) that could develop into shutdowns are included in the tracker under the "Gray Area (Year)" tab.
   d. We do not limit our tracker to shutdowns involving governments; we include those disruptions solely caused or executed by non-state actors.

3. A **shutdown instance** refers to a disruption event lasting longer than one hour, or a series of disruption events that we attribute to the same or similar circumstance (i.e. protest, election, exam), justification, method, and perpetrator. An instance can continue even if internet services are restored and subsequently shut off again; if different services are suspended at various points throughout the shutdown; or if the scope of the shutdown expands or contracts during the shutdown. An example would be a "digital curfew" of shutting down the internet during the same hours every night for several days in a row. This determination, while grouping together disparate technical events, enables us to achieve policy and advocacy goals like attribution, media attention, mitigation, and remedy.

4. The recorded instances of shutdowns include events reported through local or international news sources which are included in the document, from local actors through Access Now's Digital Security Helpline or the #KeepItOn Coalition email list, or directly from telecommunication and internet companies.
   a. If the shutdown was not caused by a particular event or was in response to a larger political struggle without a particular triggering event, each shutdown is recorded as a distinct instance once the service has been restored for a period of 24 hours or more before it is shut down again.

Column indicators[1]

Date Began (count data)
The date when the disruption began according to the sources

Date Ended (count data)
The date when the disruption ended according to the sources

Shutdown Source (categorical[2] data)
- News Media Article
- Social Media
- Confidential
- Other

News Links (random vector)
Source from news media

Continent (categorical data)
- Asia
- Africa
- Europe
- North America
- South America
- Australia

Country (categorical data)
Based on UN Country Classification 2014 edition

Affected Scope (categorical data)
The scope of areas that are affected by the shutdown instance
- Local: Only affecting one city, county, or village
- Regional: Affecting more than one cities in the same state, province, or region
- National: Affecting more than one state, province, or region

Name of Affected Places (random vector)

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[1] The definition, criteria, and inclusion of these indicators are not finalized and remain open to discussion. These indicators were designed to generalize information about the scope, scale, and technical impact of current or past shutdown instances, to guide policy and advocacy strategies to prevent and mitigate future instances. We seek feedback on the clarity and accuracy of these indicators in particular. The next iteration of this tracker will consolidate indicators in order to most effectively reach our goal of informing target audiences of the existence and context around internet shutdowns, globally.

[2] Categories with categorical data entries are subject to change following community input.

Where the shutdown instance happened

Shutdown Attribution (categorical data)
Whether it's ordered by a local or executive body of government
- Local government
- Executive government
- Non-government

Shutdown Attribution Decision Maker (random vector)
Name of the person (and position) or the governmental body who ordered the shutdown

Shutdown Type (categorical data)
Whether the instance cut off the whole network, disrupted certain services, or slowed communications generally.
- Full network: One or multiple internet service provider's network (e.g. DRC's shutdown instance between Dec 30 2017 and Jan 1 2018).
- Throttling: Slowed down network, or specific bans on high speed connections that allow image, video, and voice transmissions (e.g. many shutdown instances in Kashmir region.)
- Service-based: Ordered disrupting or blocking of two- or multi- way communications platforms (e.g. Telegram, WhatsApp, Instagram, Twitter, etc.)

Services Affected (categorical data)
- SMS
- Telephony
- Internet[3]

Service Details (random vector)
What services in particular are impacted. I.e. VPN services, 3G, 4G, GPRS, websites, social media, VoIP services, etc.

Telcos Involved (random vector)
Which telecommunications companies were given the shutdown order

Government Acknowledgement (boolean)
Whether the government made a public statement
- Yes
- No

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[3] This includes all means to connect to the internet, including fixed line as well as mobile data internet connections.

Justification (categorical data)
Official Stated Cause
- None
- National Security: Counter Terrorism
- Public Safety: Quell Unrest / Restore Public Order
- Stopping rumors and dissemination of illegal content: such as disinformation or sexual materials
- School Exams: Prevent cheating
- Technical Problems: infrastructure failure
- Sabotage / Third-party Action
- Other

Official Statement Text (random vector)
The content of the official statement released by the government about the shutdown

Suspected Actual Cause (categorical data)
Based on the source of information
- Protests
- Information Control
- Political Instability
- Elections
- Visits by Government Officials
- Other

Related to Elections (boolean)
Whether the shutdown instance happened around an election
- Yes
- No

Legal justifications (boolean)
If there was a specific law used to justify the shutdown
- Yes
- No

Legal Method (random vector)
Specific orders, law, or regulations that enacted the shutdown. I.e. Executive Orders, Judicial Orders, Magistrate Order, etc.

Telco Response (boolean)

If a telecommunications company operating in the affected country made a public statement about the shutdown

- Yes
- No

Telco statement text (random vector)
Content from company's tweets, statements, or other public responses

Telco Acknowledgement (random vector)
Which telco responded

Economic Impact (real-valued)
Average daily cost in USD according the resources

Event (random vector)
The event that triggered the shutdown

Access Now Links (random vector)
Blog post, statements, documents, or press releases published by Access Now

Notes (random vector)
Additional information

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