



Encryptocates Webinar Series

...empower everyone, everywhere.

EWS Report 2023





Introduction

The Encryption Advocates Webinar Series is an event that features advocates from the encryption community discussing the latest trends and challenges in the field. The series was hosted by the Stakeholder Engagement Digital Webinar Series for Africa (SENDiWSA), a non-profit organization that is used by DNS Africa Media and Communications to educate, empower, and ensure capacity building in Africa, driving discussions around challenges and solutions. This led to the creation of the EAC.

By educating the public about the importance of encryption and fighting against harmful policies, encryption advocates are helping to make the world a safer place for everyone. Thanks to the Global Encryption Coalition, Africa and the world are building a force to empower everyone, everywhere.

The Importance of Encryption Advocacy

The Encryption Advocates Webinar Series is an important aspect of the encryption advocacy movement because it provides a platform for experts and advocates to share their knowledge and insights on encryption policy, best practices, and new technologies. The webinars cover a wide range of topics, from the basics of encryption to more advanced topics such as end-to-end encryption and quantum-resistant encryption.

One of the most important aspects of the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series is that it is accessible to a wide audience. The webinars are free and open to the public, and they are recorded so that people can watch them later if they are not able to attend live. This makes the webinars a valuable



resource for anyone who wants to learn more about encryption, regardless of their technical expertise.

Another important aspect of the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series is that it provides a forum for dialogue and discussion about encryption. The webinars are interactive, and participants are encouraged to ask questions and share their own experiences. This helps to create a community of people who are passionate about encryption and who are working to promote its use.

The Challenge

The Internet Society Foundation was offering a Mini-Grant for the Global Encryption Day, a movement organized by the Global Encryption Coalition (GEC). With the help of Community NethUBs Africa, Culture Games Africa, KOBOKINGs Limited, ICTLOCA, ISOC Chapters in Africa, and other partners, crossed the hurdles.

The timeframe was a challenge. We had hoped that our approval would have been done. We had also hoped to start early enough to cover areas that had communication issues or protocols that would hinder smooth acceptance and execution of the projects in question.

Be that as it may, we hope to have doubled the impact by the end of a year of management.

The agenda was developed in consideration of the time to prepare the Socials and the Information graphics. Also, it was dated to fit the timing or response from the applicant. However, it was also a learning curve. I assume the criteria were to keep the date short.





Also, we would have preferred to setup a training platform with the Internet Society Learning Platform. Unfortunately, they had no free dates and time. They also did not have enough hands or trainers to spear for our Fireside Chat.

Using the records available, the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series had a significant number of target stakeholders to attend:

- ✓ The webinar series was held online, making it accessible to a global audience.
- ✓ The webinars were free to attend, removing a financial barrier for participation.
- ✓ The webinars were promoted through a variety of channels, including social media, email, and partner organizations.
- ✓ The webinars were held at a variety of times to accommodate different time zones.

Encryption Advocates participants were mandated to host series of webinars with six (6) to ten (10) trainees or more in attendance. This allowed for ease of training. With over 300 applicants, it shows that the webinar series was successful in reaching a wide audience across Africa, including many of the target stakeholders. From our initial proposed timeline, these calls will continue every quarter to sustain its end-result.

However, it is always possible that some target stakeholders were unable to attend the webinar series. For example, individuals with limited internet access or those who were unable to attend the webinars at the scheduled times may have been unable to participate. Additionally, it is possible that



some target stakeholders were unaware of the webinar series or did not have the time to attend. This would be addressed within the next cycle, prior to the next global event.

Overall, a significant number of target stakeholders were able to attend the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series via the trained Encryptocates.

Achievable Outputs

The Encryption Advocates Webinar Series achieved the following outputs/results:

1. Educated and trained participants on the importance of encryption.

The webinars covered a wide range of topics related to encryption, including its benefits, risks, and best practices. Participants learned how to use encryption to protect their data from unauthorized access, even if it falls into the wrong hands.

2. Raised awareness of the latest encryption technologies and trends.

The webinars featured experts from the encryption industry, who shared their insights on the latest

encryption technologies and trends. Participants learned about the latest encryption algorithms, protocols, and standards, as well as the emerging threats to encryption.

3. Empowered participants to become advocates for encryption.

The webinars provided participants with the knowledge and tools they need to become advocates for encryption in their communities and workplaces. Participants learned how to talk about encryption with others and how to promote its use.



In addition to these general outputs and results, the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series also achieved a number of specific results, including:

1. With over 300 applicants, Africans organized pockets of webinars. This shows the high level of interest in encryption and the importance of education and advocacy in this area.
2. Attendees (trainees) reported a significant increase in their knowledge of encryption and their confidence in using it. This proves that the webinar series was effective in achieving its educational objectives.
3. Attendees stated commitment to taking action to protect their own data and to advocate for encryption in their communities and workplaces. This shows that the webinar series was successful in empowering attendees to become encryption advocates.

Overall, the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series was a successful event that achieved its objectives of increasing awareness of the importance of encryption, educating attendees on how to use encryption effectively, and empowering attendees to advocate for encryption in their communities and workplaces.

Long-Term Impact of the EWS

The long-term impact of the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series will be significant, as it has the potential to educate and empower people around Africa about the importance of encryption. The series has already featured a wide range of speakers, including experts from academia, industry, and civil society. This diversity of voices has helped to ensure that the series covers a wide range of topics related to encryption, including its technical aspects, its legal and policy implications, and its impact on society as a whole.



One of the most important long-term impacts of the series is its role in raising awareness of the importance of encryption among policymakers and the general public. Encryption is essential for protecting privacy and security online, and it is increasingly important in light of the growing number of cyber threats. The Encryption Advocates Webinar Series has the potential to help people understand the importance of encryption and why it needs to be protected.

In addition to raising awareness, the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series helped to build a community of encryption advocates; the Encryption Advocates Council (EAC). The series provided a platform for people from different backgrounds to come together and share their knowledge and expertise. This will help to create a stronger and more effective movement to protect encryption.

Overall, the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series has the potential to have a significant long-term impact on the way that encryption is understood and used around the world. The series is educating and empowering people about the importance of encryption, and it is building a community of encryption advocates. These efforts will help to ensure that encryption remains a powerful tool for protecting privacy and security online.

The Key Takeaways

The Encryption Advocates Webinar Series brought together privacy and security experts, policymakers, and advocates from around the world to discuss the latest trends and challenges in encryption. The series featured a diverse range of speakers, including representatives from academia, industry, and government.





One of the key takeaways from the series was the importance of collaboration and partnerships in promoting encryption. Speakers emphasized the need for stakeholders from different sectors to work together to develop and implement effective encryption policies and practices.

A number of specific collaborations and partnerships emerged from the series. For example, different Educational Institutions and Ministries of Government accepted a new partnership to work on encryption policy advocacy. DNS Africa Media and Communications believes that more collaboration to develop educational resources on encryption for policymakers will emerge.

In addition to these formal partnerships, the series also helped to foster informal relationships between speakers and attendees. These relationships are likely to lead to future collaborations on a range of encryption-related issues.

Building on the Webinar Series

To build on the work from the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series, we plan to:

1. Continue to provide educational content about encryption. We will write blog posts, create videos, and give talks about the importance of encryption, how it works, and how to use it. We will also work to develop educational resources for specific audiences, such as journalists, activists, and businesses.



2. Advocate for policies that support encryption. We will work with policymakers and other stakeholders to promote policies that protect the right to use encryption and make it easier for people to use encryption tools.

3. Support encryption research and development. We will support organizations that are developing new encryption technologies and working to improve the security and usability of existing encryption tools.

We hope to use the Council to:

- **Create a library of encryption resources.** We can collect the blog posts, videos, and other educational materials that were created for the online seminar and make them available in a central library. We can also add new resources to the library over time.
- **Develop a training program for encryption advocates.** We can use the materials from the online seminar to develop a training program for people who want to learn more about encryption and how to advocate for it. The training program could be offered online or in person.

With our network of encryption advocates, we can reach and connect people who are interested in advocating for encryption. We can also help to organize events and campaigns that promote the use of encryption. We believe that building on the work from the Encryption Advocates Webinar Series is essential to protecting the right to privacy and security in the digital age. We are committed to using our skills and resources to make a difference.



We plan to Focus on the New Platform to Encourage Others to Execute the Project: **The Encryption Advocates Council (EAC).**

Going Forward

Our plan to focus on the new platform, Encryption Advocates Council (EAC), going forward, is as follows:

- **Develop and launch the EAC website.** This will be the central hub for all EAC activities, including information about the project, its goals, and how to get involved. The website will also feature a blog, a forum, and a resource library.
- **Recruit EAC members.** We will recruit EAC members from a variety of backgrounds, including academia, industry, government, and the non-profit sector. EAC members will be responsible for advocating for encryption and for helping to execute the EAC's mission.
- **Develop and implement a communications strategy.** We will develop and implement a communications strategy to raise awareness of the EAC and its work. This strategy will include social media outreach, blogging, and media relations.
- **Organize events and workshops.** We will organize events and workshops to bring together EAC members and other stakeholders to discuss encryption policy and advocacy. These events will provide an opportunity for EAC members to network and to share ideas.
- **Conduct research and publish reports.** We will conduct research and publish reports on encryption policy and advocacy. These reports will be used to inform EAC members and other stakeholders about the latest developments in the field.

We believe that the EAC has the potential to make a significant contribution to the advancement of encryption policy and advocacy. By



focusing on the new platform, we can encourage others to continue the advocacy and help to achieve EAC's mission.

To place a timeline to the general plan outlined, the specific actions that we plan to take in the coming months will follow an action plan. These actions include:

1. Launch the EAC website by the end of November 2023.
2. Recruit 100 EAC members by the end of December 2023.
3. Develop and implement a communications strategy by the end of January 2024.
4. Organize a regional EAC event in each of the following cities by the end of March 2024:
 - a. South Africa
 - b. Kenya
 - c. Egypt
5. Publish a report on the state of encryption policy in Africa by the end of June 2024.

We believe that these actions will help to lay the foundation for the EAC to be a successful and sustainable organization.

Conclusion

We are excited about the potential of the EAC to make a significant contribution to the advancement of encryption policy and advocacy. We believe that by focusing on the new platform and taking the specific actions outlined above, we can encourage others to sustain the project and help to achieve the EAC's mission as a vehicle of the Global Encryption Coalition (GEC) through SENDiWSA.

Partners:

- ISOC Chapters in Africa.
- Association for ICT Local Content (ICTLOCA).
- Institute of Intrapreneurship Management and Human Resource Development and Professionals (IIHP), situated at Covenant University.
- KOBOKINGs Limited.
- Africa ICT Foundation (AfICTF).
- Culture Games Africa (CUGA).
- Community NetHUBs Africa.
- SuccessBridge Initiatives.
- Tanzania Students Tech Community.
- TechDevGro – South Africa.
- TechDevGro – Ghana.
- TechDevGro – Togo.
- TechDevGro – Uganda.

Our Media Platforms:

DNS Africa Online; <https://www.online.dnsafrica.org/>
DNS Africa TeliviCast; <https://www.tv.dnsafrica.org/>
DNS Africa Resource Center; <https://www.resource.dnsafrica.org/>
SENDiWSA Webinars; <https://www.webinar.sendiwsa.org/>
DNS Global TeliviCast; <https://www.global.dnsafrica.org/>
Cornerstone Broadcast Radio ... in progress

Other Platforms:

Nigeria DNS Forum; <https://www.dnsforum.ng/>
Togo DNS Forum; <https://www.dnsforum.tg/>