Interoperability in the Digital Ecosystem

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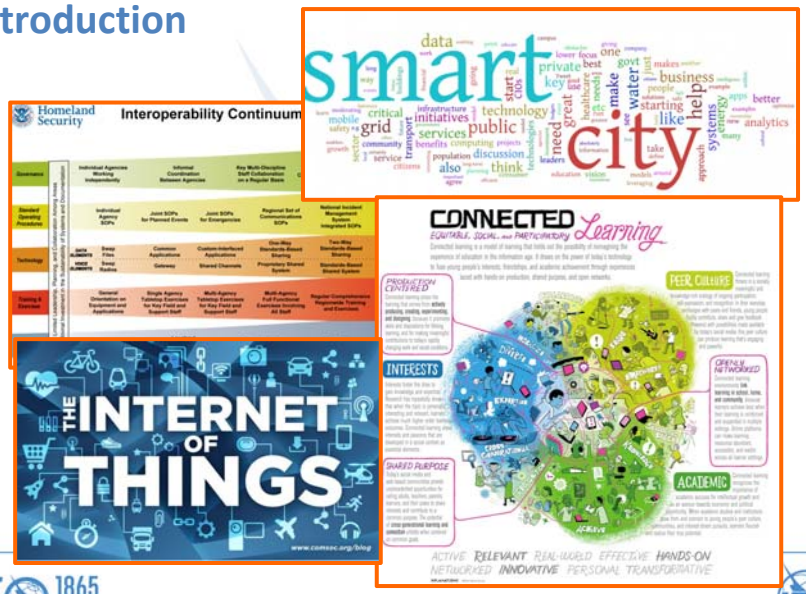
Introduction

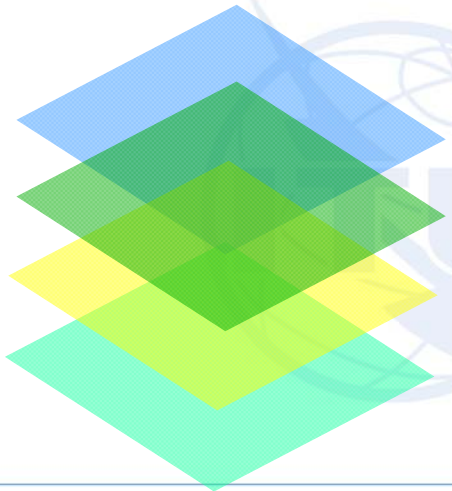


Definition

The ability to transfer and render useful data and other information across systems (including organizations), applications, or components.

"Art and science of working together"

Interop Layers



Institutional layer (Organizations, Law & Policy)

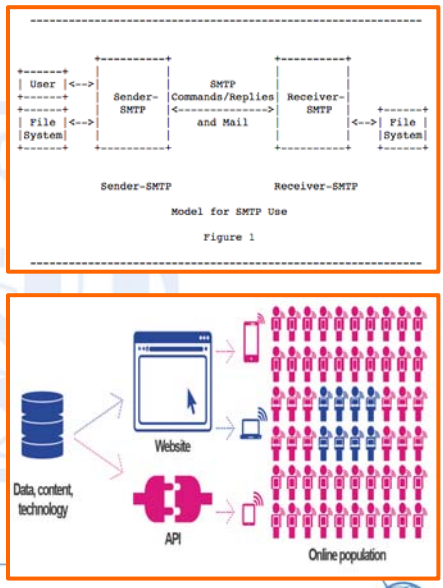
Human layer

Data layer

Technological layer

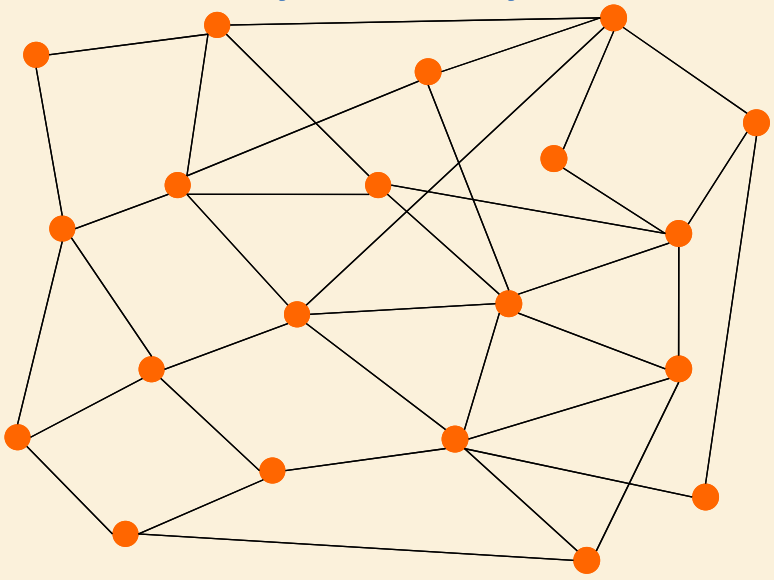
Benefits

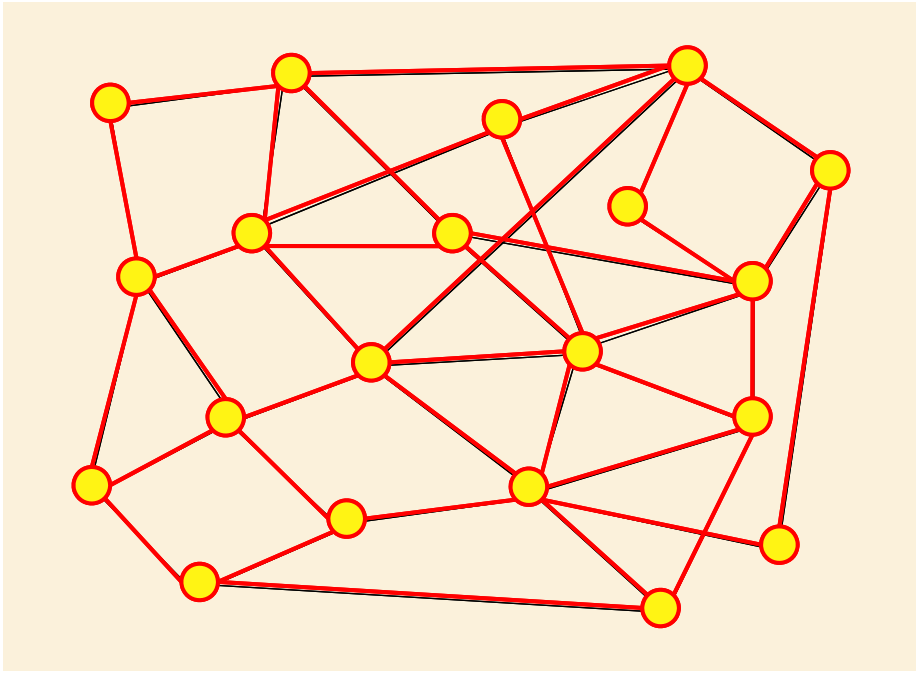
- Interop – competition – innovation cycle
- Theories of innovation
  - Generativity
  - User-driven innovation
  - Small-step innovation
- Caveat: Competition for the market; anti-competitive behavior (e.g. standards)
- Diffusion of innovation
- Consumer choice



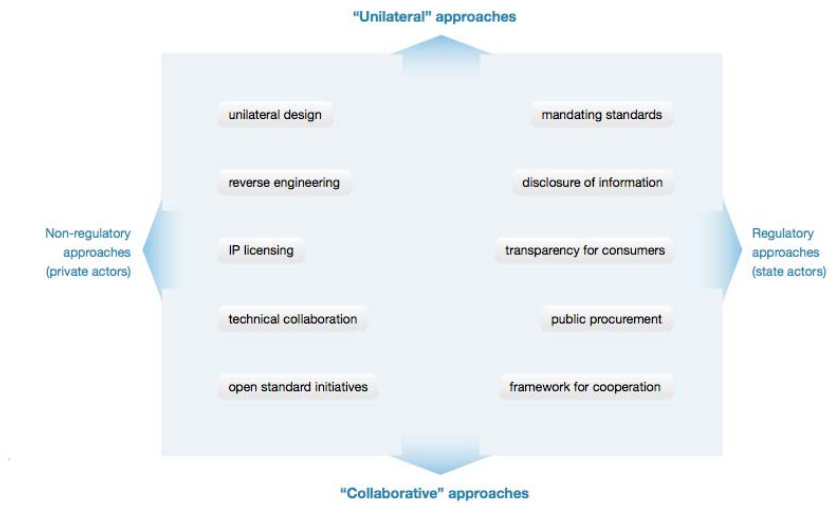
Source: ITU.

Downsides: Privacy and Security





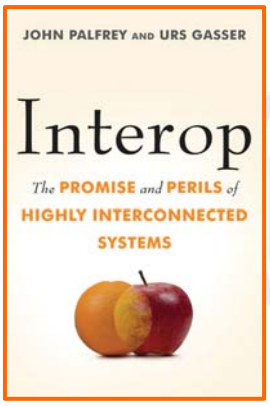
Approaches to Interop



Conclusions

- Interop as a helpful lens to understand and shape the digital ecosystem
- Interop strategy has become a key success factor (even more so than IP strategy), both in public policy making and from a corporate perspective
- To get interoperability right, look beyond tech and data layers, consider human and institutional layers as well
- Strive for optimum, not maximum interoperability
- Consider full range of approaches to increase interop
- Governments to play a key role when aiming for optimum levels of interconnectedness

Resources



https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/research/interoperability

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