

OpenNet Africa

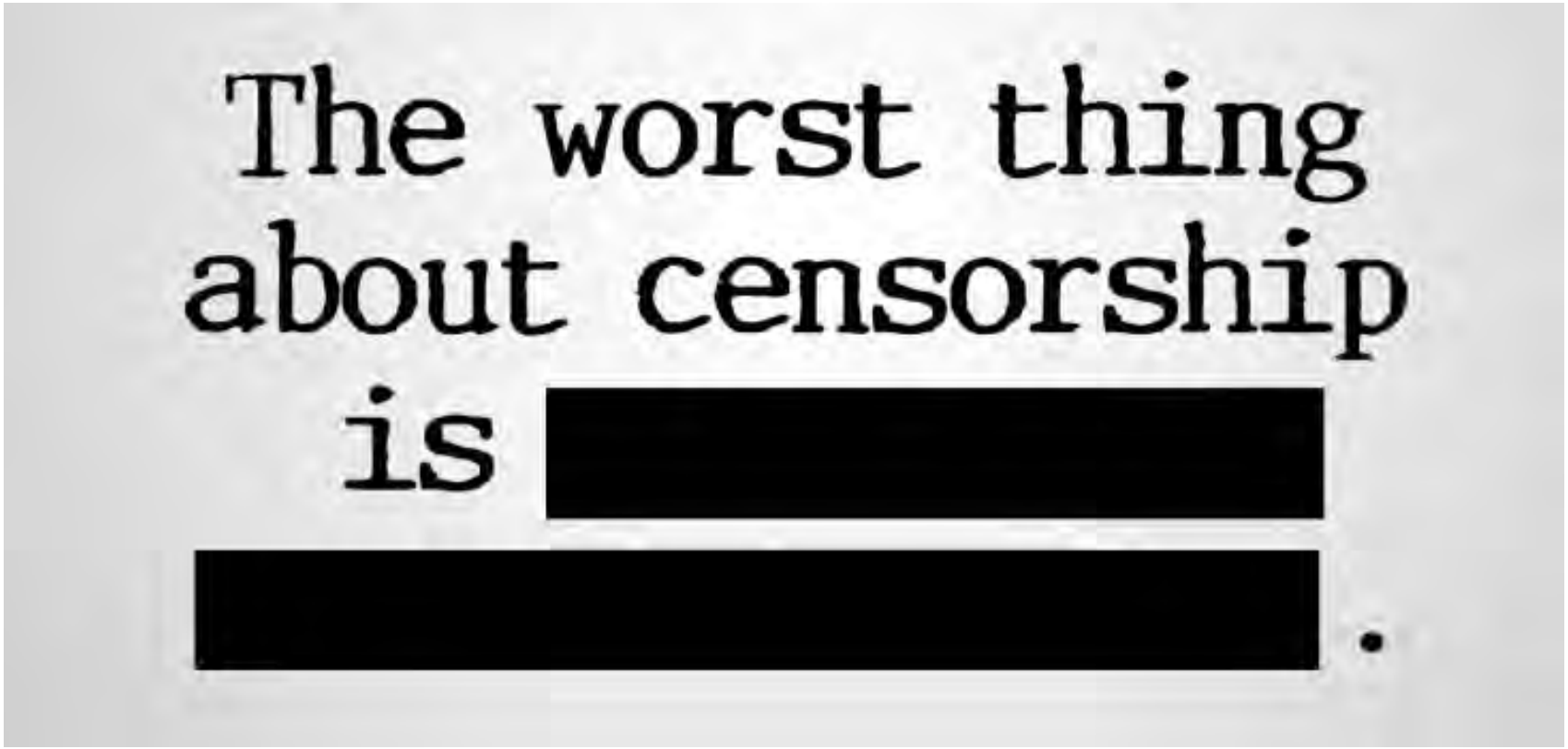
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OpenNet
Africa

What We Believe in









What We do

OpenNet Africa: We Monitor and Promote Internet Freedom in Africa

Internet Freedom is the equivalent of your your offline rights in the online space.

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Our Target Audience

- Human Rights Defenders/Activists
- Vulnerable groups incl: Media, Women, Bloggers
- Government officials
- Developers
- Law enforcers
- Regulators

We are reaching out to the creative industry to reach wider audiences on **demystifying internet freedom**

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OpenNet Africa Highlights: Uganda

- Conducted a series of **online safety training**
  - Journalists
  - Human Rights Activists
- Held the **OpenNet Africa Tools Testing Challenge**
  - Three teams participated
  - Tested the localisation of open source tools – language, ease of use, cost, data consumption

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Tools Tested and Unique Features

Martus - Allows for the collection, transmission and storage of encrypted data. It has been popular used amongst human rights defenders.

Cryptocat - This app encrypts text messages and can be used on a browser and mobile phone

Mailvelope - This is a browser extension that enables the exchange of encrypted emails built upon an OpenPGP (a coding language) encryption standard.

Redphone - This is an Android based mobile app that allows for encrypted voice calls over a Wi-Fi or data connection using their normal phone number.

TextSecure - One can send text messages and attachments over this web based app- free of any fees other than a data connection cost.

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Challenges

- Vulnerable groups face **self-censorship** due to the perception that their communication is under the threat of surveillance.
- This limits **expression**, even for investigative journalism on **sensitive topics** as well as the extent to which **sources** reveal information.
- Secure communication has the potential to **promote citizen engagement** in improving service delivery and participation in political processes.

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Laws and Regulation in Uganda

- Uganda has some of the more progressive legal frameworks in the region – not all are perfect and impact upon internet freedom in one way or another
  - Data Privacy and Protection Bill, 2014
  - Access to Information Act, 2005
  - Computer Misuse Act, 2011
  - Uganda Communications Act, 2013
  - Electronic Transactions Act, 2011
  - Electronic Signatures Act, 2011
  - Anti- Pornography Act, 2014
  - Regulations of Interception of Communications Act, 2010
  - Anti- Terrorism Act, 2002,

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Opportunities

- According to a recent report, Uganda is the most entrepreneurial country in the world…Uganda also has a decent education rate at just over 70% - How visible is this in our every day experience?
- How better can we utilise the internet to fill the gap?
- **Innovate!**

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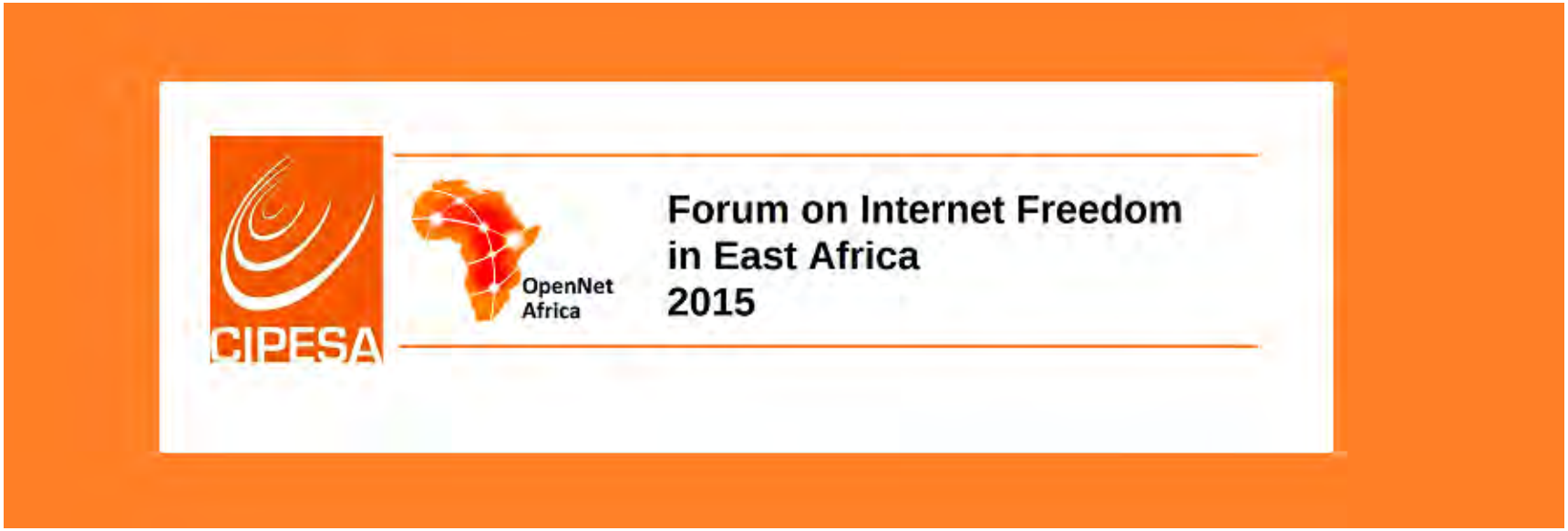
In Conclusion



Utilise opportunities - innovation hubs, to increase the avenues of connectedness for social change.

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Forum on Internet Freedom in East Africa September 28 -29, Kampala, Uganda



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