

Internet Resilience in Kazakhstan

An interdisciplinary research study

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- GEODE CASSINI
- **Cassini** is a consultancy specialized in geopolitical analysis and cartography, including the cartography of digital networks.
- It is the spin-off the GEODE research project, hosted at the Paris 8 University.
- GEODE stands for "Geopolitics of the Datasphere"; it is a **European Research Council-funded research project** aiming at understanding how geopolitical conflicts impact the routes data take within the Internet.
- A transdisciplinary approach combining network measurements (BGP; traceroutes etc.) and qualitative interviews on the field.
- Previous work done on Internet resilience in Pakistan (AINTEC 2024), on censorship in Iran, the war in Ukraine etc.



A research project on the geopolitics of Kazakhstan's Internet connectivity with Amreesh Phokeer, Romain Fontugne & Kévin Vermeulen.

Is Kazakhstan's Internet resilient?

- How does Kazakhstan connect to the global Internet?
 Does it have any strategic dependencies?
- How does its socio-political context impact the shape of its network?
- How can the current geopolitical frictions in the region impact Kazakhstan's access to the Internet?

Methodology : Mapping the physical features of Kazakhstan's network





Mapping BGP links, a way to understand power relationships GEODE within the networks

- We collect BGP announcements from our ownplatform Crystal (combining RIPE Atlas and RouteViews data).
- We then apply visualization algorithms (Force Atlas 2) to these data to conduct a spatialized analysis of connectivity.
- Our tool enable us to compare the networks' evolutions in time.
- We can select a specific country or region within the graph.



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A full graph of all-registered Ases as observed in 2018.





Kazakhstan's BGP connectivity





• After having identified the main networks of interests we proceed with opensource investigations and qualitative interviews when possible.

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• A complementary approach to this mapping of physical, logical and sociopolitical networks is, to conduct active network measurement (RIPE Atlas).

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- Especially when we try to gauge:
- It the actual routes taken by data within the Internet the amount of traffic exchanges over the identified paths
- ➤ the location of the contents of interest in a given region

Great platforms are also openly accessible with plenty of interesting data :

- Internet Health Report (ihr.iijlab.net)
- ISOC Pulse Resilience Metrics
- Internet Yellow Pages etc.



Thank you for your attention,

If you want to reach out please do not hesitate :

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Please also connect to GEODE's website : geode.science