

## **METANORM – A multidisciplinary approach to the analysis and evaluation of norms and models of governance for cyberspace**

METANORM will provide a multidisciplinary analysis, reconstruction and evaluation of (a) the development, adoption, coverage, force, institutionalization and efficacy of current and potential norms for regulating international behaviors in cyberspace and (b) current models for Internet and cyberspace governance and the debates and trends regarding their futures. The project leverages knowledge and methods in legal studies, political science, international relations studies, artificial intelligence and computer science to draw upon a variety of data in order to represent the norms and their meanings. The data includes national cyber laws and policies, intergovernmental agreements and discussions, frameworks for collaboration in the private sector and technological communities, scholarly literature, and interviews with key policy makers in government, private sectors, civil society and technological communities, both in the US and abroad.

At the macro level, the project will provide an understanding of the roles and values of certain cyber norms and governance model in the active defense of the United States from cyber threats. It will also develop an integrative model to evaluate the viability of such norms and their potential to sustain cyberspace as a commons and platform, for global economic, social, political and intellectual development, in the face of security motivated trends toward lock-downs at national and organizational levels.

This project intends to contribute to US cyber defense planning and capabilities, by developing a dynamic typology of cyber norms that enables both humans and machines to access information on norms relevant to a decision making problem, including the extent of their adoption and institutionalization. The typology will also help researchers identify inconsistencies and gaps in the norm space and provide a basis for developing within the project a norm domain expert system. This step will in turn enable the eventual development of autonomous software agents capable of both normative and goal-directed reasoning in response to cyber threats.

Other components of the project will investigate methodologies for norm-based signaling, escalation and de-escalation in the conduct of cyber conflicts, and also track how well DoD's interests in norm development are being met in interagency and international processes.

Members of the team will contribute to organizing an annual workshop where their research can be brought to the attention of the communities concerned with cyber norms.

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