Iranian Internet Infrastructure and Policy Report

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INTRODUCTION

// With a new Iranian fiscal year comes a brand new budget, and with a new budget comes the opportunity to gain an array of fresh insights into Iranian information policy for the year ahead. Although the new Iranian financial year won't commence until 1 Farvardin 1393 (21 March 2014), President Hassan Rouhani submitted the new year's budgetary plan to the Iranian Parliament on 8 December 2013, allowing us to engage in some closer analysis of the new numbers.

Then, on 22 December 2013, the research department of the Iranian Parliament - the Islamic Consultative Assembly Research Center (ICARC) - published an in-depth report reviewing the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology's (ICT) budget for the next fiscal year, and shedding some light on the ICT Ministry's planned activities for the year in the process.

In this month's Infrastructure Report, Small Media presents the findings of its in-depth review into both the original budgetary plan and the ICARC report, sharing a number of new insights into the Rouhani Administration's ICT policy, and its controversial plans to develop the 'National Internet' - the National Information Network (SHOMA).
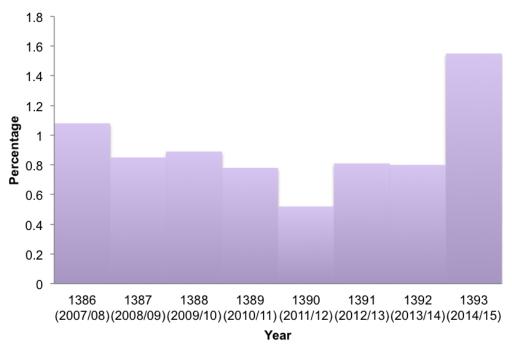
A Small Media Report

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY - 1393 (2014/15) BUDGET

GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET

The ICT budget has grown by 95% in comparison to the 1392 (2013/14) fiscal year, to a total of 34,081 billion IRR (1.36 billion USD). The predicted revenue of ICT Ministry projects is projected to rise by 18% to more than 48,000 billion IRR (1.92 billion USD).

The ICT budget makes up 1.55% of Iran's total budget; doubling as a proportion of the national budget when compared to the budget of 1392 (2013/14) and 1391 (2012/13), and tripling in comparison with the budget of 1390 (2011/12). This year marks a new record for the ICT budget as a portion of the national budget in the period since 1386 (2007/08).

The ICT Budget/ Iran's Total Budget

[Figure 1]

Although the ICT budget has seen an increase, the Planned Expenditure Budget (PEB) has declined by 22% compared with 1392 (2012/13). This reduction has occurred at the same time as the Planned Miscellaneous Budget (PMB) has grown dramatically. The PEB is the budget for which the ICT Ministry is directly responsible, and which has already been allocated to relevant government departments or private organisations. The PMB, on the other hand, is the budget for projects which have not yet been assigned to a responsible government department or private contractor. Any decisions as to how the PMB should be allocated are made by the cabinet at a later time.

[Table 1] lists the ICT projects that will see the greatest reduction in their budget for the next year:

Project Name	Growth (%)
Development of IT and scientific space (Supreme Council of Information - SCI)	-47
e-Commerce project	-46
IT affairs - strategic plan	-33
Applied research plan (Communications Regulatory Authority of Iran - CRA)	-28
Support for science and technology development	-20
Strategic plan for telecommunication affairs	-18
Telecommunications regulatory plan	-15
IT program for military and security management	-10

[Table 1]

[Table 2] lists the projects that will see the most significant growth in next year's budget:

Project Name	Growth (%)
Plan for the management of e-Government	+607
Plan for the development and improvement of standards and regulations (SCI)	+521
Plan for technology security	+325
Management and strategic plan for science and technology (SCI)	+76
Improvement and development of media and e-cultural activities plan	+56
Tax information management project	+47
Data protection project	+33

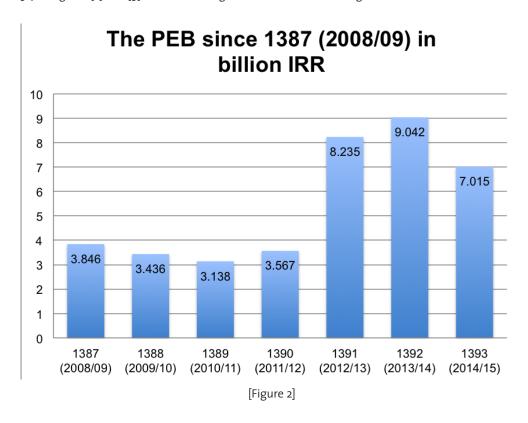| Mapping and location information service	+22
Cadastre - a comprehensive property owner- ship and land value database	+15

[Table 2]

Looking at Tables [1] and [2], we can make a number of conclusions:

• The ICT Ministry would like to expand its plans for e-Government as much as possible in the next year. The government's particular interest in expanding e-Government can be attributed to a number of different factors; from reducing governmental expenditures, to improving Internet security. Such a dramatic expansion of investment does suggest that Iran is attempting to embrace technological advances, and transition towards digital modes of government.

• Perhaps unnerved by previous security incidents such as the Stuxnet virus, the ICT Ministry is very keen to invest in developing greater technological and cyberspace security. This suggests that the Iranian government is at last beginning to recognise the importance of ICT security, and the value in greater investment. Despite this investment, however, it may be more important to gauge the success of such initiatives at the end of the year: Iran has previously attempted to launch national anti-virus software and operating systems to boost security, though past efforts have generally proven unsuccessful.

• The Ministry is developing and improving digital content on government-run websites, though it remains unclear what sort of content the state is most keen to develop. Currently, a large number of state-managed websites contain unattributed content copied from other websites. This plan to improve and expand the content of government sites may be related to the development of the SHOMA 'National Internet', which is slated for launch in March 2016.

• It seems that the Ministry is eager to extend tighter control over policy-making, by increasing the budget of the government-influenced SCI by more than 500%, and granting it greater freedom to set out and implement policy. Despite this expansion of power, it still lacks the influence of the Supreme Leader's own Supreme Council of Cyberspace (SCC) - the body responsible for making the majority of important decisions relating to the development of Iranian cyberspace.

• The Ministry appears to be placing less weight on exhaustive research and strategic planning, slashing budgets for such projects.

• At the same time as the Ministry is expanding the e-Government budget, it is dramatically slashing the e-Commerce budget, signalling a realignment of the Ministry's activities towards modernising the state's digital apparatus, whilst simultaneously offloading responsibility for economic modernisation to the private sector. This shift of resources away from e-Commerce comes after suggestions that corruption has led to huge sums of money dropping out of the budget - for example, 4,000,000,000 IRR (160,640 USD) was spent on developing a new Iranian web browser, despite the fact that the final product turned out to be a Persian-language duplicate of Firefox.

PEB VS. PMB

The PEB has declined for the first time in four years, while the PMB has seen a massive increase of 317%. Figures [2] and [3] show the changes in PEB and PMB funding over time:

The PEB since 1387 (2008/09) in billion IRR

[Figure 2]

The PMB since 1390 (2011/12) in billion IRR

[Figure 3]

Clearly, the Rouhani government has shifted the majority of the ICT budget out of the PEB, and into the PMB. The reasoning behind this is unclear, though we can make a few hypotheses:
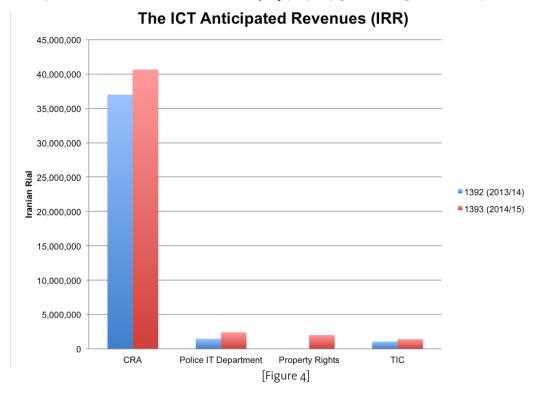
• As mentioned previously, it seems that Rouhani's government would like to keep greater control over the budget. By shifting funding into the PMB, the cabinet ensures that it has a tight grip on the budget without being dependent upon Parliamentary support.

• Another interesting detail revealed in these figures is that the SHOMA project has been assigned to the PMB. This means that either the government remains uncertain about which organisation will be made responsible for implementing it, or instead that it seeks to keep the details of its development under wraps.

PROJECTED ICT REVENUES

The Ministry has predicted that the revenues from its activities will reach 48,603 billion IRR (1.95 billion USD) in the next year. This would mark a growth of 18% compared with the past year, with 98% of ICT revenue coming from the activities of the Communications Regulatory Authority of Iran (CRA).

According to official figures, the most profitable sectors will be:
1. CRA - 40,650 billion IRR (1.62 billion USD)
2. IT department of the Iranian National Police - 2,392 billion IRR (96 million USD)
3. Government property rights in the ICT sector - 2,000 billion IRR (80 million USD)
4. Telecommunication Infrastructure Company (TIC) - 1,403 billion IRR (56 million USD)
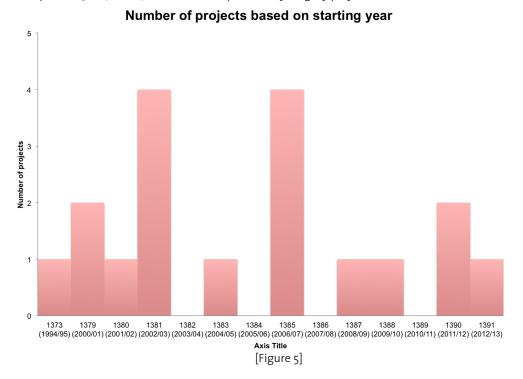

[Figure 4]

The ICT Ministry predicts earnings of 500,000 million IRR (20.10 million USD) arising from the operations of new telecommunication companies. This indicates that Iranian users can expect to see more telecommunication companies being set up in the next year, however it is not yet clear whether these will be private initiatives, or state-owned companies.

Iran has defined 14 distinct ICT projects since 1380 (2001/02), of which 9 have been completed, and 5 are marked for completion by the end of 1394 (2015/16). 18 further projects should be finished by

the end of 1393 (2014/15), including improvements in the telecommunication network, and a centralisation and computerisation of the tax system.

[Figure 5] shows the number of active projects set for completion in 1393, and the years in which they began. The longest-running project set to be completed is the flood alert system, which was started in 1373 (1994/5), though the tax and telecommunication plans from 1379 (2000/1) and the IT plan of 1380 (2001/2) have also been particularly lengthy projects.

Number of projects based on starting year

[Figure 5]

THE STRUCTURE OF ICT COMPANIES
According to the next year budget plan, 13 companies will be placed under the control of the ICT Ministry, and are divided into 2 broad groups:

- **Manufacturers of ICT equipment** - 5 companies:
  · Iran Electronics Industries Co.
  · Electronic Equipment Industries Co.
  · Research and Production Center of Electronic Devices Co.
  · Shiraz Electronic Industries Co.
  · SAIran Telecommunication Industries Co.

- **Service providers of ICT** - 8 companies:
  · ISIran Co.
  · Islamic Republic of Iran Post
  · Air Post Provider & Payam Telecommunication Co.
  · The TIC
  · The Post Bank Company
  · The Research and Development of Electronic Industries Mother Fund Co.
  · The IzIran Institute Co.
  · Information Technology Organisation of Iran (ITO)

The total revenues of these 13 ICT companies will increase by 26% in the next year, however some companies are projected to endure massive losses, including SAIran Telecommunication Industries Co. (-86%) and Shiraz Electronic Industries Co. (-47%).

THE NATIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK (SHOMA) BUDGET

The SHOMA project - better known as Iran's 'National Internet' - is a well-known initiative that has been in development since March 2012. According to the Fifth Five-Year Plan (2011-2016), SHOMA should be launched by the end of 1394 (March 2016), with 60% of all Iranian families and businesses being able to connect to SHOMA by the end 20 March 2014. This projection seems very unlikely, however, given the lack of any clear information about SHOMA's current state of development.

According to the ICT Ministry budget, Iran will invest 12,300,000 million IRR (494.2 million USD) into SHOMA, although it is not clear exactly how, or where the Ministry will spend the money for the network, as the budget is listed as a component of the undisclosed PMB.

Based on the allocation of SHOMA to the PMB it seems increasingly likely that the Rouhani government seeks to outsource and privatise the SHOMA project. The rationale for this is unclear, though perhaps the government is seeking to make the development project more efficient, given the looming March 2016 deadline.

At the same time, the government seems inclined to facilitate the development of SHOMA indirectly by investing money into local technological development and domestic digital products (such as Iranian-produced operating systems, browsers and anti-virus software) and development of the ICT research sector. Based on projections from the Fifth Five-Year Plan, 2% of Iran's total GDP should come from the ICT sector by the end of March 2016.

THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF CYBERSPACE (SCC) BUDGET

The Iranian Parliament approved the SCC budget in January 2014, which according to Khabar Online, has been set at 1,000 billion IRR (40 million USD). This money will be taken from the ICT budget and will be allocated to both the Supreme Leader-influenced SCC and its subsidiary body, the National Center for Cyberspace (NCC).

MISCELLANEOUS POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE ICT BUDGET

In addition to the issues raised above, there are some further points in the ICT budget that are worth noting:

• The ICT Ministry has plans to contribute to the expansion of **fiber-optic networks** in the Middle East. The Ministry claims that such development would allow Iran to become a regional hub. The Ministry indicates that previously, Western sanctions prevented Iran from playing a larger role in regional development.

• The Ministry has allocated up to 900 billion IRR (36 million USD) for the purpose of assisting private and cooperative companies in their expansion of **entrepreneurship and the export of goods and services**. Also, under the new budget private companies will have a greater role in ICT development, with the government seeking to outsource different ICT projects (i.e. healthcare, education) to the private sector

• The budget for the production of **electronic educational materials for school students** has decreased by around 88.5% compared with 1392. The reason behind this collapse in funding is unclear, as Small Media has not seen any signs of the project reaching completion.

• The budget to support the **Persian language on the web** has seen a reduction, although it is not clear whether the project has been completed. The original deadline for the project was March 2013.

• The **Soft War** budget has declined by around 50% compared with 1392. It is unclear why this reduction has taken place, although it might be taken as a signal that the new Rouhani administration is willing to engage with the West on more positive terms. It should be noted, however, that such reductions have been steadily taking place over the past three years.

• **IT security** budgets have increased massively. For instance, the IT security budget of the ITO has increased twelvefold.

CONTENT FILTERING AND BLOCKED SITES

JANUARY 2:

Viber, an instant messaging mobile application, was blocked shortly after *WeChat*. The Commission to Determine the Instances of Criminal Content (CDICC) subsequently denied that a block was imposed upon Viber. In the wake of this incident, Viber published an update for its Iranian users, advising them how to circumvent the filters placed on the app. Subsequently, some users reported that they could access Viber without any problems from 01:00 on 3 January 2014. (Source I, Source II, Source III)

JANUARY 4:

According an order of the Tehran prosecutor, the pro-Ahmadinejad news website Nocut Press was blocked as a result of users posting insulting comments about Iranian authorities. In response, the founder of Nocut Press, Mohammad Rahmani, made a post on Google+ stating that he will retreat from political activities as there is no longer any space for Ahmadinejad supporters in the Iranian media environment. This post is no longer available on his Google+ profile at the time of writing. Nocut Press originally commenced activity on 24 June 2013. (Source I, Source II)

JANUARY 17:

A bank worker from north-west Iran was arrested by Iran's Cyber Police - or FATA - (South Khorasan Province) for hacking emails and stealing private information. FATA states that the hacker was captured by tracing his IP address. (Source)

JANUARY 20:

The official website of the moderate conservative MP Ali Motahari was unblocked. The website was blocked on 30 December 2013 after Motahari criticised the head of Iran's judiciary system for making politically-motivated judgements. (Source)

JANUARY 26:

The owner of a Facebook page publishing pictures of 'hooliganism' was arrested by FATA (Tehran Province). According to FATA, investigators hacked the Facebook page in order to identify the owner. (Source)

JANUARY 29:

An individual that created a false WeChat profile for one of their colleagues was arrested by FATA (Isfahan Province). According to FATA, the detainee published private images of their colleague, and subjected them to cyberbullying. (Source)

POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

JANUARY 18:

The Minister of ICT, Mahmood Vaezi, set out the government's Internet censorship policy. According to the new outline, the government will continue to block all anti-religious and pornographic websites, as it maintains that such policies have the support of many Iranian families. Vaezi stipulated, however, that websites providing genuine and useful information to Iranians would remain unblocked. He added that the government remains unopposed to mobile messaging apps, with the government acting only to block features that threaten users' privacy. On this point, it should be noted that the government has only 6 out of 13 members in the CDICC - it does not hold a monopoly over the censorship decision-making process. (Source)

JANUARY 31:

Mahmood Khosravi, the Director of TIC, announced an upcoming collaboration between the government and the private sector to reduce the cost of Iranian Internet bandwidth, by transferring the servers of Iranian websites inside the country. *Aparat*, the Iranian version of Youtube, is one such site whose content is hosted inside Iran. (Source)

STATEMENTS FROM MINISTERS AND POLITICIANS

JANUARY 3:

Abdolsamad Khoramabadi, the head of the CDICC, announced that the chat app 'Viber' was not blocked, stating that news articles reporting on restrictions were mistaken. He also denied reports that the CDICC has an official Twitter account, stating that the ability for users to easily create such fake accounts serves as one of the justifications for banning Twitter in Iran. (Source)

JANUARY 4:

Khoramabadi said that mobile communication apps such as Viber and Instagram will remain unblocked until the launch of Iranian-produced alternatives. It seems as though Iran is trying to follow a similar path to China, in blocking non-Iranian apps prior to introducing domestically-produced and state-sanctioned clones. (Source)

JANUARY 5:

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei answered a religious question about online chatting between unrelated men and women, stating that "Given the immorality that often comes with this, it is not permitted." (Source)

JANUARY 8:

Vaezi stated that the development of SHOMA remains the first priority for his Ministry. In addition, he criticised the CDICC, stating that its secretary should have extensive technical knowledge. He argued that the CDICC head should be familiar with the latest technology, and be able to provide insights into how to regulate it. Vaezi's comments mark the first instance that a cabinet member has attacked a serving head of the CDICC. (Source)

JANUARY 18:

Hamid Chitchian, the Minister of Energy, joined *Va Mardom (And People)*, an Iranian social networking site. At the time of writing, Chitchian's first status update has received three comments. In his post, he speaks of wishing to engage in direct conversations with Iranians. (Source)

JANUARY 19:

Nasrollah Jahangard, the Director of ITO, announced that China will assist Iran in the development of SHOMA. It is not yet clear what kind of role China will play in assisting with the program. It is not clear precisely what kind of role China will play in assisting with the program, although it seems Iran would like to replicate the Chinese model of the national Internet. (Source)

JANUARY 20:

Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli, the Interior Minister, announced that IRIB will launch a system of new Virtual Networks (VNs). According to Fazli, the VNs will cover around 10,000 regional councils throughout the country (including villages), allowing people in these localities to communicate via the VNs. It is not clear what differences there are between SHOMA and the VN project. (Source)

JANUARY 22:

Hossein Maedanipour, the Director of Network Management at the TIC, announced that Iranians make calls for an average 80 million minutes (152 years) per month, to 233 countries around the world. At the same time, Iranians receive 120 million minutes (228 years) worth of calls per month from other countries. The countries that engage in the most calls with Iran are: Afghanistan, UAE, Armenia, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Azerbaijan, USA, England, and Germany. (Source)

JANUARY 23:

Hojjat al-Islam Seyyed Mehdi Khamoshi, the Director of the Islamic Development Organisation (IDO), announced that the organisation was working very diligently on the issue of Internet filtering. He provided no further details on the future activities of his organisation. (Source)

JANUARY 24:

Khoramabadi criticised increasing government activities on Facebook and Twitter during a live broadcast on IRIB 3. He announced that the restrictions imposed upon Facebook and Twitter are rooted in Iranian press laws, justifying this position by stating that, like newspapers, social networking sites are spaces upon which people may publish their opinions. He added that it is impossible to separate criminal content from permitted content on Facebook, and that the site was blocked with a large majority of CDICC member votes, including 6 government representatives. Khoramabadi also claimed that the CDICC receives 800 filtering requests every day, before adding that the Iranian social network *Cloob* now receives more regular visitors than Facebook. (Source I, Source II)

Mehdi Akhavan Behabadi, an independent member of the SCC, and a former Secretary of the organisation, appeared as a guest on an IRIB 3 show. He made a number of noteworthy points in his interview:

· Some senior Iranian politicians are wary of imposing restrictions on popular Western services such as Google, as they are worried that such restrictions may impact negatively upon their own interests.

· In general, Iranian authorities are in agreement that foreign social networks have both positive and negative attributes. However, there are two proposed solutions to the problem of social networks: one group of officials says that until foreign social networks have been purged of negative attributes, all of them should remain blocked. However, another group argues that Iran should open up access to the sites, and then block the negative components over time.

· The government has a key role to play in resolving problems around filtering in Iran. Currently, however, there do not appear to be any significant differences between the filtering policies of the Rouhani and Ahmadinejad administrations, with no significant policy shifts taking place since the new president's election. The ICT Ministry has the power to make progress in resolving the problem of censorship by implementing 'intelligent' filtering. As things currently stand, in cases where the Ministry cannot block a specific item of content on a website, then the entire site is blocked, this being a less-than-ideal solution.

· Iranian Internet users have made a mockery of the entire philosophy of Internet censorship, as users are generally able to bypass restrictions easily, through the use of circumvention tools.

· Iranian concerns about the filtering system are largely concerns about the clumsy filtering methods that prevent them from accessing legitimate websites: Iranians are not campaigning for access to pornographic or immoral contents, but for a smarter system. The current filtering methods have been made obsolete, and Iran needs to develop an 'intelligent' filtering method.

· Last year, when the Iranian people boycotted Google due to a provocative anti-Islam video on Youtube, censors suddenly blocked Gmail, stating that they could not block the Google search engine without blocking Gmail. After hours of intensive and heated discussion, the SCC negotiated a solution to the problem, and Gmail was made available for the people. (Source)

JANUARY 28:
Ahmad Toolaei, the IT Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), said that only 4% of Iranians have access to a high speed Internet connection, with 42% of them owning a computer and 27% having any access the Internet. In addition, he described how:
· Online shopping from mobile phones has increased tenfold over the last 2 years.
· More than 52% of Iranian youth are using the Internet.
· 13 million Iranian Internet users make use of online banking.
· The number of consumers of computer games has risen to around 25 million Iranians.
· There are 25 million landline phones and 60 million SIM cards active in Iran. The landline penetration rate in 1392 was 79%. (Source)

JANUARY 29:
Mohammad Hassan Entezari, the SCC Secretary, held an interview with the newspaper Iran in which he clarified a number of points:
· The SCC's duty is to establish policies that will shape the character of Iran's 'national culture of Internet usage'. An example of this 'shaping' in action is visible in Iran's policy of Internet filtering; although executed by the CDICC, the policy was originally outlined by the SCC in order to transform the character of Iranians' Internet usage.
· The SCC is preparing to unveil a comprehensive policy relating to Internet censorship, in order to establish clear guidelines for the blocking of different websites/services. Entezari argues that a substantive policy should be put in place, as Internet censorship policy should not be based on the subjective opinions of CDICC members (as it is currently).
Some universities and private companies have been working to design an intelligent filtering system for the Internet that will be able to block specific parts of websites based on their content. In the near future, he says, the Iranian people will begin to see less intrusive censorship methods being implemented.
· The SCC believes that social networks have both advantages and disadvantages. On the positive side, they empower common people, though the SCC is wary that they could be used as 'spying tools'. Entazari claims that the SCC would like to support Iranian social networks, and promote them over international networks such as Facebook or Twitter.
· The SCC has passed a general plan for the development of SHOMA. In the next meeting, the SCC will discuss potential services and web content that would compliment the implementation of SHOMA. (Source)

Jahangard announced that Iran's Internet bandwidth per capita sits at 1 Kbps, whilst Turkey has around 50 Kbps, and Qatar 100 Kbps. This means that Iran has only 0.001% of global Internet bandwidth. According to Jahangard, Iran's throughput currently rests at 100 Gb, though it will rise to 150 Gb by end of this year (March 2014). (Source)

In response to Entezari's interview with the newspaper Iran, Khoramabadi denied that the CDICC has acted based on the personal opinions of its members. He stated that the CDICC's previous actions have been based on the law, and that the organisation follows SCC directives relating to cyberspace. (Source)

CIVIL SOCIETY, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION STATEMENTS

JANUARY 5:

The Mehr News Agency published a report claiming that 1.5 million Iranians are regular users of free mobile apps such as WeChat, Viber and Instagram, with each of these apps having been downloaded more than 1 million times from Iranian app stores such as *Bazaar*. Mehr News now estimates that there are at least 1,200,000 Android devices and 300,000 iOS devices in Iran. Previously, Vaezi announced that 4 million Iranians were users of WeChat and the ICT Ministry stated that 10% of the Internet bandwidth in the country has been taken up by mobile apps. (Source)

JANUARY 14:

According to *Nitrogram*, Iranian Instagram is overwhelmingly male: 82% of users are men. (Source)

JANUARY 16:

The National Internet Development Management Center (MATMA) published the Internet penetration rate for the first six months of the Iranian year. According to MATMA, there are 40,718,740 Internet users in Iran, making the Internet penetration rate 54.18% of the total population. In addition, MATMA stated that there are 26,676,948 unique Internet connections. Previous figures released by MATMA showed that the Internet penetration rate had hit 61.6% by the end of 1391 (20 March 2013) and 43% at the end of 1390 (19 March 2012). The inconsistency of these figures comes as a result of shifting definitions of the term 'Internet penetration', making assessments of Iran's actual Internet penetration rates intensely problematic. The latest MATMA figures are listed in Tables [3] and [4] below. (Source)

Connection Type	Number of users
GPRS	15,803,960 (21.03%)
ADSL	9,484,435 (12.62%)
Dial-up	6,934,760 (9.23%)
Fiber Optic Broadband	6,106,000 (8.00%)
WiMAX	2,389,585 (3.18%)

[Table 3]

Province	Internet Penetration (%)
Mazandaran	74.80
Tehran	70.35
Isfahan	66.05
Qom	62.59
Semnan	58.50
Khuzestan	58.03
Hormozgan	58.09
Fars	56.84
Yazd	54.73
Gilan	53.75
Chahar Mahaal and Bakhtiari	52.59
Bushehr	52.41
Ardabil	52.28
Azerbaijan, East	50.94
Zanjan	49.81
Khorasan, Razavi	48.85
Golestan	48.07
Kurdistan	47.26
Hamedan	46.96
Qazvin	45.71
Ilam	45.59
Markazi	45.55
Azerbaijan, West	44.79
Alborz	42.22
Kermanshah	41.39
Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad	39.78
Khorasan, South	37.74
Kerman	36.89
Sistan and Baluchistan	36.45
Lorestan	35.36
Khorasan, North	32.41

[Table 4]

JANUARY 18:

Beep Tunes - an Iranian alternative to iTunes - was licensed by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. (Source)