Digital Landscape

Discussion Guide

Let's review

At the start of each discussion, review the conversation ground rules for returning and new members alike to set the stage for active participation by all. You may want to use a timer as you go around the room. And don't forget to decide who will take notes and post a discussion recap.

- **Be open and curious:** Everyone has a unique perspective, so be prepared to hear a different point of view. Listen first, and focus on the facts.
- **Be respectful and engaged:** Be sure that everyone has a chance to speak before adding a second comment or perspective. Encourage each other's participation.
- **Be focused and concise:** Keep the conversation centered on the issue and the brief.

  The "Table-it" Rule: If the group has gone off-topic but the area is of interest, the group can table the conversation and save it for another time to be addressed in a different manner.

Let's begin

*Each member is invited to answer the following questions in a **two-three minute reaction** to the brief.*

- Introduce yourself, and share what "lens of care" did you wear when reviewing this brief (e.g. personal, professional, community, state, nation, global)?
- What did you find most interesting or surprising from reading the brief? What matters?

Let's discuss

Pick 2 or 3 questions that resonate with the group and discuss, or choose your own.

- How many times a day do you rely on our digital infrastructure? In a national emergency if the Internet went down, how would you get news and information?
- On a scale of 1 to 10, how important is it that the U.S. be on the leading edge of digital infrastructure?
- What role should the government have in developing new technology or providing access to the digital infrastructure and economy?
- How safe is your personal data? Do you think privacy standards are adequate or not?

Let's act

Spread the Word: Some Facts to Share

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- The Internet connects almost 4 billion people, more than half of the world's population ([World Economic Forum](#)).
- Almost 25 million Americans (8%) lack broadband connectivity; 19 million of these Americans live in rural areas, where just ⅔ of communities have access to mobile and fixed broadband ([NTIA: Closing the Rural Broadband Gap](#)).
- In 2018, the US ranked 20th worldwide in broadband speed ([The Guardian](#)).
- In 2015, worldwide e-commerce sales amounted to over $25 trillion ([UNCTAD](#))
- Cyberattacks have increased by more than 100 percent since 2015 ([Reuters](#)).
- Approximately 765 million people were affected by data breaches between April and June of 2018 ([USA Today](#)).
- Between 2013 and 2017, Alphabet, Microsoft, and Apple together filed over 300 health care patents ([Stanford Medicine](#)).

Engage Locally
- *Learn more:*
  - **Research the digital infrastructure of your community** and its political, social, and economic effects
    - Ask your local, state, or national representatives about their perspectives on digital infrastructure, and what projects are currently in place.
    - Many states have special digital infrastructure and technology initiatives with their own websites. Examples include New Jersey's Computer Science for All Initiative in education, Maine's ConnectME Authority for expanding broadband access, and Oklahoma's Innovate Oklahoma to facilitate partnerships between the state government and the digital sector.
      - On your state or municipality's website, search for "*public safety and security*" as an option on a dropdown menu.
      - Alternatively, use the search bar to search for "*public safety and security,*" or more specifically for "*cybersecurity*" or "*internet*" to see what initiatives or programs are in place in your community
    - See where your state ranks on the [Broadband Speed and Access Map](#): Are all neighborhoods equal in broadband speed? Would broadband speed in your area impact business development, educational opportunities, or healthcare services?
  - **Consider the effect of digital infrastructure on your own life**
    - Do you employ safety measures in your own internet use?
    - Check your own safety. [Haveibeenpwned.com](#) will tell you whether your email has been compromised via a hack.

- *Reach Out*
  - Explore what organizations, legislators, and journalists you could contact to ask questions, learn more and get engaged.

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- ○ If you have trouble finding the information you are looking for on your municipality's website, consider contacting agency or department heads. You can find the contact information for federal, state, and local government officials here.
- ○ The Policy Circle offers a number of resources for engaging on the local level. Learn how to write a letter to the editor on The Policy Circle website.
- ○ It's easy to establish a relationship with your legislators. Start by introducing yourself. You can also learn to write to your representatives or set up a meeting with a legislator on The Policy Circle website.

Post a Recap/Dive Deeper:

- Summarize your discussion to share thoughts with members not present. Who can post a meeting recap on your circle page?
- Decide your next meeting topic. Want to discuss a related brief at your next meeting?
- This brief is part of the Conversation Series 5 For A World View. Other briefs in the series include:
    - ○ Immigration, Foreign Policy: Middle East, and Foreign Policy: Asia Pacific
- Dive Deeper into this area. If this is an area you would like to pursue further, consider taking possible steps to influence policy. The Policy Circle offers resources for developing a message about your issue and organizing a petition to amplify your voice and raise awareness.