

Get to Know Us

What We Stand For

Aspen Digital empowers policy-makers, civic organizations, companies, and the public to be responsible stewards of technology and media in the service of an informed, just, and equitable world. A program of the Aspen Institute, we shine a light on urgent global issues across cybersecurity, the information ecosystem, emerging technology, the industry talent pipeline, tech and communications policy, and urban innovation. We then turn ideas to action and develop human solutions to these digital challenges.

What We Do

We work where technology, the internet, and digital media meet to drive meaningful change. Our initiatives reflect a free exchange of ideas across a spectrum of viewpoints, domains, and sectors.

Cybersecurity

Our cybersecurity work fosters collaboration among tech companies, civic organizations, and policymakers. We generate solutions to the critical security challenges of the digital age and work to maximize the positive impact of innovation on society. This effort includes:

- **Cybersecurity Group** - The nation's leading cross-sector, public-private cybersecurity forum, the Group comprises former government officials; Capitol Hill leaders; industry executives; and respected voices from academia, journalism, and civil society. It aims to translate pressing cybersecurity conversations into action.
- **Cyber Summit** - Our convening engages both leading policymakers and boots on the ground, discussing today's most salient issues in cybersecurity and tech innovation.
- **Craig Newmark Cyber Journalism Fellowship** - Our non-resident fellowship helps working journalists learn the technical details of cybersecurity, introducing them to the key debates and concepts required to cover the field.
- **Cybersecurity Collaborative Network** - This informal network, which includes more than 100 representatives from nonprofit and academia, aims to help those working in the cyber policy field share information and resources, and work together to solve key problems.
- **Cyber Risk Council** - This vital platform brings together businesses and associations of all sizes, from every commercial sector, to share and discuss cybersecurity policy, best practices, and market-based solutions.

- **Axios Codebook** - We partner with Axios on this weekly newsletter, which covers the latest in cybersecurity, national security, and technology—reported by our senior staff writer, Zach Dorfman.

News & Information

We strive toward societies where all people have access to trustworthy information and reliable news sources. Where a free press thrives and information is not a weapon but a tool for civic engagement. Where the narrative equitably includes and represents the voices of traditionally marginalized communities. With this world vision, we work across:

- **News at the Speed of the Internet** - Longstanding journalistic practices and norms have been upended by a fast-changing information ecosystem, which now includes social media feeds, bots, manipulation campaigns, and an altered political landscape. We host private workshops among journalists, ethicists, First Amendment attorneys, and academics for frank, off-the-record conversation.
- **Information Disorders** - Mis- and dis-information have become a global plight that undermines public health efforts, elections, and the economy. We shine a critical lens on the issues and solutions for the public, and convene key social media platforms, news executives, researchers, and public-interest leaders on solutions.
- **Sustainable Quality Journalism & Press Freedom** - Through public and private programming, we shine a light on the risks posed to a free and sustainable press, the importance of quality reporting to common knowledge, and the role of news media in a democracy.

Emerging Technology

We bring together a wide range of doers and thinkers from law, academia, industry, and civil society to tackle pressing issues found at the intersection of emerging technology and society. The goal is to improve the design, development, and governance of these products through research, education, and policy.

- **Algorithm and Data Bias** - The fuel that powers the engine of today's digital economy is data—a vast compendium of knowledge that captures who we are, what we buy, what we watch, how we live, and what we believe. In the wrong hands or with improper analysis, that data can intrude on our private lives, exacerbate existing inequities, and undermine progress. We will address these challenges in collaboration with the public sector and private industry to drive more equitable outcomes in data governance.

- **Virtually Human Project** - Building on our longstanding work in artificial intelligence, this project helps to inform and inspire the ways societies develop, deploy, and monitor the positive impacts of human-machine touchpoints.
- **Synthetic Media** - AI-generated images, videos, and text are becoming cheaper, faster, and easier to produce—and more realistic. This content will entirely change how we experience the world via screens, and it will usher in a flowering of creativity. Our program will examine synthetic media across industries and work toward a common set of principles for how it should be used, contextualized, and labeled.

D.A.T.A. Initiative

A multi-pronged effort, the D.A.T.A. (Diversity and Technology Action) Initiative helps to rebuild the digital ecosystem to be reflective of the world's diversity. Working across technology, cybersecurity, and media, we are addressing the challenge of sector diversity, equity, and inclusion from three angles: (1) Recruitment and Hiring, (2) Retention and Promotion, (3) Industry and Government Accountability. Core projects include:

- **Firestone Fellowship** - This fellowship offers advanced graduate students of color the opportunity to foster professional and academic careers in the field of media, innovation, and tech policy through attendance of Aspen Digital events.
- **Tech X Talent Project** - We bring together leading voices from industry, academia, policy, and civil society to promote equity in tech. Through toolkits and guides, we aim to drive sector collaboration and advance effective hiring and retention strategies, ultimately helping companies operationalize best practices.
- **Anti-racism Pledge Tracker** - Amid a historic national conversation on race, the tracker monitors commitments to address diversity, equity, and inclusion from US tech and media companies. This online resource summarizes and makes more visible the steps these companies plan to take to boost opportunities for people of color, confront systemic inequality, and combat racism in the justice system, among other goals. We are building the tracker in real time with support from the public.

Tech Policy Hub

Our West Coast incubator is training a new generation of tech policy entrepreneurs. Through the Tech Policy Hub, we teach tech experts the policy process through an in-residence fellowship program, and encourage them to develop outside-of-the-box solutions to society's problems. We model this initiative after tech incubators, like Y Combinator.

Communications Policy

For 35 years, we have convened global leaders and experts from business, government, and nonprofit through our annual Conference on Communications Policy. The goal is to develop recommendations for how the information ecosystem can benefit societies. In addition, our program also addresses:

- **Connectivity and Access** - Each year, we bring together decision-makers from the telecommunication and information industries, consumer groups, nonprofits, and government to exchange insights and recommend policy. Core to this work is helping to close the digital divide and ensure equitable internet access.
- **Content Moderation** - Partnership for a Healthy Digital Public Sphere is our new long-term project centered on content moderation. Working with key stakeholders, we have identified five urgent issues for which we must set standards before 2021. In the next phase, we turn toward researching and developing a systems framework for addressing these needs, as well as raising public awareness of the content moderation process.

Center for Urban Innovation

A network converging point, the Center for Urban Innovation catalyzes and supports a broader movement to define values-led approaches to developing, piloting, regulating, and evaluating urban technologies. We connect city leaders, nonprofit organizations, and emerging businesses that believe people deserve cities that promote human flourishing and enhance the experiences of and opportunities for all residents, particularly those in underserved neighborhoods.

Learn More

For more information on Aspen Digital, visit www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/aspendingital/.

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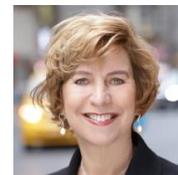
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