Everyone deserves access to affordable and reliable Internet, no matter their location or circumstance.

Meeting this challenge requires a community working together, ideally using shared standards and data to ensure the networks they plan and build interconnect with the global Internet.

**What’s the Problem?**

Fibre optic infrastructure forms the backbone of the Internet, underpinning all Internet access technologies, including mobile, wireless, and satellite.

Despite its importance, the telecom sector and relevant government agencies often lack consistent and readily available data to help them plan, maintain, expand, and protect it.

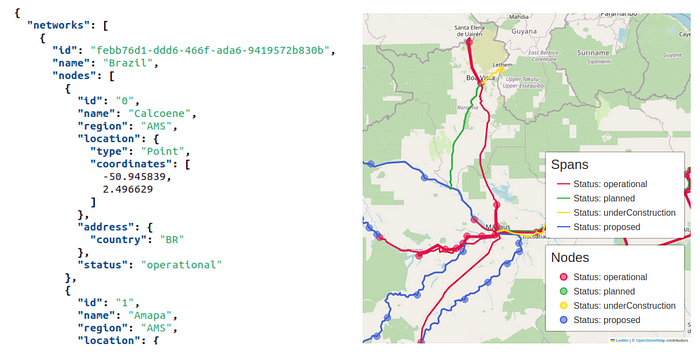
This can cause multiple problems, including unknowingly duplicating existing infrastructure, not identifying gaps or single points of failure in current infrastructure, and not being able to effectively measure the socioeconomic impact of investments in Internet infrastructure.

**How does OFDS Solve This?**

The Open Fibre Data Standard (OFDS) is a common language for describing terrestrial fibre optic networks. It also works to establish norms among operators and regulators for information sharing regarding terrestrial fibre deployments.

The standard facilitates the exchange, analysis, and visualization of fibre network data for different stakeholders, including governments, telecom providers, and researchers.

By providing a consistent schema, OFDS enhances interoperability, transparency, and informed decision-making in broadband expansion and resilience efforts.

[Caption text: On the left, a snapshot of OFDS data describing Brazil’s fibre network. On the right, visualization of OFDS data.]

**Who Benefits?**

* **Governments and communication regulators** can assess national network infrastructure holistically to identify gaps in infrastructure and areas of network fragility. OFDS also helps avoid duplication in reporting of fibre infrastructure where multiple operators may report fibre on a single deployment.
* **Investors and planners** can make more informed data-driven decisions on infrastructure development.
* **Surveyors, engineers, and researchers** can access standardized data through GIS tools and mapping platforms.

**Who’s Involved?**

Established in 2022, the OFDS has been developed in collaboration with the World Bank, International Telecommunications Union, the Internet Society, Mozilla Corporation, Liquid Intelligent Technologies, CSquared, and Digital Council Africa.

The Internet Society assumed a secretariat role for the standard in 2025 and is working to advance awareness and adoption of it worldwide through in-person workshops and technical assistance.

Join our community to inform policy and investment decisions that can make the Internet for everyone.

Website <https://ofds.info>

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