MacArthur Foundation Awards $1 Million to Citizen Lab

MacArthur Award for Creative & Effective Institutions Recognizes Citizen Lab for Extraordinary Creativity and Effectiveness

Toronto, Canada (February 20, 2014) – Citizen Lab is one of seven nonprofit organizations around the world to receive the 2014 MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions. The Award, which was announced today, recognizes exceptional nonprofit organizations who have demonstrated creativity and impact, and invests in their long-term sustainability with sizable one-time grants.

"From exposing human rights abuses in cyberspace to reducing the influence of money in American politics, the missions of these organizations are diverse," said MacArthur President Robert Gallucci. "They share in common their demonstrated impact in improving the lives of people and communities. MacArthur hopes these investments will sustain and expand the reach of that impact."

The Citizen Lab is an interdisciplinary laboratory that develops new approaches for researching and documenting information controls (e.g. network surveillance and content filtering). In carrying out its work, the Citizen Lab aims to explore issues that impact the openness and security of the Internet and that pose threats to human rights.

"The MacArthur Award is a game-changer for the Citizen Lab," said Citizen Lab Director Ron Deibert. "It will enable us to continue to work independent of government and corporate interests, and not be afraid to tackle the tough problems hidden beneath the surface of the Internet that deserve the public's attention."

According to MacArthur, the Award is not only recognition for past leadership and success but also an investment in the future. The Citizen Lab will use its MacArthur Award as a permanent endowment to help support the Citizen Lab's core operations, and a small amount to better communicate our research to a wider public audience.

For these Awards, the Foundation does not seek or accept nominations. To qualify, organizations must demonstrate exceptional creativity and effectiveness; have reached a critical or strategic point in their development; show strong leadership and stable financial management; have previously received MacArthur support; and engage in work central to one of MacArthur's core programs.

About the Citizen Lab.

The Citizen Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto is an interdisciplinary laboratory that explores the intersection of information technology, global security, and human rights. In 2009, the Citizen Lab was part of a research team that produced the *Tracking Ghostnet* cyber espionage report, one of the first public reports to document a major cyber espionage network affecting thousands of computers in dozens of high-profile targets worldwide. The Citizen Lab has also published a series of reports that document the emerging market for lawful intercept technologies, what some call "digital arms," targeting civil society organizations. In 2014, the Citizen Lab was the first Canadian organization to be awarded the prestigious John D. and Catherine T.

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