

## Get to Know Aspen Digital

### 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 innovation. We then turn ideas to action and develop human solutions to digital challenges.

### What We Do

We drive change where technology, the internet, and digital media meet. 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 annual convening engages both leading policymakers and boots on the ground, discussing today's most salient cybersecurity and tech innovation issues.
- **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 cyber policy experts share information and resources, and work together to solve key problems.
- **Cybersecurity Risk Council** - A platform for sharing and discussing cybersecurity policy, best practices, and market-based solutions, this effort brings together businesses and associations of all sizes, from every commercial sector.

- **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.

## Commission on Information Disorder

State and non-state actors are undermining trust and sowing discord in civil society and modern democratic institutions by spreading, or encouraging the sharing of, false information across traditional and non-traditional media platforms. Government, industry, academia, and the public sector are struggling to understand the roles and responsibilities for countering malicious or otherwise harmful activities. The Commission aims to identify and prioritize the most critical sources and causes of information disorder and deliver a set of short-term actions and longer-term goals to help government, the private sector, and civil society respond to this modern-day crisis of faith in key institutions.

## 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 narratives equitably include and represent 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, bot networks, 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. This has included helping to prepare all major newsrooms and tech platforms for a contested US election and the COVID-19 vaccine rollout process.
- **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. As part of this work, we are a supporting member of the Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Our program is committed to helping 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 (DEI) from three angles: (1) Recruitment and Hiring, (2) Retention and Promotion, (3) Industry and Government Accountability. Core active projects include:

- **Catalyze Tech Initiative** - Tech as an industry is a global superpower, with a unique ability to exponentially increase or decrease racial and social inequities. In light of this global movement, Catalyze Tech invites tech CEOs - and all other CEOs with a tech workforce - to come together as leaders on the issue of today. In partnership with Snap Inc., NCWIT, and PwC, we are calling for a radical paradigm shift, based on values, that makes DEI strategy and business strategy indivisible: CEOs must bring a business approach to inclusion and an inclusive approach to business equity.
- **Tech X Talent** - By identifying specific actions that tech decision-makers can take at the institutional and industry levels, we can help spur the entire industry to systemic change. Bringing together C-Suite tech DEI leaders, this project aims to guide and support this process. We have convened a series of roundtables on how to advance and promote a diverse, equitable, and inclusive work culture. The insights gained from these conversations, as well as recommendations developed via Catalyze Tech, inform our future engagement with tech CEOs as we seek industry-wide adoption of best practices.
- **Cyber Policy DEI** - We are developing free and widely accessible resources for organizations and individuals in cyber policy. This process has involved convening cybersecurity professionals with representatives from affinity and other diverse groups, and securing their commitment to anti-racist policies. The ultimate goal of this collaboration is to foster DEI-focused hiring pipelines and mid-career support and mentorship opportunities for Black and Latinx communities.
- **Cyber Workforce Coalition** - This initiative is accelerating efforts to close the cybersecurity skills gap by convening more than 32 major employers to reform their hiring and training practices and better match their demand for diverse talent with the vast supply of potential employees who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color.
- **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 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 fellowship and executive education programs, and encourage them to develop outside-the-box solutions to society's problems. We model this initiative after tech incubators, like Y Combinator, and currently run two main programs:

- **Aspen Tech Policy Hub Fellowship** - This full-time, paid, ten-week program provides an in-residence experience in the Bay Area.
- **Tech Executive Leadership Initiative** - A part-time, unpaid, online, ten-week program, co-sponsored by the Hub, the initiative provides senior technology professionals with a unique leadership opportunity to strengthen their executive skills. Through experiential learning with real government tech policy challenges, leaders hone their skills to work effectively with dedicated public servants and mitigate risk on technology projects.

## 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.

## 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 long-term project centered on content moderation. Working with key stakeholders, we have identified five urgent issues for which we must set standards in 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.

## Learn More

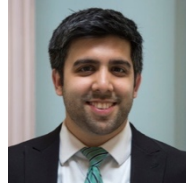
For more information on Aspen Digital, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/aspendingital/](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/programs/aspendingital/).

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