The Russian Splinternet Model and its Current Trajectory

Since 2012 **Teplitsa** supports Russian civil society with the smart use of technology.

For us, connectivity isn't just a technical or media access issue.

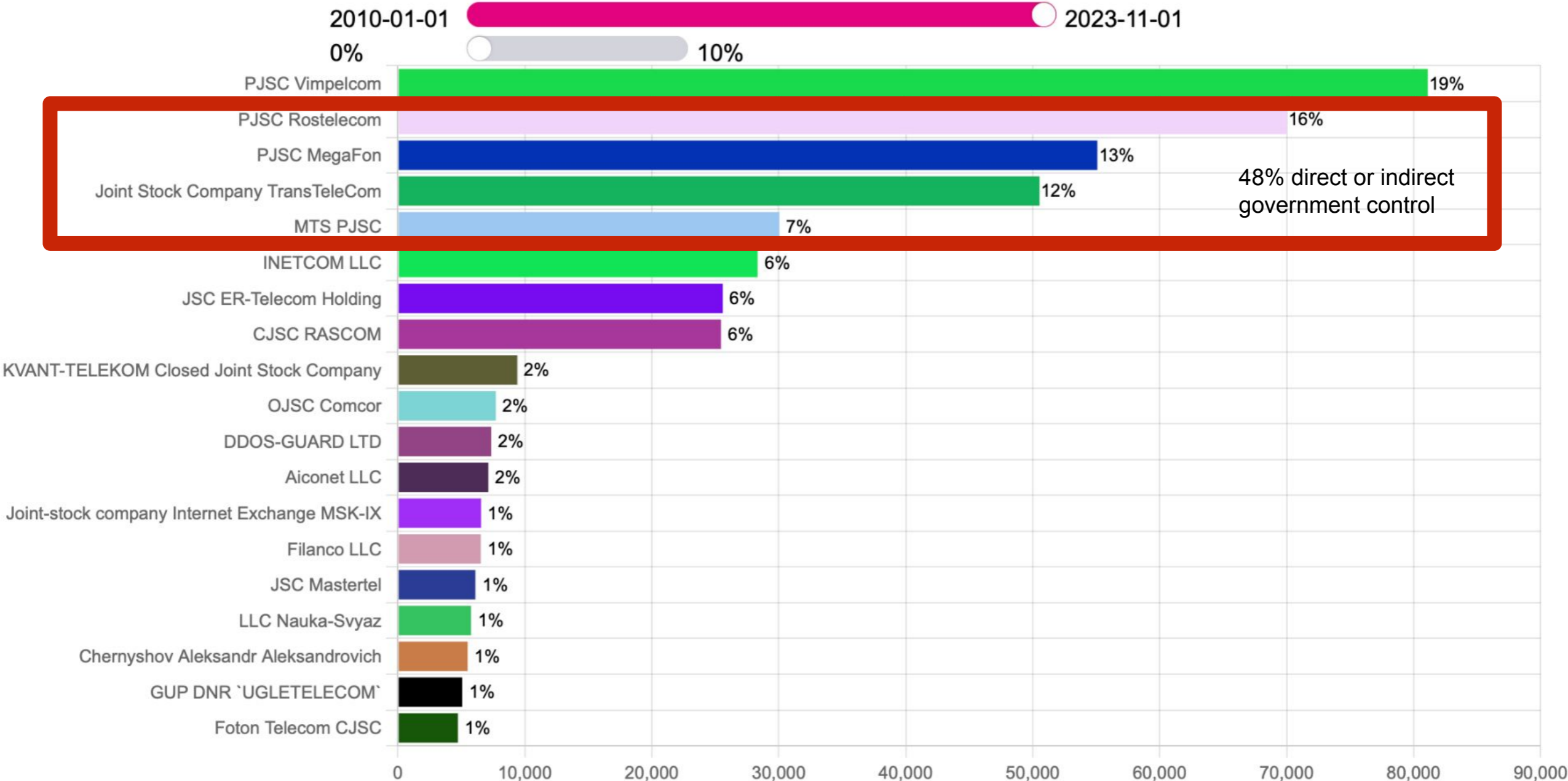The ability of civic activists to fulfill their missions depends on connectivity.

ТЕПЛИЦА
TE-ST.ORG

Teplitsa| September 2022 – March 2023

Disconnect and Conquer
The Future of Censorship in Russia:
Horizon Scanning Approach

te-st.org

Окукливание (Pupation, Okuklivanie, Self-Isolation) – creation of parallel autonomous systems that theoretically allow one country to have the same Internet-like experience while being disconnected or semi-disconnected from the rest of the world

Alternative Technology Infrastructures

- Deep Packet Inspection – Packet-level surveillance / Data mirroring / storage
- Control over Trans-border Connections
- ISP Monopolization
- National Browser
- National Certificate Authority

ТЕПЛИЦА
TE-ST.ORG

Internet Service Providers with Transborder connections

	2010-01-01 ●	● 2023-11-01
0%	● 10%	

Provider	Value	%
PJSC Vimpelcom		19%
PJSC Rostelecom		16%
PJSC MegaFon		13%
Joint Stock Company TransTeleCom		12%
MTS PJSC		7%
INETCOM LLC		6%
JSC ER-Telecom Holding		6%
CJSC RASCOM		6%
KVANT-TELEKOM Closed Joint Stock Company		2%
OJSC Comcor		2%
DDOS-GUARD LTD		2%
Aiconet LLC		2%
Joint-stock company Internet Exchange MSK-IX		1%
Filanco LLC		1%
JSC Mastertel		1%
LLC Nauka-Svyaz		1%
Chernyshov Aleksandr Aleksandrovich		1%
GUP DNR `UGLETELECOM`		1%
Foton Telecom CJSC		1%

48% direct or indirect government control

x-axis: 0, 10,000, 20,000, 30,000, 40,000, 50,000, 60,000, 70,000, 80,000, 90,000

Source: https://ifreedomlab.net/connectivity-rating/connectivity-provaders/

Alternative Consumer Infrastructures

- Social Network
- Search Engine
- Messenger
- O-to-O ecosystem (taxi, delivery)
- Office Suite
- Video Streaming Platform
- App Store
- Gaming Platform

ТЕПЛИЦА
TE-ST.ORG

Alternative Consumer Infrastructures

- Social Network (VK)
- Search Engine (Yandex)
- Messenger (Colibri, Impulse, VK)
- O-to-O ecosystem (taxi, delivery – both Yandex and Mail.ru Group)
- Office Suite (?)
- Video Streaming Platform (~~RuTube~~, VK)
- App Store (RuStore / VK)
- Gaming Platform (NAU Engine)

ТЕПЛИЦА
TE-ST.ORG

What's the deal with the YouTube?

- One of the few remaining unblocked channels of independent content
- Reach (Sept'23): **94.7 mln** (**77.8%** of the adult population)
- Bigger than TV (Feb'23): **72.5%**
- RuTube got irreversibly hacked in May 2022
- Now Vkontakte tries to slay the king of content
- In the "Bread and Circuses" YouTube is THE CIRCUS
- and there's a *Price to Pay.*

Sources: https://inclient.ru/youtube-stats/ ; https://tass.ru/obschestvo/16945005

ТЕПЛИЦА
TE-ST.ORG

Conclusions

1. Splinternet and a self-isolated self-centered network look like Kremlin's connectivity endgame;
2. But so far, it doesn't look like that this strategy is achieved through hard control over ISPs;
3. Pseudo legalist regime coupled with relatively cheap commodity DPI allows to have both some control over content and a visibility of market economy.
4. We won't see significant changes until the regime finalizes its megaproject of creating the whole set of its local consumer infrastructures.

ТЕПЛИЦА
TE-ST.ORG