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Bypassing localities

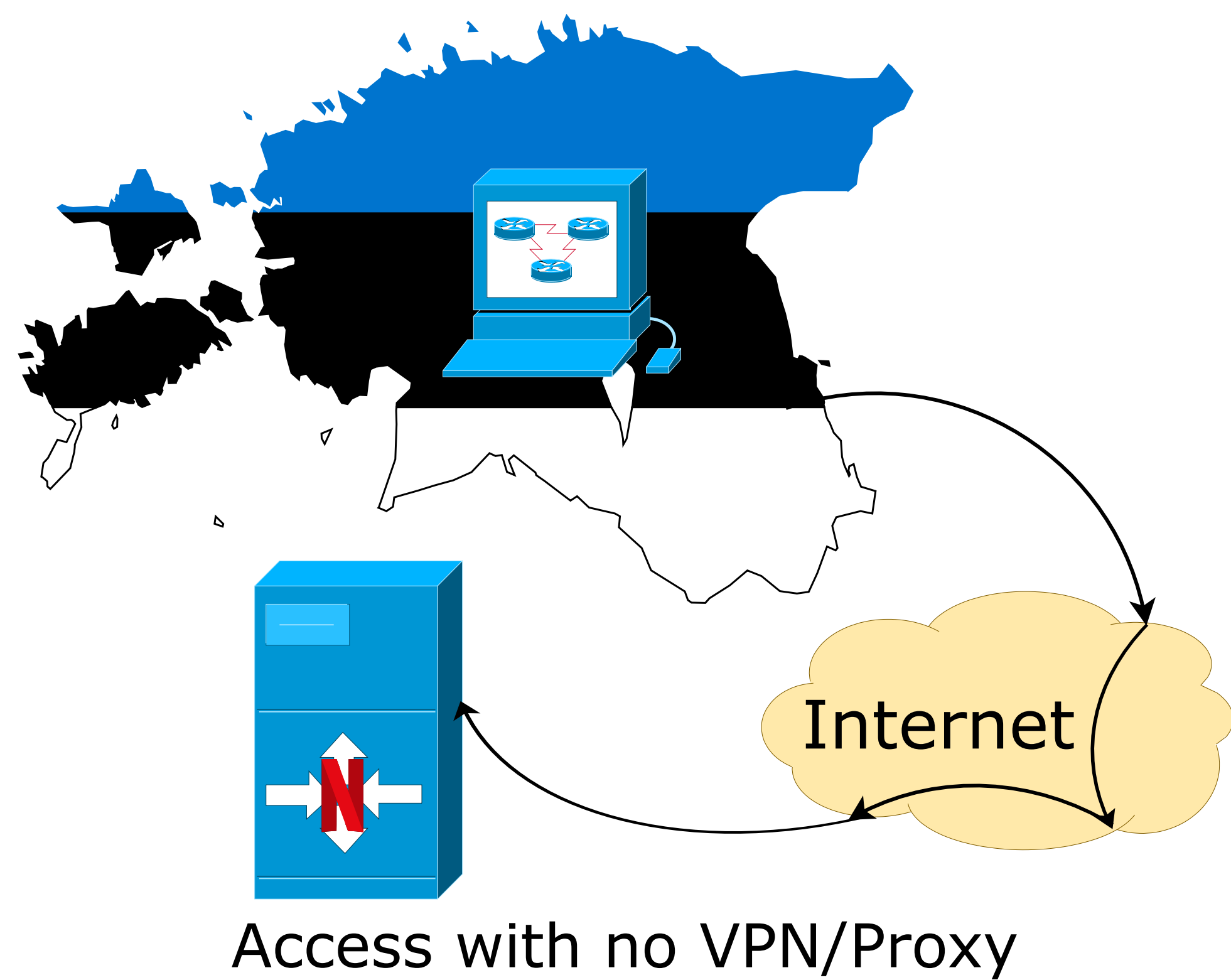
shifting Internet access to join intercultural communication

Hanna M. Kreitem

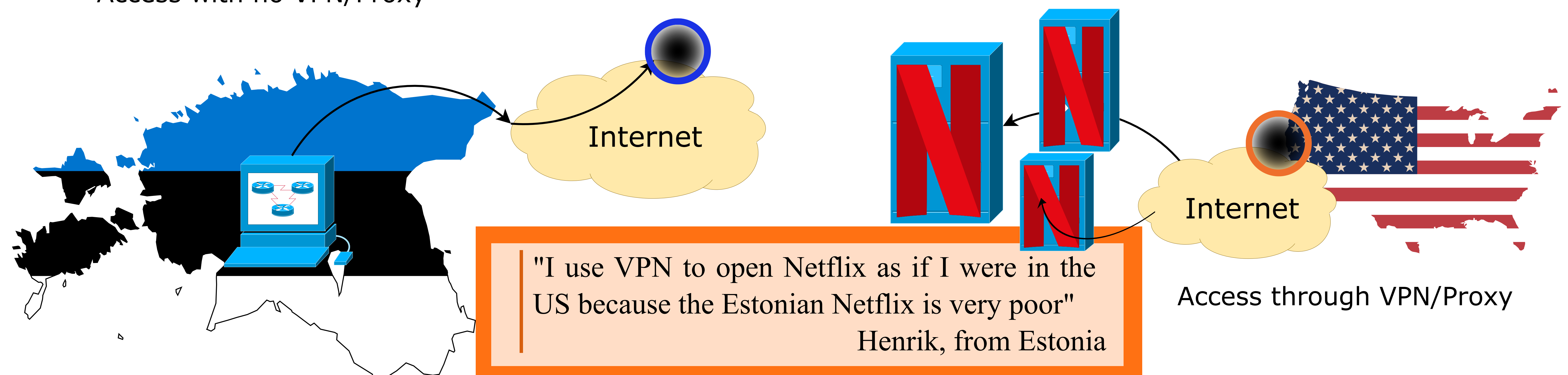
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ECREA 2018, Lugano



Internet users resort to using proxies and Virtual Private Networks (VPN) to masquerade access and Internet activity to appear as if they are accessing the Internet from a location other than theirs, usually to hide their activity from local network operators, ISP, and even government, and to bypass immediate Internet limitations, and access the open Internet. Estonia had different reasons.



"I use VPN to open Netflix as if I were in the US because the Estonian Netflix is very poor"
Henrik, from Estonia

Survey* of 318 Internet users in Bahrain and Estonia showed that use of VPN and proxies is at 45% in Bahrain and 59% in Estonia.

Is this expected?

No, use of VPN or Proxies is generally related to Internet limitations. Unlike Bahrain, Internet in Estonia is virtually not limited

Explanation

Follow up Explanatory interviews conducted showed that extended use of VPN and proxies in Estonia is mainly to access geo-blocked content

Conclusion

There is a trend to use of VPNs and proxies to overcome geo-blocking in addition to other uses. Users are not content with what they are limited to and want to access content and join intercultural communication limited to certain region. This trend deserves further investigation.

* The online survey was part of PhD research on Internet Artificial Limitations and Tangible Outcomes of Internet Use. Respondents recruited through multiple entry snowball. Initial results provoked explanatory interviews