Cyberconflict and understanding the geography of the Internet

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Problem
- Complexity of cyberspace: not only technical issues but also geopolitical conflicts
- Concerns regarding the use of networks in political conflicts, military campaigns, economic warfare etc.
- Matching cyberspace with its spatial context
- Understanding the strategies of stakeholders

Methods
- The French School of geopolitics, a multidisciplinary approach (Lacoste, 1993)
- Study of conflicts over territories, at multiple scales of analysis
- Study of power rivalries between political forces
  - Situations of competition or confrontation
  - A dynamic conception of power
  - Conflicting perceptions
  - Leaders and political forces
- Cartography is a major tool of analysis

Preliminary Results

- Multi-scalar cartography of Russia’s strategy over the Internet infrastructure

  - TEA cable is the most continental infrastructure of the internet
    - Perception of Russia as a bridge between Europe and Asia
    - Alternative road to submarine cables: a strategy of autonomy and interconnection

  - A network inherited from the Soviet era centralized and based on a nuclear research network
  - A network supporting economic activities (gas, oil, diamond fields)
  - A network as an instrument of soft power to restore the Old soviet borders (connectivity, Runet)

  - MSK-IX: main IXP in Russia
  - A critical infrastructure linked to the heart of the political/military power

Remaining Research
- Matching cognitive visualizations with the spatial context
- Developing collaborations with computer scientists to integrate technical data within the geopolitical analysis

Acknowledgement
This work is funded by the Office of Naval Research under award number N00014-09-1-0597. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Office of Naval Research.

This research is supervised by Prof. Frédérick Douzet, Castex Chair of Cyberstrategy, and based on Thomas Leport and Kevin Limonier’s work at the French Institute of Geopolitics (Paris 8). This presentation would not be possible without the help and support of Cercle des Partenaires de l’IHEDN and EADS Foundation.