Mapping the Palestinian Web Space
A geography of .ps registered addresses

Method
a) Query and scrape the Google search engine on 9 August 2007 for all .ps sites.
b) Query and clean database PNINA, obtain sites’ handles (whois registration).
c) Query latitude/longitude database, and plot to map.

Findings
Nearly all .ps sites are registered with addresses within the Palestinian Territories.
Mapping the Palestinian Web Space
A geography of .ps host locations

Method
a) Query and scrape the Google search engine on 9 August 2007 for all .ps sites;
b) Query and clean database PNINA, obtain sites’ handles (whois registration, and whois host);
c) Query latitude/longitude database, and plot to map.

Findings
The majority of .ps sites is hosted outside of the Palestinian Territories, with over half of the providers located in the United States.
Mapping the Palestinian Web Space
A comparison of where .ps sites are hosted and registered

Method
a) Query and scrape the Google search engine on 9 August 2007 for all .ps sites.
b) Query and clean the PNINA database and obtain sites’ handles
   (whois registration, and whois host).
c) Query latitude/longitude database, and plot to map.

Findings
Nearly all .ps sites are registered with addresses within
the Palestinian Territories. The majority of the sites is hosted
outside of the borders, with over half of the providers
located in the United States.
Migration to .ps?

The degree of migration of Palestinian websites to the .ps domain

Method: To determine degree of migration, append .ps and all .ps second-level domains (e.g., .com.ps, .edu.ps) to the Palestinian domain names in the historical Birzeit University Complete Guide to Palestine’s Websites, and fetch connection stats.

Findings: In December 2002 there were 172 unique hosts on the Palestinian Web, according to Birzeit University (source: archive.org for birzeit.edu/link). Only 2.9% (5 Websites) of all 2002 Palestinian Websites has migrated to .ps and left the original domain. 0.6% (1 Website) has migrated, but sustained the original domain with different content. 3.5% (6 Websites) duplicated the Website in .ps and sustained the original domain. 2.9% (5 Websites) reserved the .ps domain, but have not activated it. 12.8% (22 Websites) from the pre-.ps Web have ceased to exist and are no longer online. 77.3% (133 Websites) did not migrate.
Migration of .edu to .edu.ps: Three universities compared

**Question** What happens when Palestinian institutions relocate to the .ps domain, at what point may they be said to have ‘arrived’, and relatively, to what extent are they ‘followed’ by their networks?

**Method** Chart inlinks to both the .edu and .edu.ps sites for all universities, and zoom in on three major universities: the Islamic University of Gaza, Birzeit University and An-Najah National University.

**Findings** The three universities maintain both .edu and .edu.ps URLs for their respective websites. Overall, the .edu.ps sites are isolated, with few links pointed directly to them. The Islamic University of Gaza is the only university to automatically redirect traffic to its .ps mirror, suggesting both a dedication to the symbolic value of .ps and an explanation for the relatively strong endorsement of http://www.iugaza.edu.ps/. Concluding, we could say that the .ps domain is an unrecognized project for sites linking to Birzeit and Najah, and a work in progress for sites linking to the Islamic University of Gaza.
The .ps Network

Questions: Do .ps sites significantly link to one other, thereby creating a form of collective recognition amongst the .ps sites? Around which types of sites do .ps sites cluster?

Method: Snowball crawl .ps sites (1233 in total) from the homepage. 3 levels deep, with a ceiling of 1000 URLs per host. The discovered network is that within two degrees of separation from the homepages in the .ps domain.

Findings: .sch.ps sites (Palestinian schools) cluster significantly around the .ps domain. .sch sites are nested in a group with Palestinian .sch (school) sites, suggesting an active Web site-making community amongst middle and high school students.

Mapping the Palestinian Web Space

The .ps network

Legend:
- Only gives links
- Only receives links
- Gives and receives links

Size of node indicates quantity of links

Mysql and Joomla sites cluster together with Palestinian .sch (school) sites, suggesting an active Web site-making community amongst middle and high school students.
What are the significant videos in Palestinian Web space, defined initially as videos referenced by .ps sites?

Method: Generate list of all .ps Websites with the technique employed by generatenational.net. Query all .ps sites individually for youtube, google video and ikbis video references. Query style: site:palestinereport.ps “youtube.com/watch”. Other video player queries: ‘video.google.com/videoplay’, ‘ikbis.com’.
The Palestinian Political Webs: Separate Spheres?
Fatah-related and Hamas-related Networks Compared

What kind of ‘state’ of the Palestinian Web is suggested by the Fatah-related sites?

Method
Insert Fatah-related sites in Issue Crawler. Perform co-link analysis. Render as spring map.

Findings
Fatah’s Palestinian Web may be characterized primarily as a ‘civic Web’. Fatah-related websites link to each other as well to Palestinian NGOs, Palestinian Media and to a lesser extent to International NGOs and Media. There are no links to other Palestinian political actors or to any official.ps websites.

What kind of ‘state’ of the Palestinian Web is suggested by the Hamas-related sites?

Method
Insert Hamas-related sites in Issue Crawler. Perform co-link analysis. Render as spring map.

Findings
The Hamas-affiliated news agency, Palestine Information Center, has numerous mirrored websites in various languages, hosted and registered under the main domain name Palestine-info.info, with different domain extensions (Palestine-info.info, Palestine-info.co.uk, Palestine-info.net, etc).

These sites, together with other Hamas-related websites do not link out to other (Palestinian) websites. Instead, they provide links to RSS feed readers, whereby individuals and other sites may subscribe to Hamas-related content.
Separate Content Infrastructures on the Web?
Hamas and Fatah referenced video materials compared (8-9 November 2007)

**Question:** Do Hamas and Fatah Web spaces share the same content in the form of YouTube videos?

**Method:** Using lists of Fatah and Hamas-related sites, capture inlinks to each set of sites, using Yahoo Inlink Scraper. Query those sites that link to the Fatah and Hamas-related sites with tool Google Scraper for: “youtube.com/watch.” The number of times a unique video occurs in unique sites in the Web spaces is calculated with tool YouTube Video Discovery. To find shared videos the top 100 of Hamas and Fatah Web spaces is compared using tool Compare Lists.

**Findings:** Sixteen videos are shared in the top 100 most referenced videos in the Fatah and Hamas Web spaces. The majority of videos contain violent and/or politically charged content. The overall narrative style is symbolic or moralistic (symbolic real life stories). Two videos are removed due to terms of use violation. In the lower end of the most popular shared videos, more generally popular YouTube videos are found.
Separate Content Infrastructures on the Web?
Hamas and Hizbullah referenced video materials compared (8-9 November 2007)

Question: Do Hamas and Hizbullah Web spaces share the same YouTube video content?

Method: Using lists of Hamas and Hizbullah-related sites, capture inlinks to each set of sites, using Yahoo Inlink Scraper, http://tools.issuecrawler.net/beta/yahoo/. Using the Google Scraper (http://tools.issuecrawler.net/beta/scrapeGoogle/), query each of those sites that link to the Fatah and Hizbullah-related sites for youtube.com/watch. The frequency with which a unique video occurs on a unique site in the respective Web spaces is calculated with YouTube Video Discovery tool, http://tools.issuecrawler.net/beta/scrapeGoogle/video.php. To find shared videos, the top 100 videos in the Hamas and Hizbullah Web spaces are compared using the Compare Lists tool, http://tools.issuecrawler.net/beta/analyse/.

Findings: Seventeen videos are shared in the top 100 most referenced videos in the Hamas and Hizbullah Web spaces. The majority of videos contains violent and/or politically charged content. The overall narrative style is symbolic or moralistic (tales or symbolic real life stories). Two videos are removed, one due to terms of use violation and one due to a copyright claim.