COVID-19 accelerated digital transformation, the adoption of online government services, and universal basic income programs in countries around the world.

The cloud is controlled by a handful of companies that have the sole ability to determine pricing, access, and standards. “Cloud neutrality” will be debated this year.

The Biden administration will take more aggressive measures to limit the reach and powers of the world’s largest technology companies.

Countries are pushing for a digital vaccine passport to restart travel, but safeguarding citizens’ health data remains a challenge.

In the U.S., states are starting to exert their own regulatory power. They’re suing big tech companies, proposing digital dividend programs, and restricting the use of facial recognition systems.

High-profile people and companies were deplatformed last year. Lawmakers will debate whether private companies should have the right to take public speech offline.

Companies will exert new power through corporate denial-of-service (CDoS) attacks.

China continues its quest for cyber sovereignty, with aggressive new measures to nationalize its own big tech companies.

China’s panopticon will spread beyond its geographical borders this year.

The Biden administration appointed a wide slate of well-known scientists to key positions in the federal government and designated the head of the Office of Science and Technology Policy as a Cabinet-level position. Evidence-based science is back.