I make the argument that peer-to-peer overlay-based networking will be the future of the internet, primarily due to political factors. The internet has become too centralised in nature, to the extent that a draft proposal has been submitted to the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force), urging the committee to take steps to create a more decentralised and open internet (Nottingham, 2022). Regardless of this proposal's acceptance, we (as a society) are not ready to achieve this outcome. This is because there is no evidence to suggest global governments are able to align with each other in conjunction with universal Internet-based standards. A recent example of this is privacy laws- they are an internet-based issue, but implementations of these laws are inconsistent and vary significantly between countries (Glenister, 2017). It is therefore necessary to improve collaboration between internet standards organisations and countries, but this will take time. It is therefore necessary to rely on existing infrastructure to create a decentralised internet, and peer-to-peer overlay-based networking meets this requirement, solidifying its position in the future of the internet until global collaboration improves.

**References**

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