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Internet Governance

**A New Zealand Government
Perspective**

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Outline

- What is Internet governance?
- And why are governments interested?
- New Zealand Internet governance
- Role of ICANN and the GAC
- The changing international climate
 - 'multistakeholderism'
 - the BRICs
- Conclusion



Personal background

- NZ's GAC representative since 1999
- Was on the secretariat of the WGIG for six months in 2005
- Was the inaugural chair of the .nz Oversight Committee, 2002-2007
- Currently Vice-President of InternetNZ



A definition of Internet governance

"... (it is) more than Internet names and addresses ... it includes other public policy issues, such as critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet."

Working Group on Internet Governance, June 2005



Issues for Governments

- Economic and Social development: Internet!
- Secure and stable economic environment: Internet!
- Education, health delivery: Internet!

SO - issues with the Internet

- Sound regulatory policies
- Need to ensure reliability and security of the critical infrastructure nationally and internationally
- Consequences of failure of critical infrastructure



Internet Governance in New Zealand

Nationally

- Normal commercial privacy etc laws are applicable (principle of technological neutrality)
- Some specific law: eg e-commerce transactions, amendments to Crimes Act, intellectual property (copyright)
- Otherwise monitoring from a distance, no formal relationship with .nz registry



Internet Governance in New Zealand (II)

Internationally

- Supports the ICANN 'process'
- Security and stability of critical infrastructure and services the prime issue
- Attendance at GAC seen as an issue for industry (ie InternetNZ) to support



Role of ICANN and the GAC

- Private sector leadership with government support
- Critical importance of recognising the multistakeholder environment ...
- ... which must include governments
- GAC role is 'advisory' - advice must be heard and responded to when there is consensus ...
- ... but is not always clear or concise
- And government interest will not diminish, it will grow



The Changing International Environment

- Influence of the WSIS (and the WGIG) on multistakeholder participation
- New roles for the ITU as an intergovernmental treaty organisation
- Challenges from the 'BRICs': driven in part by language, US dominance, alternate government policies
- BUT: need for a broad perspective - key role of the Internet Governance Forum



Thank you

