

Internet Governance and Challenges Today

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What is the Internet Society?

- Founded in 1992 by Internet Pioneers
- Dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of people throughout the world
 - **International not-for-profit organization**
 - Offices located in Washington and Geneva
 - 90+ organization members
 - 26,000+ individual members
 - 80+ chapters worldwide
 - **Regional Bureaus:**
 - Africa
 - Latin America and the Caribbean
 - South and Southeast Asia (incl. Oceania)

Why ISOC?

- **Worldwide presence and impact**
- **Influential relationship with technical community**
- **Respected voice in the policy community**
- **Active Internet experts and decision makers in our folds**
- **Historical record for making a difference**

ISOC is a respected leader in shaping the future of the Internet

Become an ISOC member today and partner with us to build that future together

The Internet's success is largely due to its unique model

The Internet model:

- **Shared global ownership without central control**
- **Collaborative engagement models**
 - *involves researchers, business, civil society, academia, governments*
- **Development based on open standards**
 - *open development process, with participation based on knowledge rather than formal membership*
- **Key principles**
 - *user-centric, “end-to-end principle”*
- **A true multi-stakeholder process for technology and policy development**
 - *open, bottom-up, freely accessible, public*

The Internet today

- **A complex system, still evolving rapidly**
 - *Nowhere near being a “legacy” system*
- **A “network of networks”**
 - *Working co-operatively*
- **Intelligence predominantly at the edges**
- **Proven to be flexible, adaptable and responsive to users’ needs**
- **But the “Internet model” presents a challenge to traditional governance players and mechanisms**
 - *The Internet is inherently global, and therefore trans-jurisdictional*
 - *There is no shared model for what is acceptable and what is not (with obvious exceptions)*
 - *Nothing new, but the challenges can appear to be new*

What does Internet Governance cover?

- **The Internet today and how it will evolve tomorrow**
- **A secure and stable Internet available to the world at large, and one which contributes to socio-economic development**
- **Internet Governance is more than just laws enacted by Governments**
 - *Not limited to government activities: every Internet User's concern*
 - Includes social/cultural norms and covers all sectors of society
 - Deliberations and decisions need to be transparent and democratic with multi-stakeholder input

Why does *Internet Governance matter?*

- **The Internet is now, for the most part, the communications medium of choice (in many forms) for a large part of the world**
 - e-mail, telephony, blogs, social networks, video, web portals, individual/organisational websites, web conferencing, instant messaging,.....
- **More than 1.57 billion Internet users (>23% of world population) as at December 2008 (according to Internet World Stats), and growing! www.internetworldstats.com**
 - This makes the Internet an important global public policy issue
 - ***Asia Pacific: >670 million users (~42%)***
- **Significant part of world economy**
 - More and more, the world depends on Internet technology: e-commerce, “e-everything”

Some *Internet Governance issues*

- **Internet Infrastructure and Resource Management**
 - Telecommunication infrastructure, broadband, convergence, VoIP, technical standards, administration of names and numbers, root server system, international domain names (IDNs)
- **Issues relating to the use of the Internet**
 - SPAM, cybersecurity, cybercrime, critical infrastructure protection, network security, national policies and regulation
- **Issues with wider impact**
 - Authentication, privacy, consumer protection, intellectual property, e-commerce, freedom of information and media, competition policy, dispute resolution, unlawful content
- **Issues with developmental aspects**
 - Cost of access, universal access, capacity building, national infrastructure development, content accessibility, FOSS, cultural and linguistic diversity, social inclusion

Sourced from WGIG Report www.wgig.org

Challenges today

Have the potential to impact distributed, end-to-end and open nature of the Internet

- **Service and architecture related**
 - Network Neutrality, NGN, Access Regulation (unbundling), Competition
- **Changes in Internet usage patterns**
 - New modes of content creation and consumption
 - Impact on Internet architecture
 - Impact on business models
- **Security and Trust/Identity issues**
 - Are you really who you say you are?
 - User confidence, Privacy, Data Protection
- **Bringing the next billions online**

***Three broad areas we need to look at
to take on these challenges, and to
ensure the integrity of the Internet***

- **(Network) Scaling**
- **Trust & Identity**
- **User Choice**

(Network) Scaling

- including everything from ensuring continued global addressing with a routing infrastructure that keeps pace with growth, to supporting the many different uses, applications and services, and cultures and industries that the Internet enables
- ***ISOC Major Strategic Initiative: InterNetWorks***
 - *Global Addressing Program*
 - *Common Internet Program*
 - *Security & Stability*

Trust & Identity

- encompassing many facets of information sharing, particularly the security, identity, and accountability required to be sure we can carry out our electronic lives with the individuality, rights to privacy, and confidence we expect in the physical world
- ***ISOC Major Strategic Initiative: Trust and Identity***
 - *Architecture and Trust*
 - *Current Problems and Solutions and Trust*
 - *Identity and Trust*

User Choice

- the next billion(s) Internet users will be very different from the first -- predominantly from developing countries, not as technically savvy, largely from non-English-speaking, non-European backgrounds. To maintain the Internet as an engine of innovation, it will be vital to maintain users' ability to choose levels of service, how to freely access information and content appropriate to their cultures and languages
- ***ISOC Major Strategic Initiative: Enabling Access***
 - *Technical Capacity Building*
 - *Policy, Regulation and the Access Environment*
 - *Enabling Access for Under-served Communities*

Talk to us!

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/contact.shtml>

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