Internet Governance
and the significance of Multi-stakeholderism

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Internet Society

The Internet Society – who we are

Founded in 1992 by Internet Pioneers as an International non-profit organisation

- 69,000+ individual members worldwide
- 130+ organisational members
- 90+ chapters
- Regional Bureaus located in:
    Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean, North America

- Organisational home for
    Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
    Internet Research Task Force (IRTF)
    Internet Architecture Board (IAB)

So what is Internet Governance?

One Definition of Internet Governance...

Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

- Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) Final Report
http://www.wgig.org

However, Internet Governance can mean different things to different people...

...sometimes depends on their point of view

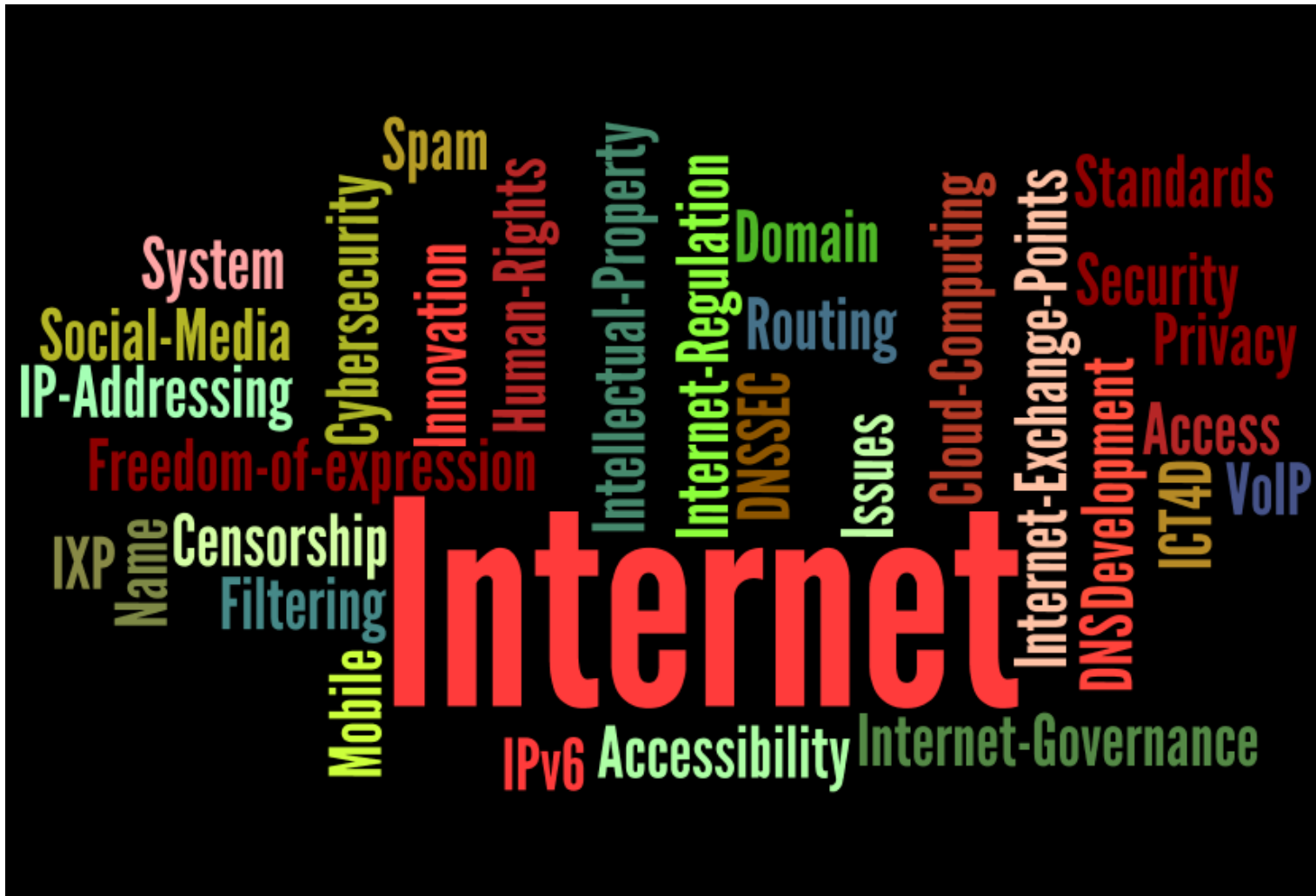...sometimes depends on their point of interest

Image source: http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu

But there are some things we could probably agree on...

The Internet Society

Let's agree...

- The Internet and various services and applications that run over it are a large part of our everyday lives – at work, at home, at play

- This trend is across the world; people want to be connected

- The Internet landscape is constantly changing; new applications, services (and devices) abound...

- As with most things in life, there are issues and challenges... but also opportunities!

The Internet and some issues today...

This is where that Multi-whatchamacallit thing can be very useful...

We call it MULTI-STAKEHOLDERISM

- There are many issues to deal with it

- There are many subject matter experts
  (and many many more who are not quite so)

- There are many groups involved, each with their own interest
  (the stakeholders)

- Many of these stakeholders may have competing or
  conflicting interests

- No one group can provide the solution

But the issues must be addressed;
solutions must be found
...there is far too much at stake

The Multi-stakeholder Model is the only workable solution today

Collaboration and cooperation amongst
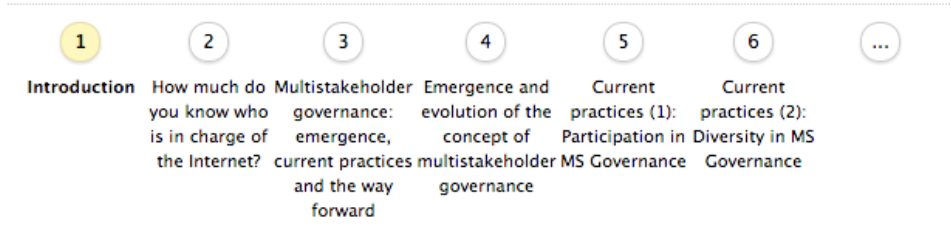<u>all</u> stakeholders is key

Image source: http://ec.europa.eu

Survey on Multistakeholder Participation in Internet Governance

http://goo.gl/dGW1tv

Open till September 30

- gather information on the different practices and understandings of multistakeholder governance

- survey data will be used in publications on the evolution of multistakeholder participation

- ISOC will incorporate survey feedback into its preparations for upcoming Internet governance discussions (IGF, WTDC, WSIS+10)

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