



# ICANN & WSIS



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**1 September 2004**

\*Views expressed herein may or may not represent the views of the organisation that I work for or am affiliated with



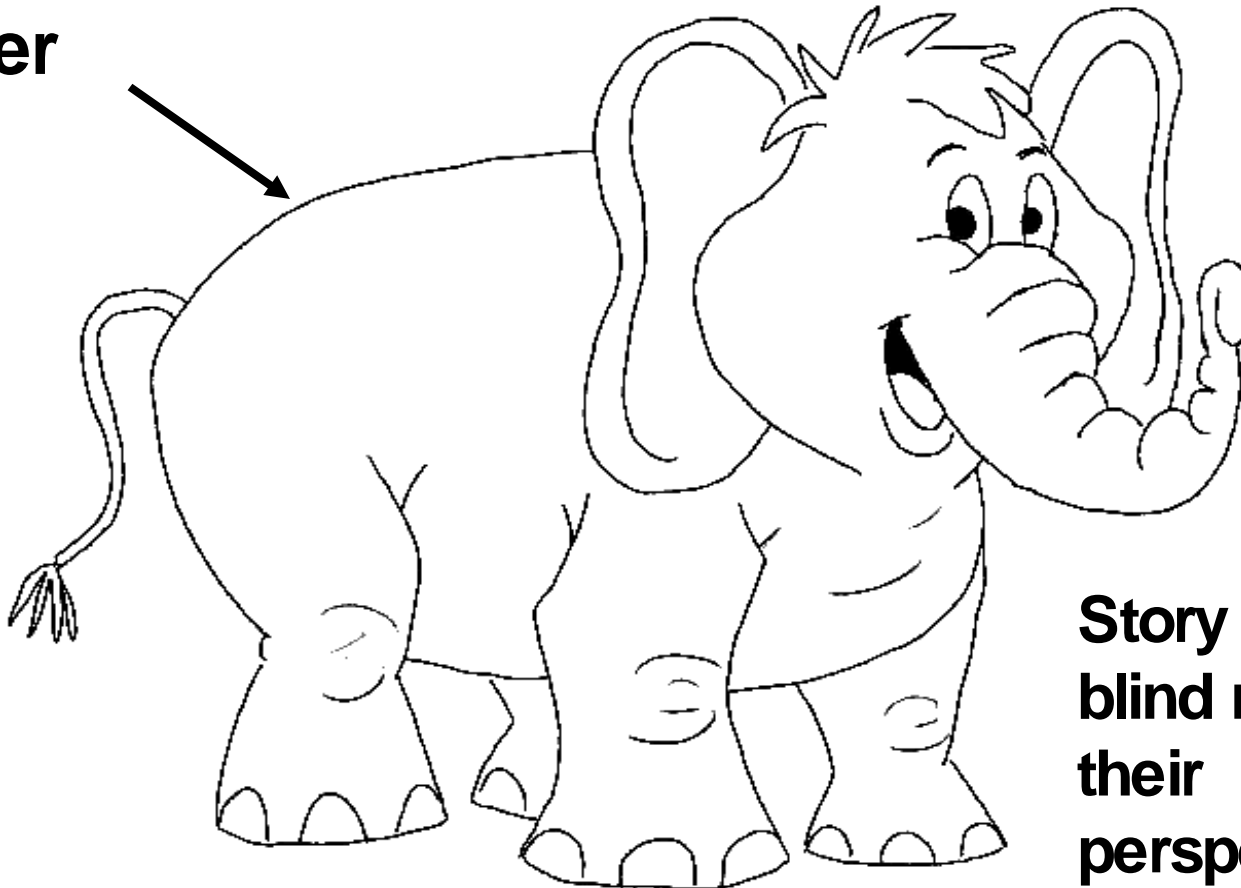
# Who is MCMC ?

- Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
  - Regulator and co-developer for the converged sector of communications and multimedia
  - Covers telecoms, Internet, broadcasting, spectrum management, number allocations, digital signatures and postal sector



# My friend Elmer

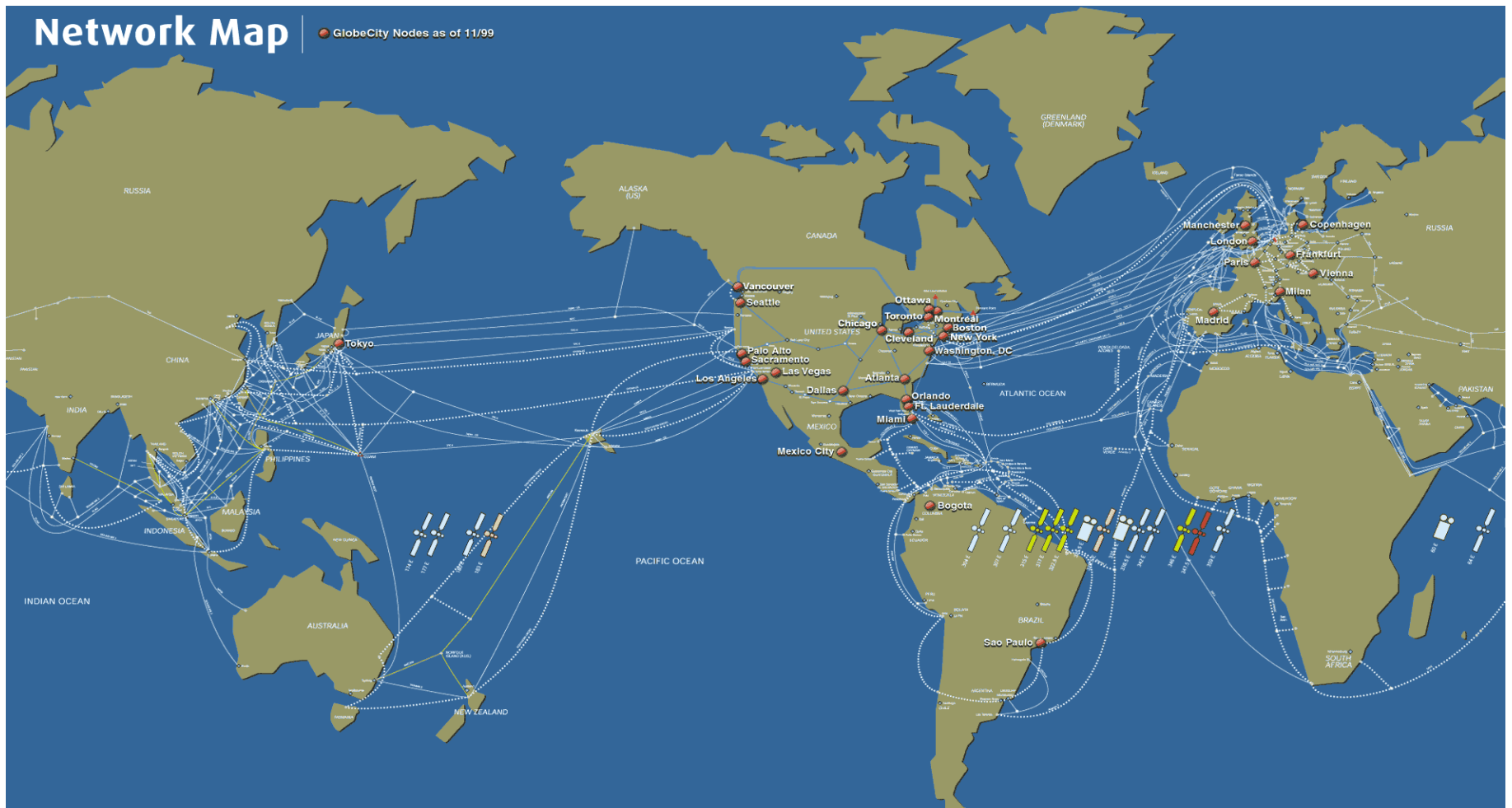
**Elmer**



**Story of the 3  
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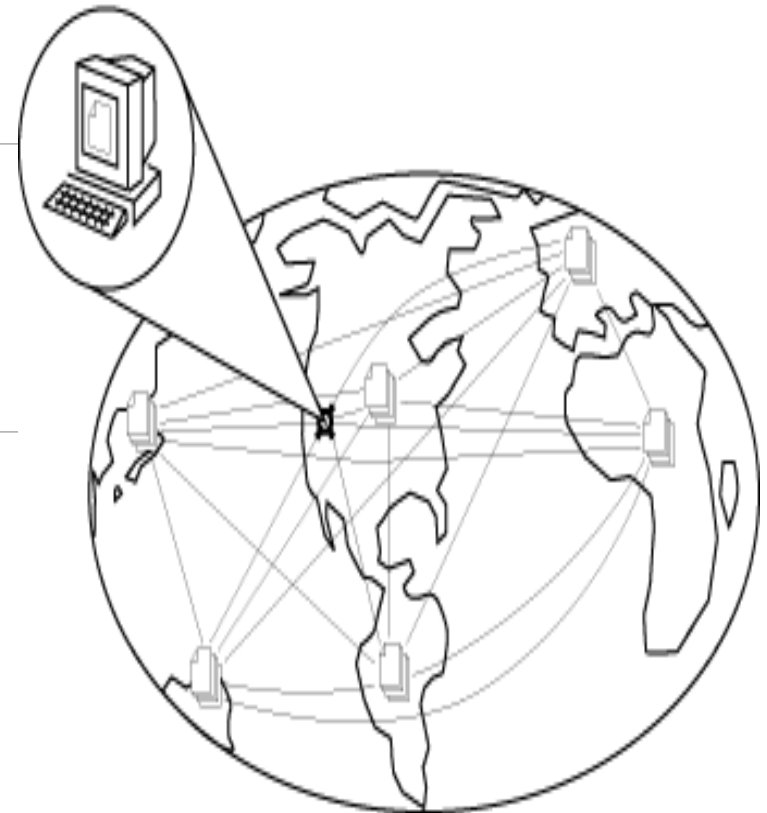
# The telecoms map





# Who owns the Internet?

- One of the greatest things about the Internet is that **NOBODY** really owns it.
- It is a global collection of networks, both big and small. These independent networks connect together in many different ways to form the single entity that we now know as the **Internet**.
- In fact, the very name comes from this idea of interconnected networks.

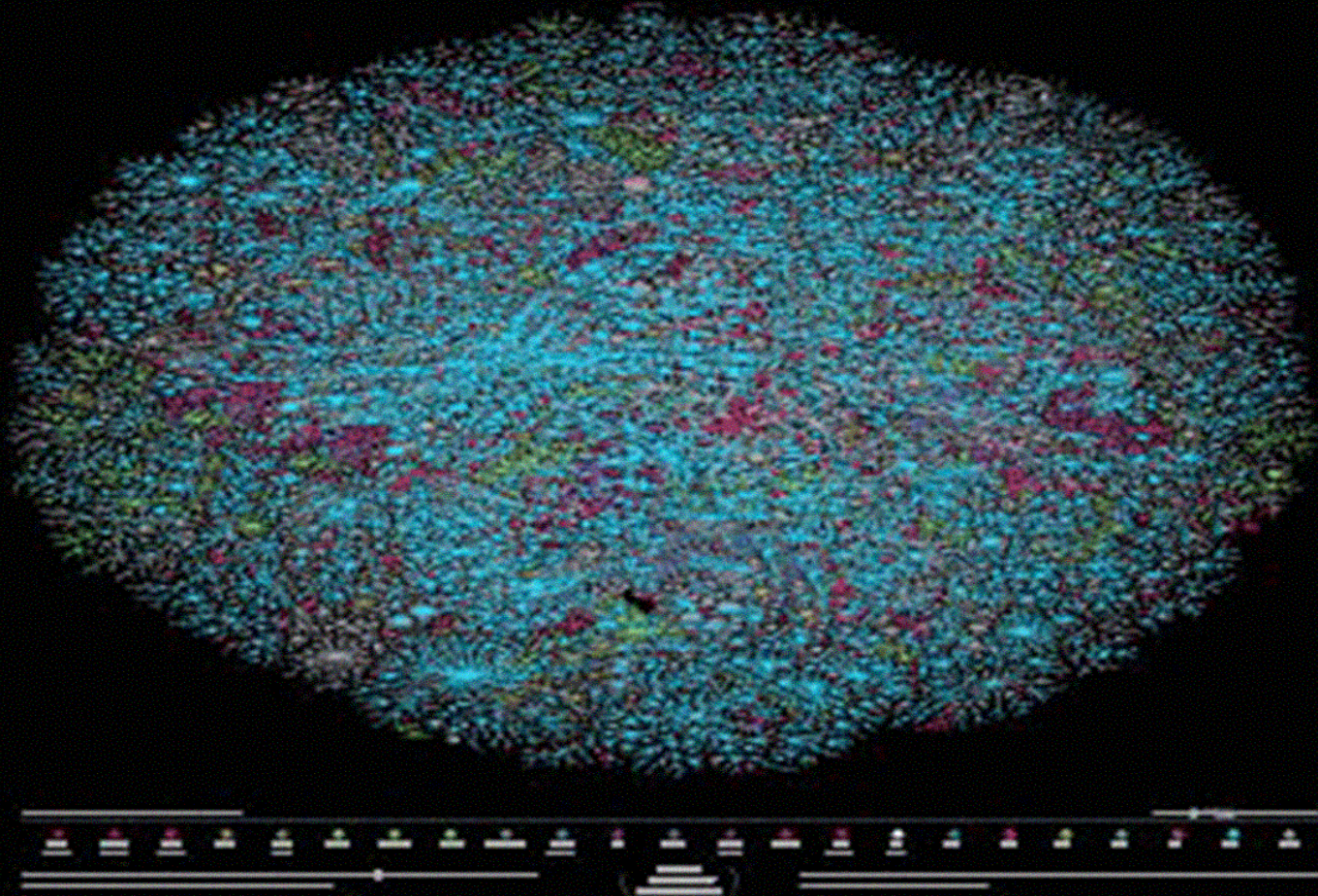


Source: Internet History and Growth, by William Slater III





# THE INTERNET: 2001





# What keeps the Internet ticking?

- Despite being famously decentralized, the Internet relies on an underlying centralized hierarchy built into the Domain Name System (DNS) & IP addressing system
- The DNS & IP addresses preserves uniqueness, that is, no two people will have the exact same domain name
- This also creates a need for some sort of body to coordinate and administer the DNS & IP addressing



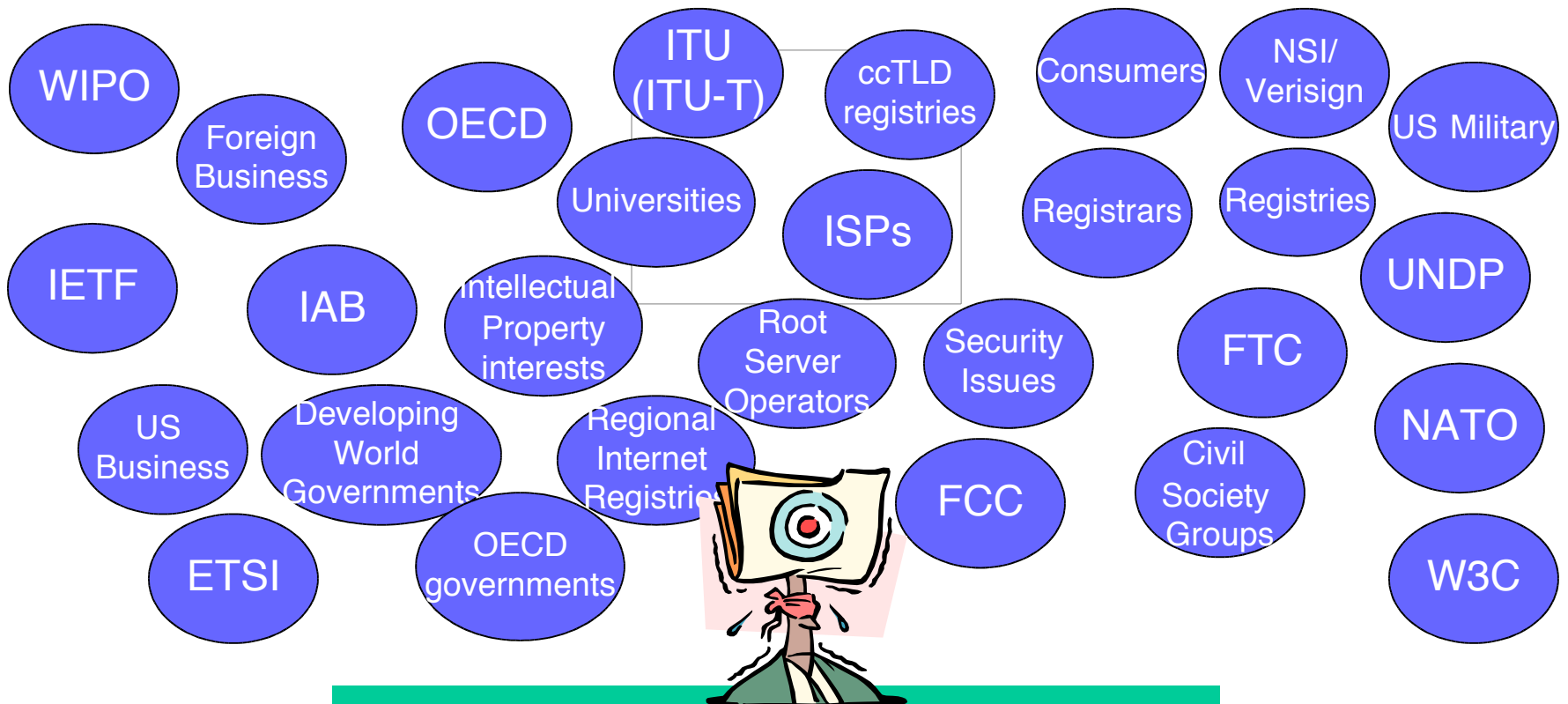
# Why are governments interested in Internet ?

- Convergence & ICT is key driver
- Internet provides opportunities to reduce digital divide
- Policy
  - Public policy
  - Technical policy
  - Operational policy





The various interest groups competing for influence over the DNS and IP Addressing (arguably) systems put the previous administrative process under breaking strain





# ICANN: The Basic Challenge

An effective mechanism for

technical self-management

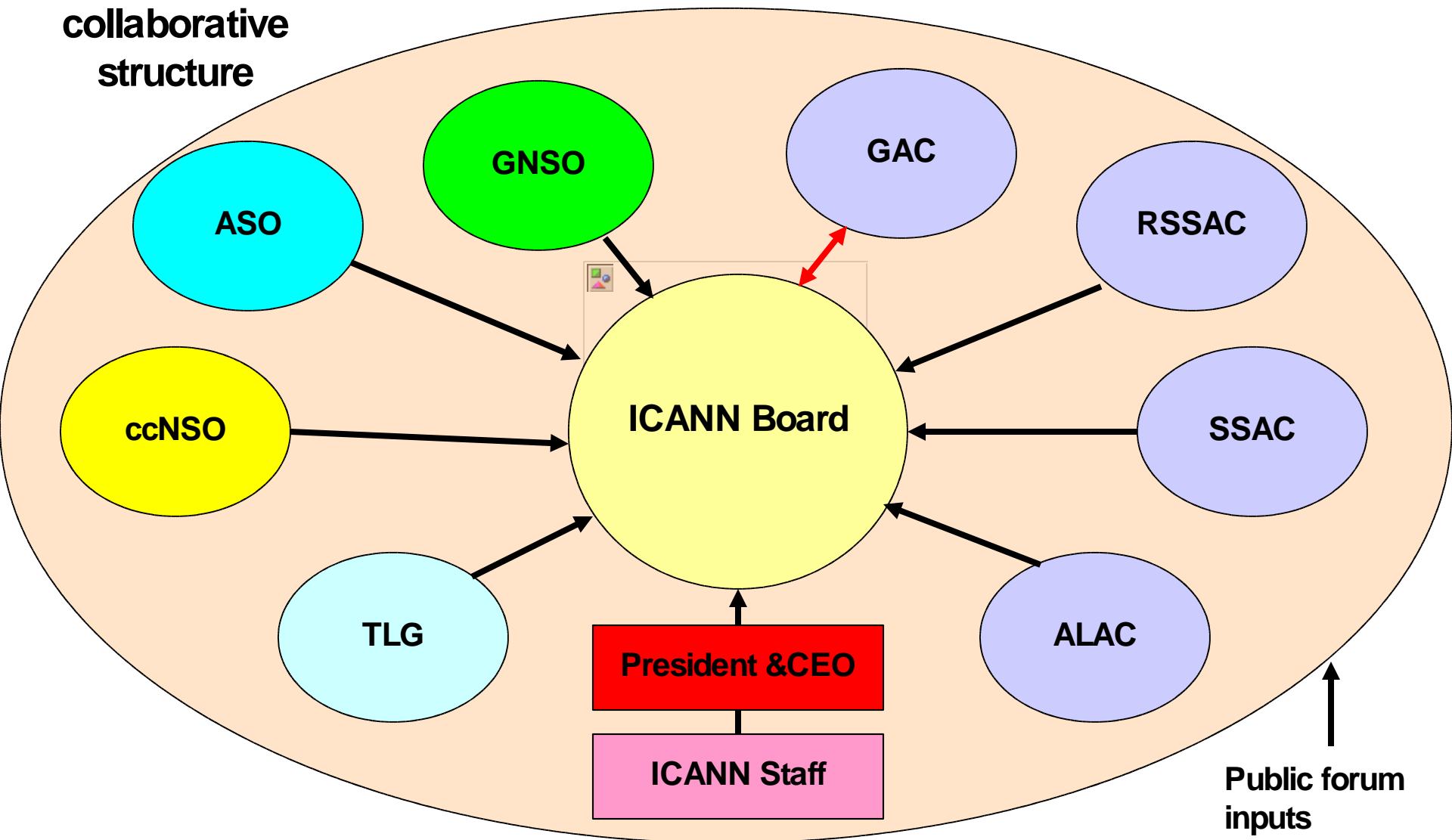
by the global Internet

community serving a

globalized economy



# ICANN's collaborative structure





# What does ICANN do?

- Coordinates policies relating to the unique assignment of:
  - Internet domain names
  - Numerical IP Addresses
  - Protocol Port and Parameter Numbers
- Coordinates the DNS Root Name Server System
  - through Root Server System Advisory Committee



# What ICANN doesn't do

- Network security
- Financial transactions
- Data Privacy
- Internet Content
  - Pornography; hate speech
  - Copyright violations
  - Deceptive business practices / consumer protection
- Multi-national commercial disputes
- Definition of technical standards
  - Network surveillance and traceability
- Internet gambling
- Spam





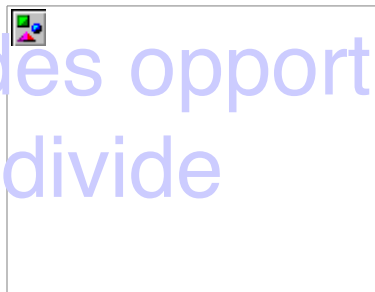
# Is ICANN = CyberGovernment?

- No: ICANN coordinates unique identifiers.
- **But:** Technical coordination of unique values sometimes entails non-technical policy issues:
  - Data privacy protection
    - (WHOIS database)
  - Intellectual property/trademark law
    - (UDRP) - WIPO
  - Competition law
    - (Registrar accreditation for .com, .net, .org)
  - New sponsored TLDs
  - Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs)



# Why are governments interested in Internet ? (2)

- Convergence & ICT is key driver
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# WSIS

- WSIS was a resolution by the ITU Council, subsequently made to the UN
- General Assembly of the UN welcomed this resolution in its own Resolution 56/183 of 21 Dec 2001
- The UN General Assembly invited ITU to assume the leading managerial role in the Executive Secretariat of the WSIS and its preparatory process
- In co-operation with interested organizations and partners



# The WSIS

- A high-level gathering to develop a better understanding of this “revolution” and its impact on the international community
- Aims to bring together Heads of State, Executive Heads of UN Agencies, industry leaders, NGOs, media representatives and civil-society in a single event
- Will attempt to define the roles of all participants in ensuring the establishment of an information society around the globe
- Should not be about ICTs only, but economic and social development – overcoming the digital divide is fighting other social divides and the Information Society should benefit all human beings



# WSIS Challenge

- Global Information society is evolving at breakneck speed
- Accelerating convergence between Telecoms, broadcasting multimedia and ICTs is driving new products and services
- This is impacting how people do business, how people live
- And so is Globalization, borders are blurring – this creates an impact, too
- The need for a global discussion and harmonization of this “revolution” brought about the WSIS





# WSIS Guiding Principle

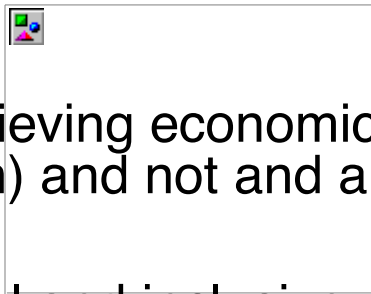
General set of principle identified to guide prep work and the Summit

- Prep Committee and Summit should be aimed at extending the benefits of the Information Society to all and should be development-oriented, overcoming the digital divides
- The need to find a shared understanding of and to raise awareness of the Information Society and how the challenges of the digital divides can be met
- Summit should consider infrastructure and content issues



(continued)

- Preservation of linguistic diversity and cultural identity should be a priority
- ICTs are a tool for achieving economic and social goals (UN Millennium Declaration) and not an end in itself
- Importance of universal and inclusive access to the Info Society
- Importance of communities and of utilizing ICTs for the benefit of disadvantaged groups (women, youth, children, disabled, indigenous, migrants)
- Importance of the issue of information network security





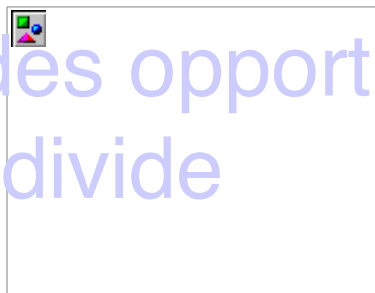
# WSIS Themes

- Infrastructure: financing, deployment and sustainability
- Foreign Direct Investment was considered a key element
- Identifying and overcoming barriers to the achievement of the information society (no substantial input yet)
- The role of Government, the business sector and civil society in the promotion of ICTs for development
- Education, human resources development and training



# Why are governments interested in Internet ? (3)

- Convergence & ICT is key driver
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# What is the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) in ICANN?

- The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of ICANN is an Advisory Committee comprising representatives of national governments, multinational governmental organisations and treaty organisations, and distinct economies as recognised in international fora.
- Membership is diverse – some telecoms, some science ministry, some special offices etc.





# What does GAC do?

- The Governmental Advisory Committee considers and provides advice on the activities of ICANN as they relate to concerns of governments, particularly matters where there may be an interaction between ICANN's policies and laws and international agreements or where they may affect public policy issues.



# GAC Mission

- To ensure that each country is represented within ICANN
- To secure public policies related to the management of the DNS, globally and nationally
- To express the diversity of countries' views regarding Internet law and policy
- To gather and share the experiences of each country in DNS management
- To liaise with the other Interest Groups represented within ICANN



# GAC Operating Principles

- GAC is an advisory body
- It operates as a forum for discussion
- Membership of the GAC is open to all national governments and to multinational governmental organisations and treaty organisations
- GAC meetings : regular email contact, monthly teleconferences and quarterly Face to Face meetings
- One Chair and 3 Vice-chairs are elected to reflect geographic diversity of membership



# Today's GAC Members

- Total membership : more than 95 national governments, distinct economies and multinational governmental organisations – with diverse membership

- 30-40 active members attending meetings and conference calls

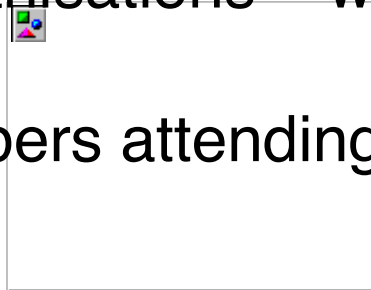
- Office Holders

Chair : Mr. Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi, Malaysia

Vice Chairs :

- Ms. Lena Carlsson, Sweden
- Professor Gabriel O. Ajayi, Nigeria
- Mr. Pablo Hinojosa, Mexico

GAC Secretariat





# GAC Liaisons

- ICANN Board - GAC Chair
- Generic Names Supporting Organisation – Suzanne Senne, USA
- ccTLD Names Supporting Organisation – Pablo Hinojosa, Mexico
- Root Server Advisory Committee - Thomas de Haan, Netherlands
- Security and Stability Advisory Committee – Stefano Trumpy, Italy
- Addressing Supporting Organisation - Robert Shaw, ITU
- At Large Advisory Committee - Carlos Valdez, Peru
- Nominating Committee - GAC Secretariat (Provisional)
- Technical Liaison Group - Richard Hill, ITU



# GAC Working Groups

Five working groups concentrating on current issues regarding the DNS & IP address management :

- Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) & WhoIS Data
- International Domain Names (IDN)
- Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs)
- Root Server Operation and DNS Security
- Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6)



# IDN, Whois & IPv6

- What is IDN ?
  - Internationalised domain names (multilingual domain names)
- What is Whois ?
  - The ability to ‘look up’ information on domain operations
- IPv6 ?
  - Next level of IP addressing



# GAC Contributions

## Methods

- Replies to ICANN's Requests for advise
- GAC Initiatives



## Examples

- Selection of new gTLDs
- Development of multilingual domain names
- Coordination future domain name testbed environments
- Administration of ccTLDs
- Securing country name in .info

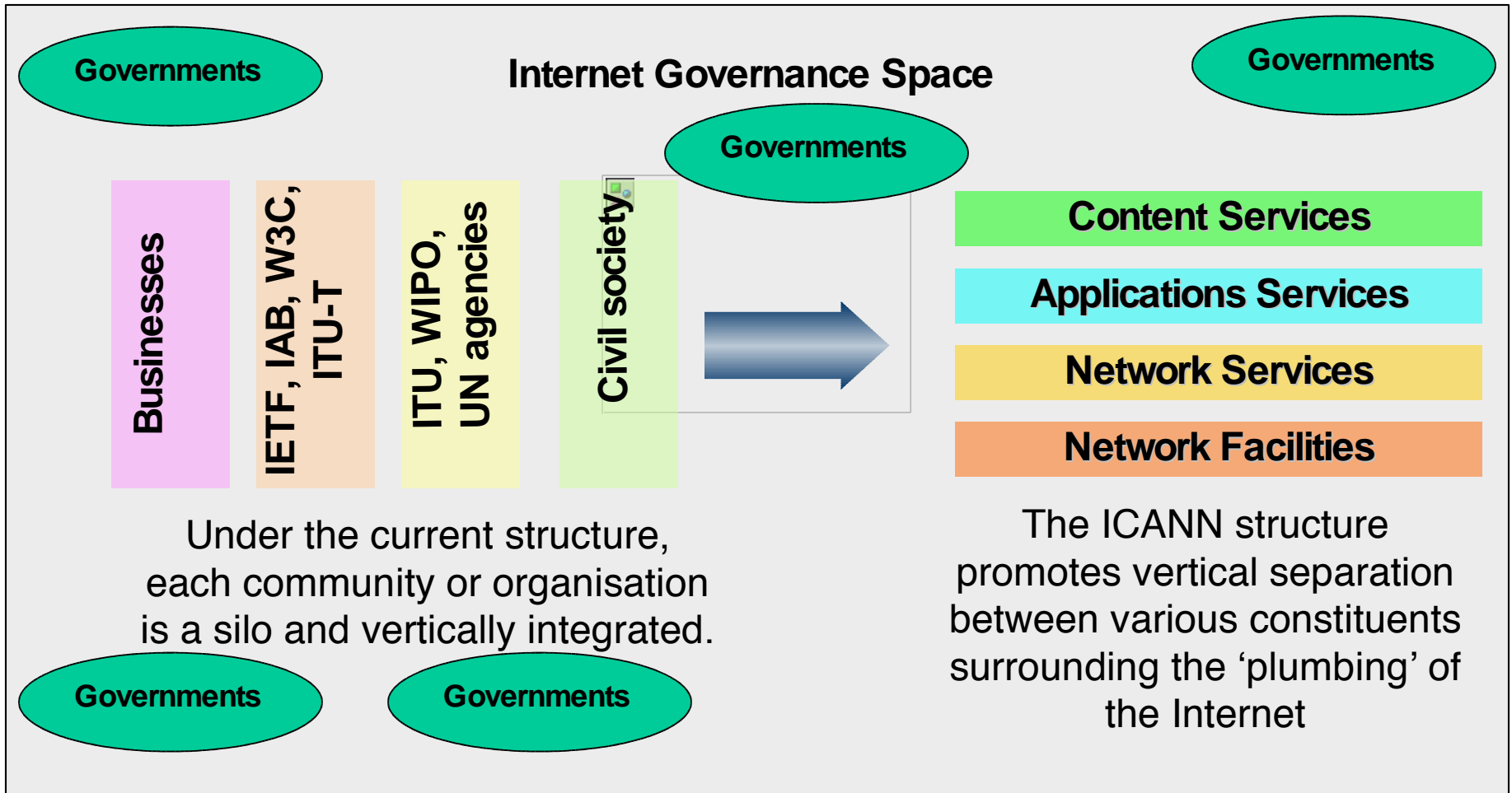
<http://www.icann.org>

<http://www.gac.icann.org>





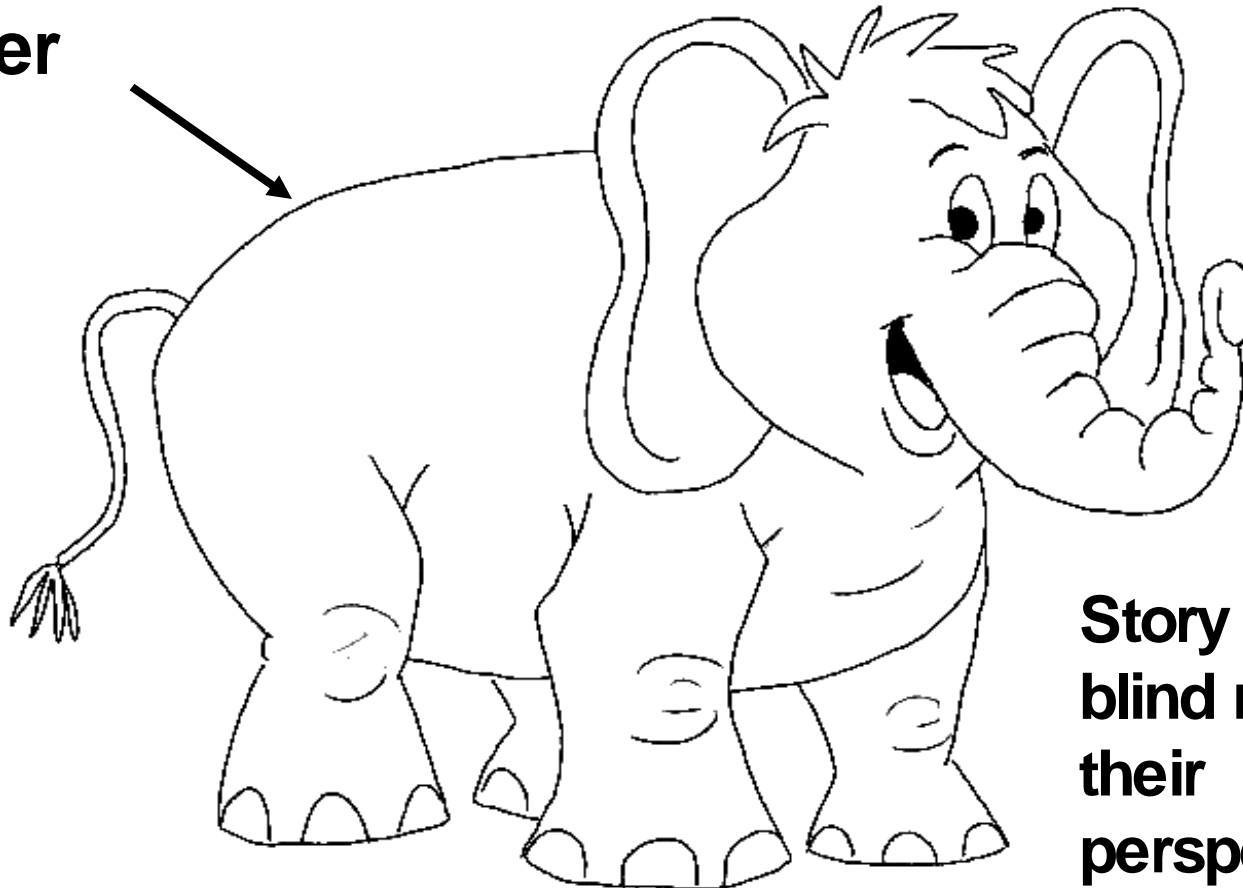
# Who governs the internet ?





# My friend Elmer

**Elmer**

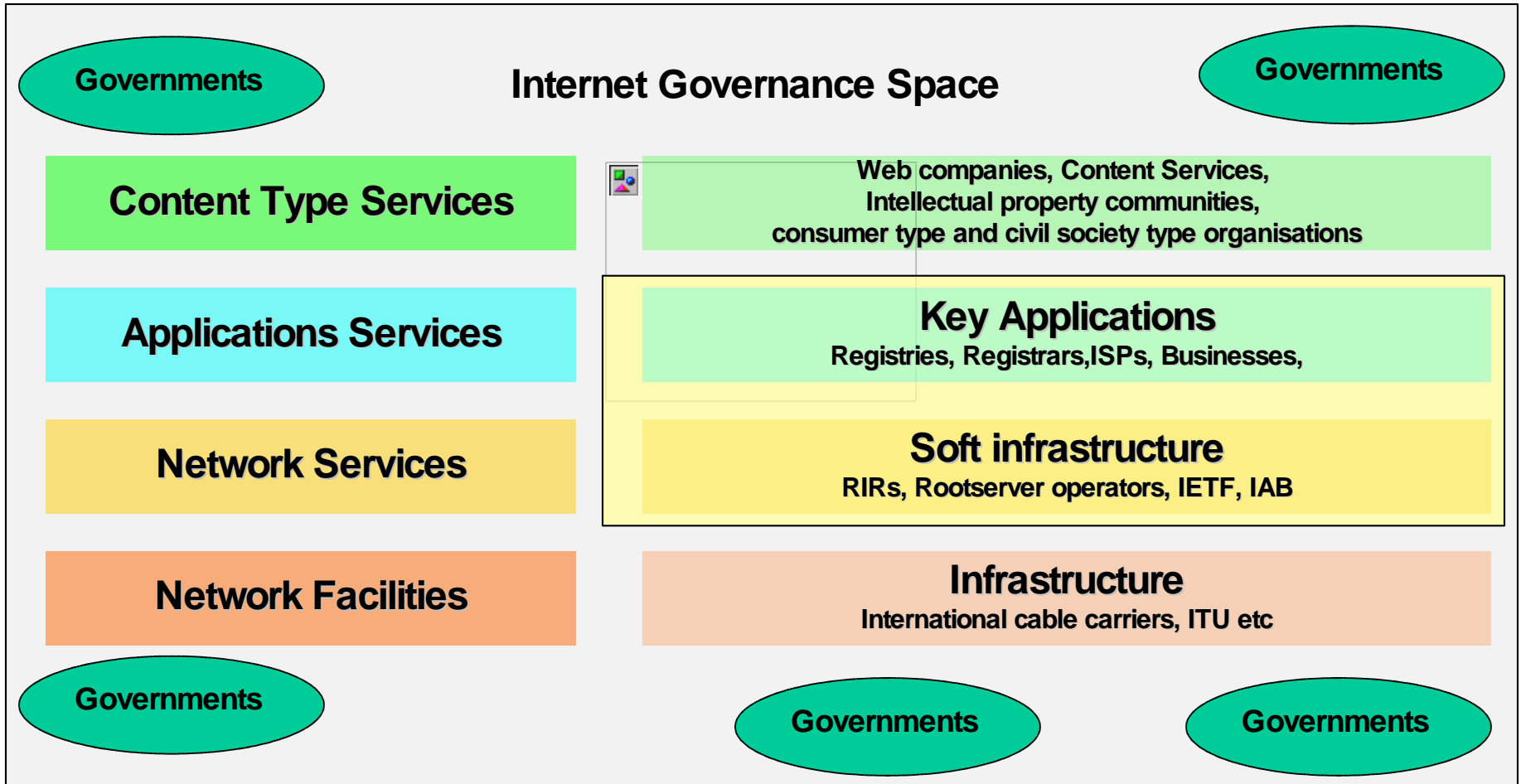


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# Governance of the Internet

## -one blind man's perspective





# Key wishes for me

- Internet belongs to everyone
  - Governance of the internet should include all parties concerned in an international multistakeholder partnership
  - It is both resource and infrastructure
  - It should be inclusive as every stakeholder has a role to play in it
  - Multilingualism on the Internet should be promoted
  - Privacy of data is to be protected
  - Education on the positive use of Internet



# Thought pieces

- Information society, ICT and Internet is a part of the knowledge economy
- The international governance of the internet is one part of it, but there are many other parts



# One thing is clear :

**Cooperation**  
**Coordination**  
**Collaboration**

Quote by Professor Vint Cerf  
Chairman of the Board  
ICANN



# VINAKA VAKULEVU!

Main Office (w.e.f 1 September 2004):

Malaysian Communications and Multimedia  
Commission

Persiaran Multimedia, 68000 Cyberjaya,  
Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC)

**MALAYSIA**

Website: <http://www.mcmc.gov.my>