The Internet Society

- Founded in 1992 by Internet pioneers
- International non-profit organization
  - 90+ organization members
  - 28,000+ individual members
  - 90+ chapters worldwide
  - Regional bureaus: Africa, Latin America & Caribbean, South & South East Asia, and others coming
- ISOC is an international cause-related organization that works for the open development and evolution of the Internet for all people.
- We do so through work across the areas of technical standards, education and capacity-building as well as public policy.

What does the Internet Society offer?

- Worldwide presence and impact
- Influential relationship with technical community
- Respected voice in the policy community
- Active Internet experts and decision makers
- Long track-record of making a difference

ISOC is the most respected leader in shaping the future of the Internet itself

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

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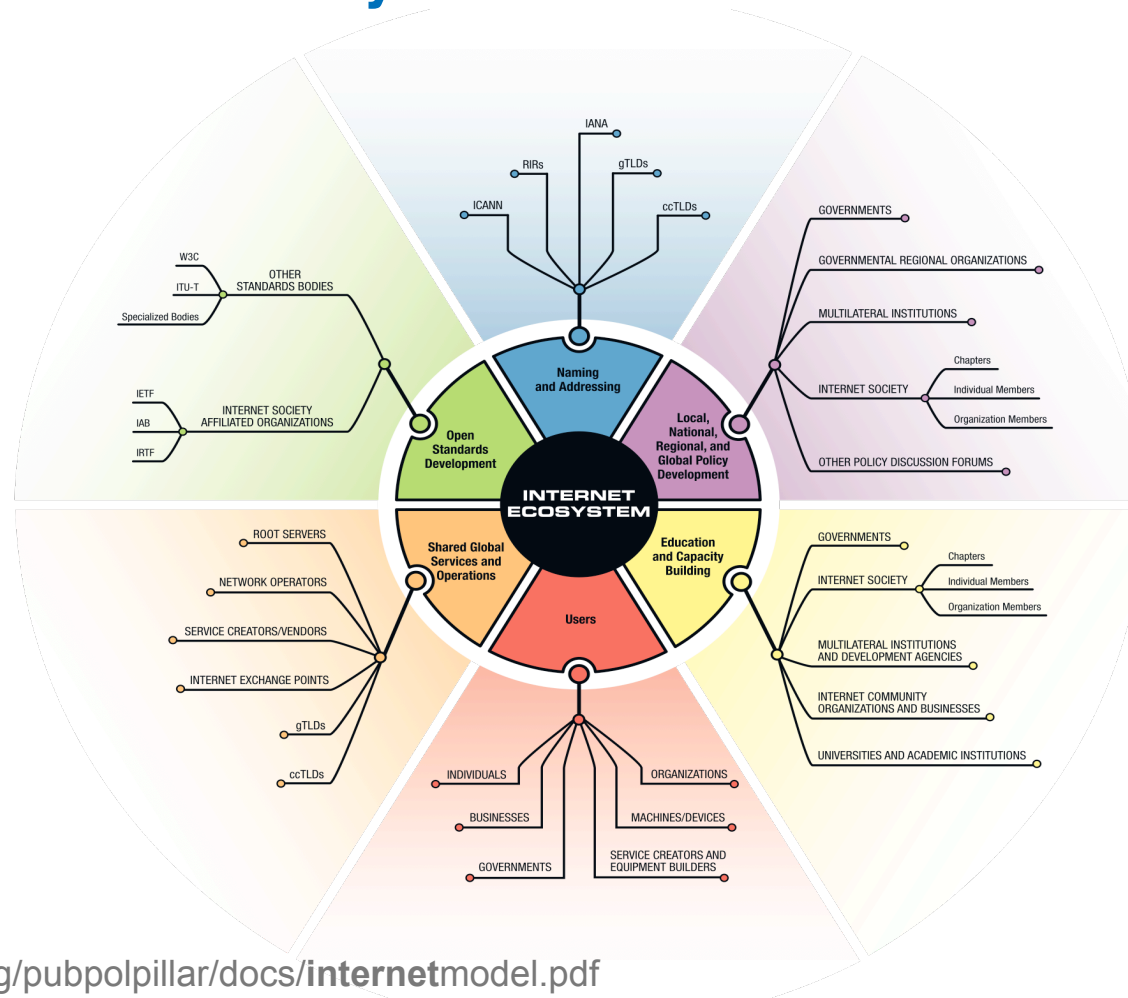
The Internet Today

- A complex system, still evolving rapidly

- Nowhere near being a "legacy" system

- A "network of networks" working cooperatively

- Intelligence predominantly at the edges

- Proven to be flexible, adaptable and responsive to users' needs

- But the Internet 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

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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 (which are also openly developed, with participation based on knowledge rather than formal membership)
- Key principles (such as the "end-to-end principle")
- An open, bottom-up, freely accessible, public, multi-stakeholder processes for both technology and policy development

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The Internet Ecosystem

Internet governance and the United Nations

- Origins in World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
  - Internet governance gained prominence during the preparations for the WSIS from 2003 to 2005
  - The openness and diversity of the Internet model was new to governments and for the intergovernmental United Nations process
  - The complexity and formality of the UN process poses a challenge for the Internet community's culture
  - The willingness of all stakeholders to engage in open discussion was a major contributor to the success of the Summit
  - Set a benchmark for follow-up activities, in particular the Internet Governance Forum

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From World Summit on the Information Society to Internet Governance Forum: Definition

- What is Internet governance?

  WSIS 2005, Tunis:
  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 programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

- *Important: to be effective Internet governance needs to be multi-stakeholder*

Internet governance and the UN

- To continue the process, the WSIS established the Internet Governance Forum in 2005

- IGF: an open multi-stakeholder forum for dialogue on Internet governance

  - No formal negotiation, arranged seating or lengthy policy statements ("neutral, non duplicative and non-binding" as per its mandate)

  - Encourages frank discussion among equals and enables a broader and more open exchange of views than in a traditional inter-governmental setting

  - Focuses on capacity building and development, recognizing the importance of creating supportive enabling environments to facilitate Internet deployment

Why is the Internet Governance Forum important?

The IGF is about:

- Evolving models of engagement
  - exposes governments to multistakeholder, open, bottom-up (Internet model), community based processes
  - exposes Internet community to governments' concerns and issues
- Community building based on interest, not geography or politics
- Skills development and capacity building through discussion, sharing experiences, and good practice from around the globe
- Leveraging opportunity; comparing and contrasting regulatory, technical, and societal approaches to access, diversity, openness, and security

Internet Communities and the IGF

- ISOC has supported the IGF (and its predecessors) since their inception, as have various Internet communities, particularly the RIRs, ICANN, etc.

- The participation of members of Internet technical community has been considerable, thoughtful & appreciated

- There is value in an open, multi-stakeholder forum for Internet matters – it is a good platform for communicating our messages to other communities and particularly to governments

- IGF continues to evolve and provides a vital non-binding venue for Internet governance issues without detracting from other parts of the model

Other UN Internet governance activities

- WSIS implementation efforts, annual WSIS "cluster" in Geneva
- ITU Council Working Group on WSIS
- ITU World Telecom Policy Forum 2009
  - Convergence
  - Internet-related public policy issues
  - Next-generation networks (NGN)
  - Emerging policy issues
- UNESCO working on multilingualism
- United Nations report on "enhanced cooperation"
  - Consulted with major organizations
  - Report in preparation

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The 2008 OECD Ministerial:
The future of the Internet economy

- OECD invited Internet technical community to provide input on same basis as business and civil society
    - 17 different Internet organizations working with ISOC
    - Provided unbiased technical input to IPv4-IPv6 transition paper and advice during preparatory process
- 1-day Internet technical community forum to advise Ministers
    - A "memorandum" from the Internet technical community
        http://www.isoc.org/isoc/media/releases/080616pr.shtml
- An expansion of the multi-stakeholder model
- OECD Secretary General suggests ongoing engagement of the Internet technical community
        http://www.oecd.org/FutureInternet

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Internet Technical Advisory Committee to the OECD

- Internet Technical Advisory Committee now participating fully in the OECD's work on the Internet economy
- Has offered expertise and advice on several topics:
  - Transition from IPv4 to IPv6
  - Methodology for measuring the uptake of IPv6
  - Measuring broadband uptake
- Participating in information sharing and workshops:
  - Identity Management Toolkit
  - Innovation in the Internet economy
  - Virtual worlds
  - Cloud computing
- See: http://www.internetac.org/

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Looking ahead…

- The internet Society and our partner organizations are key advocates for the open & collaborative Internet model

- Our community has a track record of successfully overcoming problems and an admirable history of cooperation

- We are increasingly reaching out to intergovernmental organizations to offer our expertise and information
  - ITU World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly Fact Sheets (4 languages)
  - ITU World Telecommunication Policy Forum Fact sheets (6 languages)
  - UNESCO NGO Committee
  - Regional organizations (APEC TEL, African Union, CITEL, etc.)

Key Messages

- Internet governance *is* important

- ISOC believes the Internet must be for everyone, and so should discussion about governance issues

- We envision a future in which people in all parts of the world can use the Internet to improve their quality of life because standards, technologies, business practices, and government policies sustain an open and universally accessible platform for innovation, creativity, and economic opportunity

- The Internet technical community, civil society and the private sector built the Internet and believe in it.

- We are reaching out to others seeking to work together to protect and defend an environment where the Internet truly is for everyone

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