

FOREWORD BY LYNN ST. AMOUR,
PRESIDENT AND CEO, INTERNET SOCIETY



Welcome to the first annual report of the Internet Society (ISOC). With more than 10 years behind us and a fast-growing global economy before us, we remain as committed as ever to our mission of ensuring and maintaining an open and unencumbered Internet for the benefit of all.

In 2003 we experienced great success in growing the organisation and extending its influence.

Like most organisations, we measure our success in terms of growth and influence. In both areas, we've experienced success. As of October 2004, ISOC's individual membership had increased to more than 16,000 individuals, organisation members now number 89, and there are 82 chapters, with many more being formed.

In 2003 ISOC dedicated itself to four key objectives. I am happy to report

significant progress and successes in each of them. The goals were:

- Improve ISOC's financial position
- Increase activities in Internet policy
- Expand the number and range of ISOC activities and partnerships regarding standards, education, and Internet policy
- Strengthen ISOC's value to organisation members, individual members, and chapters

**IMPROVE ISOC'S
FINANCIAL POSITION**

The key to ISOC's long-term financial health lies in its organisation members. The difficult economy of the past few years created a number of challenges for many ISOC members. This put pressure on ISOC's financial position, inspiring us to seek alternative means to fund critical programs. One alternative is detailed later. In addition, we have invested in new systems and additional resources and are making progress in expanding our organisation member base. We are confident in our future success and expect to welcome many new members in the years to come.

In 2002, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) awarded ISOC the contract to manage

Since 1992, the Internet Society has served as the international organisation for global coordination of and cooperation in the Internet, engaging in a broad spectrum of activities to promote the Internet's development, availability, and associated technologies.

the .ORG top-level domain over 10 other competitive proposals. ISOC's bid was successful based on our strong roots in technology as well as our well-known leadership in responsible Internet citizenship. Later that year, ISOC formed the Public Interest Registry (PIR) for the purpose of administering the .ORG domain. By year-end 2003, PIR had grown the .ORG registry from 2.5 million to 3 million domain names, generating additional funds to enable ISOC to better pursue its public-spirited goals and programs. I am happy to report that the .ORG initiative has been an exceptional financial success and has been extremely well received both by the public and by ISOC members.

The stability of our financial position and our long-term financial health still depends on building a much stronger and sizable organisation member base. The recent appointment of David McAuley, ISOC's director of membership, has already begun to strengthen our member programs—for organisations, individual members, and chapters—and we look forward to significant growth in the future.

INCREASE ACTIVITIES IN INTERNET POLICY

ISOC added its voice to the debate over Internet governance. We actively participated in World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) events and in the WSIS preparatory meetings, including many associated regional, United Nations, and international forums. WSIS's action plan implies, among other things, the need for new, heavyweight intergovernmental organisations to manage the Internet. It is ISOC's position that such changes are unnecessary. Today's structures and processes are effective, international, completely open, and inclusive and are the best vehicles for continued

improvement. Changes such as those proposed will bring little if any benefit to people in the developing world (the most pressing requirement); neither will they advance the Internet itself. They could even lead to significant disruption. Significant benefit will come from increased access to the Internet, not centralised government control. The centralised approach is not compatible with the dynamics of the Internet and is antithetical to what has made the Internet such a success to date.

ISOC and other organisations such as the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Architecture Board (IAB) were key participants in the Global Forum on Internet Governance held at the United Nations in New York in early 2004. We actively encouraged WSIS to moderate its stance and change the focus to include more attention to issues of connectivity and education. We've already achieved some success, yet much more remains to be done. This remains an area of real concern to us, and we expect to participate fully in the ongoing debate.

INCREASE ISOC'S ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

We are pleased to announce increased cooperation with other organisations, including the Regional Internet Registries, La Fundación Escuela Latinoamericana de Redes (the Latin American Networking School Foundation, EsLaRed), the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Network Startup Resource Centre (NSRC), and the Internetworking Research Laboratory at the Asian Institute of Technology, to name but a few. We supported critical efforts across the world, sponsoring events such as the Internet Workshop for Latin America and the Caribbean (WALC), Africa Network Operators' Group (AfNOG) educational workshops,

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the Network and Distributed System Security symposium, a multicast workshop held in Thailand, and numerous other events across the world.

STRENGTHEN ISOC'S VALUE TO ALL MEMBERS: ORGANISATIONS, INDIVIDUALS, AND CHAPTERS

ISOC's efforts focus on three areas we call pillars: standards, education, and policy. Our efforts focus on adding significant value to the Internet community around the world as well as to our organisation, individual, and chapter members. We do this primarily through education and information dissemination as well as through participation in and support of the development of Internet policy and standards. ISOC offers all members and chapters unparalleled access to global resources in Internet education, policy, and standards while working actively to increase access to key decision-making processes. This enables members to be proactive on key matters pertaining to future Internet development.

In 2003 our unique position and the strength of our members and our partnerships allowed us to address critical new pressures on the Internet such as the governance issue raised by WSIS. But we still have much to do, particularly regarding:

- Internet policy: for areas such as Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and spam
- Connectivity: increasing access to the Internet for least-developed countries (LDCs)
- Education initiatives: to ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefits the Internet can bring, with a strong focus on LDCs
- Support for the IETF: in the development of Internet technical standards



- Internet governance: as the great debate continues

INSIDE ISOC

This past year, several senior leaders joined ISOC's efforts. Michael Nelson, ISOC's new vice president of Internet policy, took the first steps to enunciate broad policy goals that will ensure the Internet's continued responsible development. Peter Godwin, Mirjam Kuehne, and Nelson Sanchez are our new senior programme managers. All three are assigned to the Internet Society's Europe, Middle East, and Africa office in Geneva to take full advantage of their international background.

In 2004 plans call for ISOC to continue:

- Providing support for the IETF and related initiatives such as the IETF administrative restructuring
- Providing educational programmes and support for regional Internet training workshops, particularly for LDCs
- Raising awareness about new Internet technologies and standards in such areas as VoIP, security, IPv6, privacy issues, and others to ensure the health, stability, and continued responsible expansion of the Internet
- Working in countries around the world to develop new mechanisms for informing policy debates and key decision makers
- Supporting national chapters and individual members worldwide in

influencing key policy matters in their own countries

- Working with partners to ensure that all people will be able to enjoy the benefits of the Internet, e-business, e-government, and other uses of the Internet

Many of the aforementioned activities are supported by our Platinum Sponsorship Programme, which offers organisations the opportunity to designate their support to specific ISOC pillars or initiatives. Information on the Platinum Programme and membership levels is available at www.isoc.org/orgs or by contacting org-membership@isoc.org.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

ISOC Standards Pillar Sponsorship

In 2003 Platinum sponsors—including APNIC, ARIN, RIPE, and Microsoft—provided much of the funding for ISOC's standards programmes. Their support is vital in helping maintain the RFC editor function, which is a key component of the IETF open Internet standards process.

ISOC Policy Pillar Sponsorship

Much of the sponsorship of ISOC's Internet policy programmes is provided by Platinum sponsor Afiliis Ltd. In the past year, Afiliis's sponsorship has enabled ISOC to develop and promote programmes and educational activities in support of an open Internet. Our Member Briefings and Bulletins are but two examples. ISOC has actively worked to influence Internet policy formation by participating in major events such as Telecom World 2003 and WSIS.

ISOC Education Pillar Sponsorship

Sponsors Qualys and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) have supported such initiatives as the ISOC Workshop Resource Centre and training work-

shops organised by AfNOG. Through AfNOG, we are helping strengthen the technical expertise of African operators who need to design and manage larger networks as the demand for connectivity in Africa increases. Workshops such as these have helped transfer both technology and knowledge to developing regions and helped make them self-sufficient in supporting local Internet infrastructure.

ISOC recognises the support given by all of its members in 2003. It is only with their continued support that we are able to pursue this critical work.

I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of the staff of the Public Interest Registry in making the .ORG registry a success, so that ISOC might expand its critical work in Internet policy and education.

The Internet is at a critical moment in its evolution. ISOC plays a central role in ensuring the Internet's continued successful development and expanded deployment. In 2004 we renew our commitment to fostering open standards, inclusive consensus-based processes in support of innovation, continued expansion worldwide, and vitality of the Internet.

