

## ISOC IN 2003 A YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2003 the Internet Society (ISOC) achieved a number of critical benchmarks, reflecting a strengthened global focus.

### ISOC WINS BID FOR .ORG REGISTRY

In 2002 the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) awarded the Internet Society a contract to manage the .ORG top-level domain over 10 competitive proposals ([www.pir.org](http://www.pir.org)). ISOC's bid was successful based on its strong technical roots and its reputation for responsible Internet citizenship.

In October 2002 ISOC incorporated the Public Interest Registry (PIR) to manage the .ORG top-level domain. In January 2003 PIR turned over 2.5 million domain names from VeriSign. The conversion was completed with no outages for .ORG registrants.

PIR's mission is to manage the .ORG domain in an exemplary manner: "Serving the Public Interest." The organisation, which has a partnership with Ireland-based Afiliat Ltd. to perform all back-end technical services, is charged with overall responsibility for the .ORG registry and focuses particularly on the establishment of policies that support the .ORG community and help the domain name space evolve responsibly and in the public's best interest.

During its first full year of operation, PIR exceeded all performance objectives. By end-of-year 2003, the registry had grown the .ORG registry from 2.5

million to 3 million domain names. The organisation exceeded revenue targets by 16 percent and net asset objectives by 23 percent. All earnings after operating expenses and reserves go to ISOC to be used for programme development and outreach in line with commitments made during the bid process.

Other PIR accomplishments in 2003 include:

- Announcement of a redemption grace period, which allows registrants to redeem for up to 30 days after deletion a name that has been deleted by a registrar. This is a major benefit to registrants who may have inadvertently lost their domain name.
- Implementation of a change that enabled .ORG domain names to resolve through Web browsers worldwide within 5 minutes of domain registration or modification. The change enhances the speed of registration/modification-to-resolution of .ORG names from a previous average of 12 to 24 hours.
- Successful implementation of a global advisory council consisting of 21 international Internet and noncommercial community leaders from 16 countries and every continent. The council provides advice and recommendations in the areas of policy and outreach as well as services on behalf of the worldwide Internet noncommercial community.

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Photo courtesy of Giandomenico Massari

registry operations. In 2004, PIR envisions positioning .ORG as a valued global brand and is committed to defining a new standard of customer satisfaction and registry operations while providing resources that will empower and educate the noncommercial Internet community.

ISOC has imparted its noncommercial heritage, global awareness, and Internet knowledge to PIR, and that—

and developing Internet resources and standards, to the nature and development of the Internet itself, and to innovative and successful models of private/public cooperation. The area that should be addressed is one of maximising equal access to the Internet and the benefits that it can provide for LDCs. This includes the ability to participate actively in the Internet's future development. We strongly believe this is where



Photo courtesy of Giandomenico Massari

ISOC's Nigeria Chapter has successfully sensitised both corporate and government leaders to the need to assist and sponsor IT projects.

coupled with Afiliat's significant technical expertise—enables PIR to deliver greater value and better performance to registrars and registrants.

**ISOC PUTS FOCUS ON INTERNET DEVELOPMENT**

In December 2003, at the conclusion of the WSIS, an action plan was released that implied the need for new, intergovernmental organisations to manage the Internet ([www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis](http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis)). In particular, several government delegations suggested replacing ICANN with an intergovernmental body. ISOC's position, which it stated clearly at WSIS 2003, is that this is solving the wrong problem. The unprecedented growth and innovation that we see in the Internet sector have been due to the system of cooperation among the organisations responsible for coordinating

the real opportunity lies and where we intend to do as much as possible to ensure this becomes a reality.

Through participation in WSIS 2003, ISOC added its voice to the growing debate over Internet governance and worked to increase widespread understanding of what has made the Internet successful and what is important to ensure the Internet's continued development and its open nature and to further develop its global reach. ISOC is committed to working with governments, industry, and Internet users around the world as a way of ensuring that the Internet develops so that the Internet is for everyone. Our continued education initiatives, particularly in developing countries, help enable people everywhere to both get access to and play a role in the evolution of the Internet.

## INFLUENCE OF ISOC CHAPTERS AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES IS FELT WORLDWIDE

Since the inception of chapters as a mechanism for creating a local presence for the organisation, ISOC chapters have demonstrated the capacity to influence and drive Internet technology development worldwide. In fact, in 2003 ISOC Nigeria took a leadership role in the establishment of four information technology centres, all of which were implemented through the efforts of the chapter and paid for entirely through sponsorships raised locally by the chapter.

ISOC wishes to extend its gratitude to Jim Galvin, ISOC's vice president of chapters, for the enormous contribution he has made in the development of ISOC chapters and in helping the organisation grow its membership base.

A number of highly specialised Internet education and training initiatives—benefiting a wide range of professionals, from technical trainers to international policy makers—were made possible in large part by ISOC's local leaders (chapters and individuals) and their support. Noteworthy examples include the following.

**WALC 2003.** Nearly suspended due to lack of funding, these training activities conducted by the Latin American Networking School in Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Venezuela were reestablished as a result of financial support by ISOC and InfoDev of the World Bank ([www.walc03.ula.ve](http://www.walc03.ula.ve)).

**AfNOG 2003.** Advanced training by the Africa Network Operators' Group Workshop helped prepare 43 participants from 18 African countries to develop and maintain scalable services and routing networks in their countries. Funding was provided by Sida as well as ISOC ([www.afnog.org](http://www.afnog.org)).

**NDSS 2003.** The Network and Distributed Systems Symposium (NDSS) is sponsored by the Internet Society and held annually in San Diego. It brings together innovative and forward-thinking members of the Internet community, including leading-edge security researchers and implementers, globally recognised security technology experts, and users from both the private and public sectors who design, develop, exploit, and deploy the technologies that define network and distributed-system security.

More than 150 security specialists from government, academia, and the private sector throughout the world attended NDSS'03. Two hallmarks of the annual event are regular opportunities for extended question-and-answer sessions and hallway discussions, which promote exchanges in a relaxed and informal setting. Attendance is kept at a level that fosters this type of interaction ([www.isoc.org/ndss03](http://www.isoc.org/ndss03)).

**ISOC Workshop Resource Centre launched.** ISOC's new Web-based portal is now online, providing education materials in an open-source model and supporting organisers of network technology workshops worldwide.

ISOC wishes to recognise the efforts of Randy Bush and Zita Wenzel, who stepped down from their positions as joint vice presidents of education in 2003. Bush and Wenzel are widely recognised for their considerable contributions to bringing Internet connectivity to many of the world's developing countries, and we were fortunate to have their support and expertise.

For details on ISOC's education initiatives, see page 21.



Photo courtesy of Philip Hazel

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## **ISOC ADVANCES INTERNET POLICY DIRECTIONS**

ISOC vice president of Internet policy Michael Nelson drafted a series of five policy goals intended to guide ISOC's public policy efforts and provide focus into the future. The goals were developed to leverage ISOC's strengths, including its reputation for being able to tap the brightest technical and social minds in the Internet community, its understanding of leading-edge Internet technologies, its involvement in the standards process both at the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and elsewhere, and its truly global perspective and outreach.

ISOC is committed to working with government and industry leaders and Internet users around the world to ensure that the Internet develops in a manner that enables all users to harness its full power and potential. The key to ISOC's policy strategy is the organisation's work to ensure that all users enjoy the ability to connect, to speak, to innovate, to share, and to choose. For more information, see [www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar](http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar).

## **INTERNET POLICY ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY ISOC PLATINUM SPONSORS**

In January 2003 ISOC announced the receipt of a generous donation of US\$100,000 from Qualys™, Inc., the leader in automated vulnerability assessment. With that donation, Qualys became a Platinum sponsor of ISOC, joining Afiliis Ltd.; regional Internet registries APNIC, ARIN, and the RIPE NCC; Microsoft Corp.; and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Funds from the Qualys donation were used to support and enhance ISOC's educational activities. In particular, ISOC's new Workshop Resource

Centre was made possible thanks to support from Qualys. The donation also enabled ISOC to broaden its education and training efforts, which are fundamental to the mission of expanding the use of the Internet globally ([www.isoc.org/news/9.shtml](http://www.isoc.org/news/9.shtml)).

## **ISOC LAUNCHES CYBER SURVEYS TO MONITOR MEMBER FEEDBACK**

In 2003 ISOC began asking its membership for regular feedback via monthly cyber referendums that are open to all members. These surveys provide ISOC with valuable input about members' concerns and opinions. At the same time, they give members an opportunity to participate directly in the development of Internet policies and in ISOC activities.

Survey topics range from specific technologies such as antis spam technologies to policy-related issues, like those surrounding ISOC's participation in the World Summit on the Information Society. Summaries of survey results are published in the monthly ISOC member newsletter. Detailed responses can be reviewed at [www.isoc.org/members/surveys](http://www.isoc.org/members/surveys).

## **ISOC'S PRESTIGIOUS POSTEL AWARD RECOGNISES PETER KIRSTEIN**

At the 57th meeting of the IETF in Vienna in July 2003, the Internet Society awarded Internet pioneer Peter Kirstein the prestigious Jonathan B. Postel Service Award. A founding member of the Internet Society, Professor Kirstein was directly involved with its development and evolution. This important award was given in recognition of his foresight, persistence, and innovation in navigating international technical and political complexities and thus helping facilitate global propagation of the Internet.

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The Jonathan B. Postel Service Award was established by the Internet Society to honour those who have made outstanding contributions in service to the data communications community. The award focuses on sustained and substantial technical contributions, service to the community, and leadership.

The award is named after Jonathan B. Postel, who embodied all of those qualities during his extraordinary stewardship over the course of a 30-year career in networking. Postel served as editor of the request-for-comments series of notes from its inception in 1969 until 1998. He also served as ARPANET numbers tsar as well as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority during the same period of time. He was a founding member of the Internet Architecture (née Activities) Board and the first individual member of ISOC, wherein he also served as a trustee.

Previous recipients include Jon himself (posthumously), Scott Bradner, Daniel Karrenberg, and Stephen Wolff. The award consists of an engraved crystal globe and US\$20,000 ([www.isoc.org/isoc/media/releases/030716pr.shtml](http://www.isoc.org/isoc/media/releases/030716pr.shtml)).

### ISOC WELCOMES NEW STAFF

In 2003 ISOC continued to develop its leadership by hiring communications manager Peter Godwin and senior programme managers Mirjam Kuehne and Nelson Sanchez, all of whom bring to ISOC years of experience in global Internet development and programme oversight. In April 2004, David McAuley joined ISOC as membership director. McAuley has extensive experience in international technology and Internet enterprises as a marketer and management specialist ([www.isoc.org/isoc/general/staff](http://www.isoc.org/isoc/general/staff)).



## ISOC COMMUNICATIONS KEEP MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

### Bulletins

In 2003 ISOC began producing regular bulletins on educational initiatives, Internet governance, topical technical developments, and more. ISOC news bulletins are produced in cooperation with the PIR and ISOC's organisation members ([www.isoc.org/pubs](http://www.isoc.org/pubs)). An example of ISOC bulletins follows.

### Member Briefings, Articles of Interest, ISP Column

An important part of ISOC's communications with the Internet community is the number of informative and timely publications ISOC makes available to its members and affiliated organisations worldwide. The publications include:

- ISP Column
- Articles of Interest
- ISOC Member Briefings
- Invited Editors
- The Internet Report by the IETF

### ISOC Discussion Groups

In 2003 ISOC individual, chapter, and organisation members continued participating in online discussions covering topics ranging from strategic direction to membership growth initiatives, to ISOC's value proposition. There are special interest discussion groups related to such topics as how ISOC and its chapters can promote Internet accessibility and the Interplanetary Network.