

ISOC is proud that among its founders are a number of individuals with long-term involvement in the Internet. They include two of the Internet's most esteemed pioneers—Vinton G. Cerf, Senior Vice President of Technology Strategy at MCI, and Robert E. Kahn, Chairman, President, and CEO of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives.

Cerf and Kahn were joint winners of the 2004 A.M. Turing Award, considered the “Nobel Prize of Computing,” for pioneering work on the design and implementation of the Internet's basic communications protocols.

## WHAT IS THE INTERNET SOCIETY?

The Internet Society was founded in 1992 to promote the evolution and growth of the Internet as a global communications infrastructure, to provide support for the Internet Engineering Task Force, and to encourage the responsible and effective use of the Internet through education, discussion, and advice to public policy makers. Many of the improvements that have been realised since then in Internet technology and operation and Internet access and use in developing countries can be attributed to ISOC's activities. ISOC enjoys a well-deserved reputation for integrity and service to the public interest and is recognised as a strong advocate for the core values of an open and accessible Internet.

### MISSION AND ROLE

ISOC's mission is to achieve its vision of a world in which everyone everywhere is connected to an open and universally accessible Internet.

*The mission of the Internet Society is to promote the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.*

Along with its natural partners—ISOC members and Chapters, the IETF, and PIR—ISOC is embedded within a fabric of Internet organisations, each with its own role to play and pursuing its own mission. ISOC collaborates with those other organisations—including ICANN, the root server operators, the NSRC, and the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)—and with national

and international government and civil society groups that share its vision, including the European Union and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Collectively, these organisations tile, or span the public policy, operations, and management space.

Within this network of shared purpose, ISOC's specific role is to promote the formulation and adoption of policies that make the Internet accessible to everyone; to safeguard the integrity and continuity of the context within which the Internet develops and operates; to support and contribute to the continuing evolution of the Internet as an open, decentralised platform for innovation, creativity, and economic

opportunity; and to bring authoritative, unbiased information about the Internet to individuals and organisations in every part of the world.

### CORE VALUES

ISOC's core values are the fundamental principles that guide all of the society's activities. These are the beliefs and commitments on which ISOC's mission is based. Many of them are shared by the other organisations with which ISOC collaborates.

- The quality of life for people in all parts of the world is enhanced by their ability to enjoy the benefits of an open and global Internet.
- Well-informed individuals and public and private policy makers make up the foundation of an open and global Internet society.

### INTERNET SOCIETY STAFF

Nancy Cole, *Finance Manager, Reston, Virginia*

Lynn DuVal, *Director of Finance and Administration, Reston, Virginia*

Peter Godwin, *Communications Manager, Geneva*

Martin Kupres, *Corporate and Institutional Development Manager, Geneva*

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Nelson Sanchez, *Senior Programme Manager, Geneva*

Anne Shroeder, *Webmaster and System Administrator, Reston, Virginia*

Lynn St. Amour, *President and CEO, Geneva*

Terry Weigler, *Office Manager and Membership Administration, Reston, Virginia*

- The genius of the Internet is that its decentralised architecture maximises individual users' power to choose (or create) and use the hardware, software, and services that best meet users' needs, and if the Internet is to continue to be a platform for innovation and creativity, its open, decentralised nature must be preserved.
- Enduring and sustainable progress toward ISOC's vision is best achieved by a combination of global initiatives and activities at a local level that engage people in their home regions.
- Technical standards and Internet operating procedures should be developed and asserted through open and transparent processes, with minimal barriers to participation or access to information.
- The social, political, and economic benefits of the Internet are substantially diminished by excessively restrictive government or private controls on computer hardware or software, telecommunications infrastructure, or Internet content.
- Rewarding and productive use of the Internet depends on the ability to trust critical services.

### SCOPE OF ISOC ACTIVITIES

The scope of ISOC activities is both broad and central. Because ISOC holds that the Internet is *for everyone*, every Internet user is a potential beneficiary of ISOC activities on behalf of an open and accessible Internet. ISOC is uniquely positioned at the intersection of development-oriented (technical) groups, public policy, and educational activities and serves as the hub of a global network of individuals and organisations that are collectively working toward the shared vision of an Internet that benefits everyone everywhere.

The interaction among activities in three complementary areas—standards, policy, and education—is a particularly important source of credibility and impact for ISOC. The relationship between ISOC and the IETF, for example, enables ISOC to speak with unique authority on technical matters in education workshops and in public policy forums, and ISOC's reputation as a reliable source of accurate and unbiased information in the education area contributes to its policy-area objective of ensuring that government decision makers be well-informed.

ISOC's beneficiaries include both present and future users. An important dimension of ISOC's mission is its commitment to future Internet users, to whom ISOC recognises a responsibility to sustain the progress of innovation that has brought so many benefits to today's users.

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*ISOC Advisory Council Chair*

*ISOC sincerely thanks the Vice Presidents, the Chair of the Advisory Council and their employers for their support of ISOC.*

### ISOC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The board generally consists of not more than 20 trustees, each holding office for a period of three years and for no more than two consecutive terms. Trustees are nominated, selected, and elected by ISOC Organisation Members, ISOC Chapters and Individual Members, and the IETF standards organisation.

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