

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 (IETF), and to encourage responsible and effective use of the Internet through education, discussion, and advice to public policy makers. ISOC's activities—particularly in developing countries—have helped expand the reach of the Internet, bringing a wide range of

important social, economic, and educational benefits to people around the world. ISOC enjoys a well-deserved reputation for integrity and service to the public interest and is recognized as a strong advocate for the core values of an open and accessible Internet.

MISSION AND ROLE

ISOC's mission is to promote open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.

Together with its Organization Members, Chapters, and Individual Members—in addition to its relationship with the Internet Engineering Task Force and its associated bodies—ISOC stands at the forefront of the development, education, and public policy areas affecting the Internet and Internet users. As part of its desire to protect and preserve the elements that have made the Internet the success it is today, ISOC works closely with many Internet

organizations: Internet service providers, network operators, root server operators, country-code top-level domains, the Network Startup Resource Center, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and the Regional Internet Registries, as well as with national and international governments and civil society groups.

Operating both on the local level and in the global arena, ISOC supports the formulation and adoption of poli-

INTERNET SOCIETY STAFF

Dawit Bekele, Regional Bureau Manager for Africa, Africa

Sebastián Bellagamba, Regional Bureau Manager for Latin America, Latin America and the Caribbean

Constance Bommelaer, Senior Manager of Public Policy, Europe

Nancy Cole, Finance Manager, North America

Steve Conte, Senior Manager of Information Services, North America

Kevin Craemer, Senior Events Manager, North America

Leslie Daigle, Chief Internet Technology Officer, North America

Julien Demierre, Database Management and Support Officer, Europe

Frédéric Donck, Director of Public Policy, Europe

Lynn DuVal, Director of Finance and Administration, North America

Andrew Dvorshak, Senior Manager of Organizational Membership, North America

Peter Godwin, IT Director, Europe

Bill Graham, Strategic Global Engagement, Office of the President, North America

Gregory Kapfer, Chief Financial Officer, North America

Connie Kendig, Sponsored Programmes and Grants Manager, North America

Mirjam Kühne, Senior Programme Manager, Europe

Martin Kupres, Corporate and Institutional Development Manager, Europe

Anne Lord, Senior Manager, Chapters and Individual Memberships, Asia Pacific

Lucy Lynch, Director, Technical Projects, North America

Dana Matthews, Finance Manager, North America

Donna McCague, Organization Membership Programme Coordinator, North America

Michuki Mwangi, Senior Education Manager, Africa

Leni Nazare, Administrative Assistant, North America

Elizabeth Oluoch, Executive Assistant to the President/CEO, North America

Ray Pelletier, IETF Administrative Director, North America

Phil Roberts, Technology Programme Manager, North America

Karen Rose, Director of Education and Programmes, Asia Pacific

Gerard Ross, Senior Communications Manager, Europe

John Schnizlein, Technology Programme Manager, North America

Matthew Shears, Public Policy Advisor, Europe

Rajnish Singh, Regional Bureau Manager for South and Southeast Asia, Asia Pacific

Lynn St. Amour, President/CEO, Europe and North America

Arnoud van Wijk, Disabilities Project Coordinator, Europe

Terry Weigler, Office Manager, North America

Sabrina Wilmot, Chapters and Individual Memberships Manager, Europe

Henri Wohlfarth, Web Developer, Europe

cies that make the Internet accessible to everyone; that safeguard the integrity and continuity of Internet developments and operations; that support and contribute to the continuing evolution of the Internet as an open, decentralized platform for innovation, creativity, and economic opportunity; and that bring authoritative, unbiased information about the Internet to individuals and organizations in every part of the world.

CORE VALUES

ISOC's core values are the fundamental principles that guide all of the organization's activities. They are the beliefs and commitments on which ISOC's mission is based.

- 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.
- If the Internet is to continue to be a platform for innovation and creativity, its open, decentralized 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 to access to information.
- Excessively restrictive government or private controls on computer hardware or software, telecommunications infrastructure, or Internet content substantially diminish the social, political, and economic benefits of the Internet.
- Rewarding and productive use of the Internet depends on the ability to trust critical services.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

ISOC pursues its mission and upholds its core values through programmes and projects that are designed to achieve goals in the three specific areas that define its scope: standards, education, and public policy. In 2007, the Board of Trustees approved three long-term initiatives around which ISOC's programmes and projects will be organized:

- **Enabling Access.** Address the fundamental impediments to

Internet growth and usability in three programmatic areas:

1. Policy, Regulation, and the Access Environment
 2. Technical Capacity Building
 3. Underserved Communities
- **InterNetWorks.** Focus on the continued operation of the Internet in three programmatic areas:
 1. Common and Open Internet
 2. Global Addressing
 3. Security and Stability
 - **Trust and Identity.** Identify and promote activities and partners working to resolve some of the most persistent issues in key areas, including:
 1. Identity: Managing Trust Relationships;
 2. Architecture and Trust: Emerging Research; and
 3. Operationalizing Trust.

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