The Internet works.

And at the Internet Society, we'd like to keep it that way.

It works in spite of the endless technological challenges, and regardless of how many people use it, and contrary to conventional business wisdom. It works because no one owns it and because no corporation, government, or individual runs it. It works without a recognized hierarchy, or an organisational chart, or a headquarters, or a set of bylaws. **The Internet is successful in large part due to its unique model—shared global ownership, development based on open standards, and freely accessible processes for technology and policy development.** It relies on processes and products that are local, bottom-up and accessible to users around the world. In fact, the success of the Internet stands in stark contrast to how many of us have been conditioned to think about how success is achieved.

It's important to reflect on the Internet's unprecedented success. **It's comforting to know that something that has become so integral to our lives and that has so profoundly redefined the way we live, learn, and work is successful only because it is developed openly, transparently, and collaboratively.**

When faced with the hard work ahead of us, we as a community should be reminded: **the Internet is not a destination; it is a platform for innovation.** Such innovation is felt in all aspects of life: economically, socially, politically, and personally. In its relatively short lifetime, the Internet has become an essential means for promoting democracy, health, and human rights, as well as a critical tool for enabling citizens to participate and enhance their lives on both a local and a global scale. It has become a powerful instrument for promoting charitable and grassroots endeavors. And it has inspired an entire generation to reinvent community and redefine social interaction.

The Internet Society makes things happen.

Initiatives forge global partnerships, creative solutions, and a collective vision for the future.

ISOC's key initiatives target the critical issues that affect all aspects of Internet development and growth. **The initiatives embody ISOC's philosophy that the Internet is for everyone, and they provide ISOC with a solid foundation from which to positively influence standards deployment, access, business practices, and government policies.**

As part of the **Enabling Access** initiative, ISOC addresses fundamental impediments to Internet advancement, particularly in such areas as policy, regulation, and access; technical capacity building; and the availability of Internet technologies in underserved communities.

The **InterNetWorks** initiative targets the continued operation of the global Internet in three critical areas: common and open Internet, global addressing, and security and stability.

ISOC's **Trust and Identity** initiative ensures that users' needs for security, transaction protection, and identity assertion and management get met by building bridges that connect the research, standardisation, development, and deployment of new Internet technologies.

Most important, many of our activities occur at the intersection of our core functional areas—the areas in which technology, policy, and education meet. And we understand that to be effective in our mission and successful in meeting our goals, we must be simultaneously rooted and nimble.

ISOC Key Initiatives
Working toward a collaborative Internet available to billions of users