

# Organisation Membership

*The Internet Society is an important industry forum to provide leadership for the Internet evolution regarding technology, policy, governance, and the continued development of Internet technology for geographies that are just beginning to benefit from ubiquitous network communications.*

—Prith Banerjee  
Senior Vice President, Research  
and Director, HP Labs

## Connecting the Dots to Keep the Internet Working for You

Whether you're a dot-com, dot-org, dot-edu, or any other domain, there's only one organisation that understands the vital role the Internet plays in your world. The Internet Society (ISOC) doesn't build the pipes or create the applications that make the Internet work; we connect the businesses and the organisations that rely on the Internet. Our diverse membership of leading businesses, nonprofit and nongovernmental organisations, and educational and research institutions may do fundamentally different types of work, but they share a common set of objectives: To preserve the open and global nature of the Internet, to maximize innovation, and to maximize access to all that the Internet offers. This is done through working to ensure appropriate regulatory and policy regimes and through actively supporting open standards development.

At ISOC, we create the relationships that give you a voice in how the Internet grows.

## Meeting Challenges: Today's and Tomorrow's

The Internet is successful in large part because of its unique model: shared global ownership, development based on open standards, and freely accessible processes for technology and policy development. However, there are threats to the fundamental tenets of that model.

As the Internet matures, misguided deployments of technology or unwise approaches to important technical and policy issues, even when well-intentioned, carry the risk of fracturing the Internet and impeding its growth and our ability to keep it secure. These challenges have an impact on the economic viability of commercial enterprises as well as the sustainability of public interest organisations, whose business and service models rely on the Internet.

In order to ensure that global Internet evolution is driven by the same balanced approach to technology and policy that made it the vital social and economic engine that it is today, businesses and organisations must be both active and vocal. ISOC membership is the single most powerful platform for participating in the Internet's future and for being heard.



Lynn St. Amour, President and CEO of ISOC, takes the podium at the opening of the 2007 Internet Governance Forum in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

## The Internet Society's Action Plan

As the Internet matures, the technology, policy, social, and economic issues surrounding its development have become intertwined. Few, if any, issues remain exclusively technical, political, social, or economic. Indeed, most of those issues involve elements of the others. Successfully identifying and addressing the challenges requires a dynamic, multidisciplinary approach. ISOC has launched the following three key initiatives that anticipate the challenges and focus on solutions.

- Enabling Access, including programmes such as the Technical Capacity programme, provides the educational opportunities and knowledge needed to grow and sustain the Internet.
- InterNetWorks includes programmes whose purpose is to ensure the Internet continues to perform with the reliability and growth that are its hallmarks.
- Trust and Identity, a research initiative, identifies and promotes technologies and policies that resolve some of the persistent issues in this critical area.

