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## Quo Vadis Internet?

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## The Internet Society

Founded in 1992 by Internet Pioneers as an international non-profit organization

- Organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- 100+ organization members
- Tens of thousands of individual members
- 90+ chapters worldwide
- Regional Bureaus: Africa, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean, North America, South & South East Asia

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## The Internet Society's strategic directions

- Fostering an open, innovative, and trusted Internet worldwide
- Advancing policies and strategies that strengthen the Internet's growth and evolution.
- Enabling a vibrant organization and vital global community to advance the Internet's future.
- Empowering people to achieve human potential through unencumbered Internet use

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## The changing shape of the Internet

- We have 2 billion connected, 4 billion more to come online.
- Those yet to be connected will create both new opportunities and new challenges for the Internet as we know it:
- The majority of the growth will come from the non-English speaking world: (China, India, Russia, Brazil, Africa)
- Consequences: more languages, different cultural values.

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### The Internet Model

*The Internet is successful in large part due to its unique model of development and deployment:*

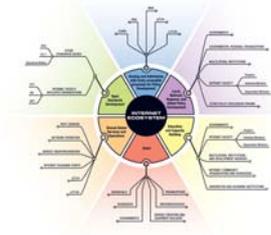
- A common set of values and processes:
  - Open technical standards
  - Shared global ownership – no central control
  - Collaborative engagement models – researchers, business, civil society, government – expertise driven
  - Freely accessible processes for technology and policy development
  - Transparent and collaborative governance based on multi-stakeholder involvement (the “Internet Ecosystem”)



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### The Internet Ecosystem

- The array of organizations that contribute to the Internet model interact in the “Internet Ecosystem,” each playing its own role




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### Openness

- The key characteristic of the Internet is its openness in all dimensions.
- The principle of openness encourages innovation, growth and the free flow of ideas.
- The Internet based on open technical standards; and
- Open, transparent and collaborative governance models – expertise driven, with freely accessible processes for technology and policy development
- Open to the exchange of information across borders- the embodiment of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



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### The Internet of the future

- Change is inevitable, as more billions come online.
- The increased importance of the Internet for all countries makes the increased involvement of governments inevitable.
- The economic weight of the Internet will lead to increased economic pressures.
- Not all governments, not all corporations are comfortable with the Internet as it is.



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### What kind of Internet do we want?

- The Internet Society engaged in a scenario planning exercise.
- Scenario planning is a methodology used widely in business to allow organizations to anticipate how the future could turn out.
- Scenario planning is neither guesswork nor statistical analysis.
- It is a structured process to help organizations break free from ties to “the official future”.
- Aim of the exercise: map plausible developments to provoke discussion on the Internet we want.



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### Internet future scenarios

Focal question:  
- Will the world embrace or resist the open Internet model?

Second-level question:  
- What model will be more successful? Command and control? Or, distributed and decentralized?

These two questions defined four quadrants:  
- four very different stories about how the Internet might develop over the next ten years.



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### Four possible scenarios

The four quadrants are defined by two axes:

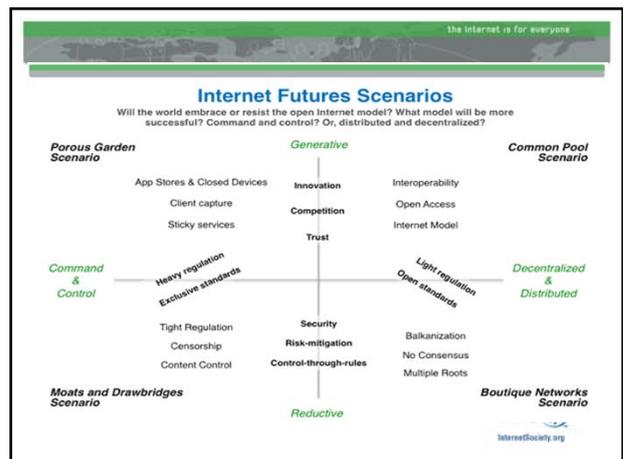
- A horizontal axis: from light regulation & open standards to heavy regulation & exclusive standards;
- A vertical axis: from generative (interoperability, open access, consensus based) to reductive (Balkanization, no consensus, multiple roots).

The four scenarios:

- Common Pool
- Porous Garden
- Boutique Networks
- Moats and Drawbridges



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### Our expectation

- Each of the four scenario stories presents a different and plausible direction that the Internet might evolve towards.
- The Internet of tomorrow will almost certainly not look exactly like any of the stories.
- We believe that the Internet of tomorrow will contain some of the characteristics of all four stories.

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### Where are we now?

- There are increasing pressures from Governments and business, trying to influence Internet policy.
- Business defends corporate interests, such as copyright.
- Governments have legitimate objectives (e.g. fight against crime, child pornography).
- Law enforcement is a problem, given the borderless nature of the Internet.
- What are the solutions?
- More control of Internet users? Technical fixes?

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### Can technology solve all our problems?

- Problems start when they try to use technological solutions as miracle solutions (e.g. DNS blocking).
- Technological solutions often:
  - have unintended consequences,
  - don't really solve the problem, and
  - create new problems.
- Sustainable solutions need to be based on International cooperation, good practices, exchange of information and experience.

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### The Internet at crossroads

- Some Governments have made it clear that they want to have more control over the Internet.
- Various attempts to gain control over the Internet and bring the policy development process under governmental control and exclude all the other stakeholders.
- Proposal by Russia, China, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to create a UN "code of conduct for information security".
  - Commitment to "curbing the dissemination of information that incites terrorism, secessionism, or extremism, or that undermines other countries' political, economic, and social stability, as well as their spiritual and cultural environment".
- Proposal by India, to set up a new institutional mechanism in the United Nations for global internet-related policies, the United Nations Committee for Internet-Related Policies (CIRP).

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### The ITU and the Internet

- 2012 presents an opportunity for governments to take control of the Internet: The World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT).
- Governments will meet December 2012 in Dubai to update the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs).
- WCIT could take decisions with far reaching impact on:
  - Operations
  - Architecture
  - Content
  - Security
  - Business Practices

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### What will WCIT address?

The ITRs have not been updated since 1988.

Key drivers for the revision:

- Economic: Recovering lost telecom revenues
- Political: Asserting government control; preeminence of ITU in Internet affairs
- Technical: new ITU role in Internet standards, IP addresses, and more...

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### Revising the ITRs – Example Security

- Address Cybersecurity – new article devoted to Security of telecommunication facilities and services and Quality of telecommunication service
- Implication: Bring cybersecurity, including cybercrime, data protection, cyberterrorism, etc under an international treaty.
- Consistent with Russian efforts in UN General Assembly for an International Code of Conduct for Information Security.

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### Revising the ITRs – Example: Security (c'td)

Chinese Proposal to address Cybersecurity

- a) Member-States have the responsibility and right to protect the network security of the information and communication infrastructure within their state, to promote the international cooperation to fight against network attacks and disruptions.
- b) Member-States have the responsibility to require and supervise that enterprises operating in their territory use ICTs in a rational way and endeavor to ensure the effective functioning of ICTs, in secure and trustworthy conditions.
- c) User information in information and communication network should be respected and protected. Member-states have the responsibility to require and supervise that enterprises operating in their territory protect the security of user information.

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### Conclusion

- While changes will happen, our mission is to defend the essential characteristics of the Internet:
  - its open architecture; and
  - its open and collaborative governance model.
- These characteristics have served the Internet well and are in the long-term interest of all Internet users.
- Don't take this for granted – but: we (the users) are the Internet and we have to speak up for the Internet we want!



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### It is our Internet!

- We all have to speak up for the Internet we want!
- Understand the issues and impacts!
- Become a voice in the process!
- Call for an open multistakeholder process when preparing WCIT (=behind closed door negotiations are not adapted to the Internet!).
- Contact your government and engage in their discussions and preparations



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THANK YOU

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