Internet Governance
&
the Multi-stakeholder Approach

What is Internet Governance?

Broadly defined by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2005, it is “… the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.”

Internet governance concerns what policies are made that impact the Internet’s interoperability, growth and use; who makes those policies; and how those policies are made and implemented.

Who will decide the future of the Internet?

Historically, Internet governance has been the responsibility of its direct stakeholders in business, academia, and civil society. The playing field has been broad and open, and as the economic significance of the Internet has increased more and more entities have become concerned with its future. Right now, a great many organizations, governmental and otherwise, are preparing to undertake challenging discussions to determine if it is possible to maintain the current self-regulated, multi-stakeholder model of decentralized governance of the Internet.

What is at stake?

- Continued innovation and evolution of the Internet
- Open and inclusive contributions to policy debates
- Consensus-based Internet number resource policies
- User access, stability, and security

We believe a thriving Internet depends on a governance structure that is open, transparent, and representative of all stakeholders. Each one of us must do our part to ensure a healthy and robust Internet.

ARIN
American Registry for Internet Numbers
www.arin.net
What is ARIN’s Role in Internet Governance?

As part of the Internet technical community, ARIN is actively involved in Internet governance discussions both regionally and globally in order to further the interests of the Internet community and to be a key resource for information, ideas, and knowledge. ARIN works to advance understanding of the number resource management model and promote openness and transparency in all discussions that will affect Internet number resource distribution and management today and in the future. Diverse voices and viewpoints are key to ensuring that the Internet continues to grow and adapt to meet the needs of all users and organizations that depend on it. The current economics of how users pay for Internet services has allowed for ongoing innovation in delivery methods and access to information. Continued growth of the Internet may be jeopardized by complex charging regulations.

Here are some of the organizations where ARIN currently participates:

- Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO)
- Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)
- Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
- Internet Society (ISOC)
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) / Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

More information about each is available on the ARIN website at: https://www.arin.net/participate/governance/index.html

What is Your Role in Internet Governance?

As a stakeholder in the Internet community, the decisions made about the future of Internet governance will affect you, so it is important to understand the issues and to participate to make your interests and concerns known. The first step is to become familiar with some of the major organizations and venues where debate and action may occur. This will help you to determine where you wish to focus your energy and attention. Once you understand the organization or venue’s mission and structure you can develop your participation strategy.

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Upcoming Internet Governance Discussion Forums

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Seventh Annual IGF will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 6-9 November 2012. The theme for the meeting is: ‘Internet Governance for Sustainable Human, Economic and Social Development.’ Details about the 2012 Internet Governance Forum, including program and participation, can be found at: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/

Purpose: Established to support the efforts of the United Nations to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, this forum is open to all interested organizations and individuals. There are no binding resolutions or recommendations that emerge from this forum. Here academics, network practitioners, government representatives and civil society meet on neutral ground to propose the best ways forward to preserve the evolution of the Internet in a manner most beneficial to all of society.

Program: There are six subject areas for the workshops that cover wide ranging interests: Access and Diversity; Emerging Issues; Internet Governance for Development; Managing Critical Internet Resources; Security, Openness and Privacy; and Taking Stock and the Way Forward.

The World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)

The WCIT is definitely the hot topic in Internet governance for 2012. The meeting will convene 3-14 December 2012 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. For details visit: www.itu.int/en/wcit-12/

Purpose: Here the 193 member states of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) will review and make modifications to the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), which define the general principles for the provision and operation of international telecommunications. The ITRs are a global treaty, agreed upon in 1988 and have not been updated since.

Program: These agreements could redefine the Internet and the Internet community’s ability to participate in an open, multi-stakeholder process. Some Member States wish to expand the ITU’s role and the treaty text from traditional telephony network mandates into detailed directives for the Internet and how it operates.

ARIN believes that the best outcome for the WCIT is one that:

- maintains the multi-stakeholder environment to the best extent possible
- ensures that the resulting ITRs reflect high-level principles that are updated to meet today’s environment
- remains technology neutral and does not mandate items that could have a detrimental effect on the Internet’s evolution and stability
- does not alter the economics of information exchange and way users pay for Internet services today

Participation: Participation at the WCIT is restricted to Member States of the ITU, ITU Sector Members, and invited international organizations. Recently the WCIT ITU Council Working Group (CWG-WCIT) documentation was made available to the public and does

While not yet finalized, all workshop proposals have been submitted. You can find further description details and check back for the final list here: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/w2012/proposals

Participation: This forum is open to all interested organizations and individuals. There is no registration fee to attend and participate. Webcasts of most workshops and plenary sessions are available for those unable to be onsite.

ARIN, along with its Regional Internet Registry counterparts (AFRINIC, APNIC, LACNIC, RIPE NCC), has participated in every IGF. Through the Number Resource Organization (NRO), ARIN will participate in several workshops in Baku focused on Moving to IPv6: Challenges for Internet Governance and Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI).
not require a TIES account. Only the delegates of ITU Member States have the right to submit proposals and address the WCIT. Organizations and entities that are attending as observers may be invited to contribute, in accordance with the conference’s Rules of Procedure. The outcome of the conference will be a revised ITR treaty.

While opportunities to influence discussion will be limited, there are ways for you to participate:

- Become familiar with current discussions by reading multiple resources on the topic, especially those published on the WCIT site.
- Advocate for your position by looking for opportunities to educate others in public debate and through online forums.
- If you represent a national government, hold multi-stakeholder consultations to assist you in developing your position, register for the WCIT, attend, and voice your position.
- If your organization has a relationship with a national government, have discussions with the appropriate government personnel to make certain they are aware of the potential issues to be discussed at the WCIT, that they are planning on participating, and that they cast their vote.

Discussion topics will be limited to those outlined in a report by the ITU Secretary-General, incorporating the contributions of ITU Member States and Sector Members through several rounds of call for comments.

**Participation:** Only ITU Member States representatives and ITU Sector Members will be able to participate in this forum.

Until 1 August, members may comment on the second draft of the Secretary-General’s report available here: http://www.itu.int/md/S12-WTPF13PREP-R-0003/en

The schedule for subsequent review and comments is not public, but those able to participate can keep current on the activities by checking the ITU website here:

http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Pages/overview.aspx

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**Fifth World Telecommunication/ ICT Policy Forum (WTPF)**

Members of International Telecommunications Union (ITU) from government, industry and the global regulatory community will meet in Geneva, Switzerland 13-16 May 2013 to exchange views on the key policy issues arising from the current and ever-changing information and communication technology (ICT) environment. The meeting website is available at: http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Pages/default.aspx

**Purpose:** According to the ITU, the Forum “is designed to foster debate, build multi-stakeholder consensus expressed in the form of ‘Opinions’ illustrating a shared vision to guide ongoing global ICT policies, regulatory and standardization efforts worldwide.”

**Program:** The theme of this meeting is international Internet-related public policy matters.