WSIS In Your Future?

Presentation by

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- National Government Powers Over The Internet:
  - Each national government (e.g., U.S., Canada, China, Cuba) has the necessary power to:
    - Tax the internet;
    - Limit public access to some internet content (e.g., pornography or political dissent);
    - Protect consumers from fraud;
    - Regulate who has access to the internet.
- Government power can be used for good or bad purposes.

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- The U.S. Government and U.S. Courts Decision.
  - Federal Trade Commission, Department of Justice and other law enforcement agencies prosecute internet crime;
  - But First Amendment protections apply;
  - Property rights such as trademark and copyright have been extended to the internet.

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- Organizations like ARIN have grown up to provide necessary services:
  - Consumer/stakeholders-based policy development;
  - Technical and engineering decisions control.

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- Consumer/Stakeholders-Based Policy Development:
  - Members direct activity;
  - Open email lists;
  - Open policy meetings;
  - Governing board is elected;
  - Minutes of meetings published;
  - Private, not governmental, control.

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- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG):
  - Now a real debate about the current governance model;
  - November, 2005 Tunis, Tunisia meeting;
  - U.N. created activity;
  - Comprised of official government representatives;
  - Will make recommendations on future government arrangements.

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- Who are the governments and countries who don't like current governance model?
  - Brazil; Cuba; China; India; etc.
- Why don't these countries like the current model?
  - It's insufficiently controlled by governmental authority;
  - Doesn't adequately permit international taxation and regulation;
  - Too capitalistic, too private sector;
  - Allege it insufficiently represents "civil society."

What this is really about is power.

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- What are the risks from WSIS process?
  - Recommendation to the U.N. to develop U.N.-based governance body:
    - Could permit substitution of political decisions for technology-based system;
    - Could dismantle or make irrelevant current "bottom up" policy process;
    - If you are concerned about responsiveness government, stay tuned.

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What About the ITU?

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- What are U.S., Canadian and other ARIN region governments doing about this?
  - ARIN, as a stakeholder, is in consultation with national government authorities, e.g., Canada, U.S., others;
  - U.S. Executive Branch, for example, seems to understand what is at stake, and is working on problem;
  - U.S. Government could be isolated by concern over any special role for it;
  - However, big issues like Iraq, U.S. global standing, etc., China's new stridency on some issues may lead to less than optimal policy compromise;
  - U.S. Congress has only a handful of Members who understand the issues.

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What Can You Do?

Thank You