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# What is Internet Governance?

Overview and short history

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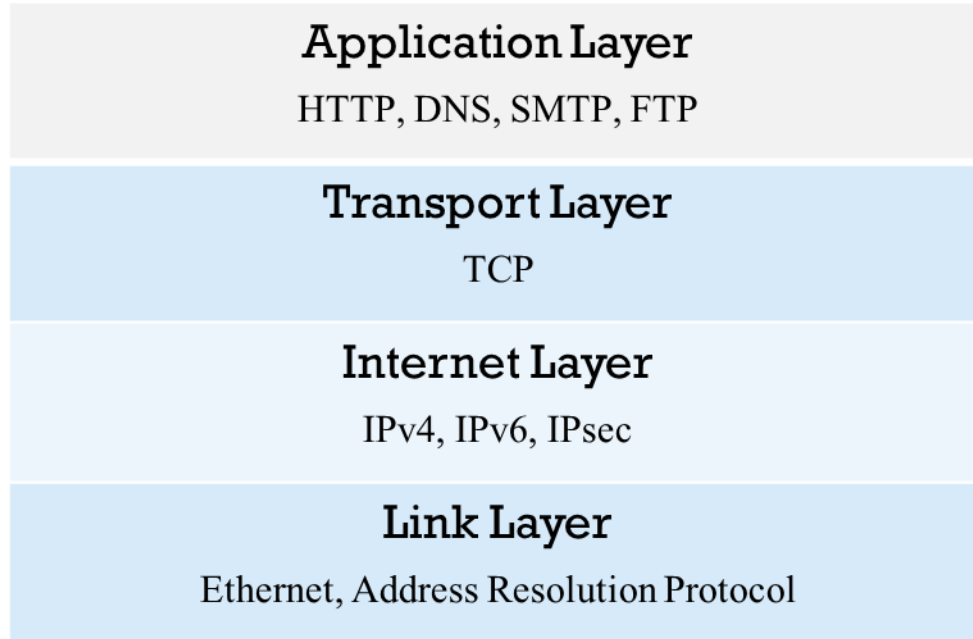
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**What is internet?**

**And what is  
internet governance?**

# What is internet?

- A computer network, built with protocols that are based on open technical standards
- A network of networks of computers – there are no boundaries at the edges.
- A network of autonomous networks of computing devices, which share the same core protocols enabling them to interoperate regardless of the endpoint applications and devices



## TCP/IP Protocol Stack

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# Critical internet resources

- IP addresses
- Domain Name System
- Autonomous system numbers
- Protocol parameters

All globally unique identifiers forming the Internet's logical infrastructure

# Historical overview

1970s: DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) creates ARPANET

1980s: ARPANET expands to include universities, research facilities and gov't agencies:  
Internet

1988: IANA functions de facto assumed by Jon Postel

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (global allocation of IP addresses and autonomous system numbers as well as root zone management in the DNS)

**1990: NSF assumes responsibility for the management and coordination of the non-military portion of the Internet**

**1992: NSF signs an agreement with Networks Solutions Inc. to manage domain name registrations**

**1994: ISOC (Internet Society)**

**1996: IAHC (International Ad Hoc Committee dissolved on May 1, 1997)**

**1998: the MoU establishing ICANN as a nonprofit entity in charge of the management of the DNS and IP addresses.**

**Joint Project Agreement (2006) and Affirmation of Commitment (2009)**

# Historical review

1998: UN decision to organize WSIS

2003 & 2005: WSIS

- 2003 Geneva Summit established WGIG

- 2005 Tunis Summit established IGF

2014: NETmundial in São Paulo, Brazil

2014: Start of IANA transition

30 September 2016: Expiration of the US Government's oversight of ICANN

See:

<http://www.livescience.com/20727-internet-history.html>



# An Africa's storyline

<http://internet-africa.projects.visual.ly/en/#>

# What is governance?

- Governance entails the task of steering a given community or sector of activity.
- The community concerned may be defined by the boundaries of an activity domain, geographically, or by any other identity criteria.
- The purposes and goals of governance may include the stewardship, protection or thriving of the governed.

**Can the internet  
be governed?**

**Discussion**

# Governing the internet

- \* Governing the Internet impacts all people who rely on it, regardless of boundaries, whether national or occupational.
- \* Given the open and distributive nature of the Internet architecture, its governance will have to involve a lot of coordination and cooperation
- \* Those two notions form the basis for the multistakeholder principle

# What is internet governance?

Definitions and scope

# Definition 1

## Narrower scope

Internet governance narrowly refers to the coordinated management of the resources enabling the technical operation of the Internet, and the development of policies that address the broader implications of such management.

# Three main axes

1) Technical standardization

2) Allocation and coordination of addressing resources

3) Policy formulation, policy implementation (i.e. domain name dispute resolution process)

# Definition 2

## Broader scope

Working definition from the WGIG Report, 2005 (Working Group on Internet Governance)

“Internet governance is the development and application by the Governments, 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.”



# Conclusion

Internet governance is about making internet run effectively and reliably as a global network of networks.

This includes more than technical functions, as decisions the technology requires impact people, communities and industries in various ways.

A lot of cooperation is needed among those different stakeholders to arrive at outcomes that are acceptable to ensure the continuous stability of a unique and global Internet.

**Thank you!**

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