Internet technical community

Memorandum on the Future of the Internet in a Global Economy



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on the Future of the Internet Economy

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INTERNET TECHNICAL COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM

Internet Technical Community Forum

16 June 2008, Seoul, Korea

The Internet technical community was actively engaged in the preparation of the OECD Ministerial Conference held in Seoul in June 2008. The Internet technical community's Forum was designed to be a direct contribution to the ministers' work in three areas: **Creativity**, **Confidence**, and **Convergence**. It also provided delegates from OECD members and the Internet technical community with an unprecedented opportunity to share experiences and exchange perspectives on the "Future of the Internet Economy".

The participating organizations from the Internet technical community come from a wide range of entities from around the world. They work with governments, national and international organizations, civil society and the private sector to pursue their objectives in a collaborative and inclusive manner. While each has its own mission and its own role to play, these Internet technical community organizations are motivated by a common vision of an open and accessible Internet that brings shared economic and social benefits to all the world's citizens, now and in the future.

As OECD members elaborate the policy framework for the next decade, we of the Internet technical community urge continuing engagement with all stakeholders (the technical, civil society and business communities). As the Internet grows and continues to spur economic and social development around the world, the policies and practices of tomorrow must grow from the shared principles and the shared vision that underpin our collaboration. These principles have been developed by our community in the following Memorandum.

For more information, please visit:

- The Internet technical community and the OECD Ministerial Conference
  http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/issues/oecd_ministerial.shtml

INTERNET TECHNICAL COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM ON THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

16 June 2008, Seoul, Korea

We, a group of interested and active participants from the Internet technical community assembled in Seoul, Korea on the 16th of June, 2008, want to express our shared desire and commitment to join with the OECD's member states in common cause to ensure the future of the Internet as a force for continued social and economic development on a global scale.

1. To achieve this objective in the coming decade, we **CALL UPON** governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals to ensure that the human capacities that are enhanced or enabled by the Internet are preserved, including:

a) **The ability to connect**: The end-to-end architecture of the Internet is essential to its utility as a platform for connecting people, and thus for education, innovation, creativity and economic opportunity. In an information society, to support human development and protect human rights, all people need to have affordable access to an open and neutral network, and to the services that it provides.

b) **The ability to communicate**: By enabling communication on an unprecedented scale, the Internet is a revolutionary medium for expression and collaboration. Genuinely free communication can only be guaranteed when privacy and anonymity are assured in principle, and where content controls are an exception rather than a rule.

c) **The ability to innovate**: The remarkable growth of the Internet and its applications follow directly from the open model of Internet connectivity and standards development. Policies must encourage open technical standards and protocols that are developed through open, transparent and accessible processes.

d) **The ability to share**: The Internet is based on a "many-to-many" architecture, making it a powerful tool for learning, sharing and collaborating. It has enabled the emergence of a global community that has developed many key components of the Internet, such as the Domain Name System (DNS) and the World Wide Web. This characteristic must be protected by fostering balance in the system of intellectual property rights, which is essential to scholarship, education and collaboration.

e) **The ability to choose**: The hope and expectations for the continued development of Internet-related capabilities is that this will speed economic growth and social progress. Such development can best be realized in an environment that is not encumbered by excessive governmental or private controls on its component technologies, infrastructure, or content. Therefore, policies must promote

competition and diversity in telecommunications, Internet services, products and applications.

2. We **ENCOURAGE** OECD member states to join us in supporting these fundamental capacities as they build the policy framework of the next decade. The openness and transparency of the Internet policy development process, and of the Internet's technical development, are intrinsic to the success of the Internet itself, and to maintaining a single, interoperable system. In this spirit, member states should recognize that the multi-stakeholder model of decision-making has proven to be the most effective when it comes to Internet policy development. OECD member states should also support the development and adoption of emerging technologies and standards to help the evolution of the Internet, including *inter alia* the uptake of the IPv6 protocol. Further, and in particular, we **ENCOURAGE** OECD member states to take action in support of the themes of this Conference:

a) **To fuel creativity by:**

- Encouraging innovation and ongoing development of the Internet by supporting research programs and infrastructure deployment.
- Partnering with all stakeholders to help to develop ICT skills that support the Internet economy, especially in developing countries.
- Putting in place policies to expand access to the Internet in all parts of the world.
- Enabling private sector investment and competitive innovation, which are essential components of an effective and efficient Internet policy framework.
- Opposing undue governmental or non-governmental restrictions on the evolution and use of Internet technology, recognizing that the open and decentralized nature of the Internet is fundamental for it to continue being a platform for innovation and creativity.
- Defending and promoting standards or practices that allow all citizens to use the full range of Internet applications to innovate, to create and to expand economic opportunities, consistent with the principles of openness and accessibility.

b) **To build confidence by:**

- Recognizing that the confidence of consumers and Internet users in the stability, reliability, and security of the Internet is essential to the success of the future global economy.
- Developing strong, effective and coordinated international and domestic cyber-security strategies and measures against cyber-crime.
- Helping to educate citizens about the importance of cyber-security, and to develop the skills needed to protect themselves.

c) **To create maximum benefit from convergence by:**

- Recognizing the paradox that convergence results not from centralizing technology and business models, but from ensuring a resilient and neutral network infrastructure, which enables the decentralization of creativity and innovation to the edges of the network. This requires the ongoing protection of users' rights to innovate, create and disseminate technologies, applications and content across the network without undue restriction by governments or network operators.
- Drawing on the insight and expertise of all stakeholders, especially those from the Internet technical community, to conceive and implement Internet-friendly policy frameworks that will encourage the deployment of technology, protection of critical Internet infrastructure and enable users to take advantage of fully deployed and converged networks that are integrated into a global economy.
- Continuing to support technologies and legislation that encourage the open and collaborative Internet model.
- Ensuring that neither government regulation nor the economic power of monopolies delays or prevents the growth of the Internet by limiting the ability to provide new, better, cheaper or more innovative Internet-related services. Forward-looking policies must promote competition in infrastructure development, Internet access, Internet services, Internet-related software and e-commerce applications.

3. We of the Internet technical community **RECOGNIZE** that it is important that we work with all stakeholders from all sectors and in all regions to achieve the fullest benefits of the Internet for all participants in the global economy. We therefore **COMMIT OURSELVES** to:

- Develop and deploy technologies and practices to meet the evolving needs of the global Internet.
- Engage with governments and other stakeholders of OECD and non-OECD countries alike to enhance confidence, ensure security, and encourage innovation and interoperability at a global level.
- Invite governments to join us in an open and collaborative community, together with businesses and civil society, as we work to extend the benefits of creativity and convergence to all communities, in all parts of the world, in an environment that will inspire confidence based on the full assurance of security.