

Strategic Initiatives

Beirut, Lebanon, host to INET Beirut, October 2010

THE INTERNET SOCIETY'S LONG-TERM GOALS CONTINUE TO BE GUIDED BY THREE STRATEGIC INITIATIVES, EACH OF WHICH PROVIDES FOCAL POINTS FOR PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES.



Therese Saliba Khairallah and Nabil Bikhaliid at INET Beirut, Lebanon, 2010

Enabling Access

One of the Internet Society's central missions is to ensure that the Internet is for everyone. Through our Enabling Access initiative, we deliver on the promise of the Internet by catalysing Internet development in emerging markets. In 2010, the work included facilitating the launch of two new Internet exchange points (IXPs) in Sierra Leone and Kenya, conducting IXP improvement and initiation workshops in four additional African countries, and launching the African Peering and Interconnection Forum. Positive changes in the African traffic exchange landscape have already been evidenced, and the work received coverage on BBC Radio and in the local and international press.

Also in 2010, the Internet Society was a lead coordinator of the first Latin American and Caribbean Network Operators Group (LacNOG) meeting, which drew approximately 200 industry participants to collaborate on Internet operational issues in the region. The meeting was so successful that regional partner organizations and participants have asked to advance to two LacNOG meetings in 2011. In addition, the Internet Society became a founding partner of CaribNOG, the Caribbean Network Operators Group. As a part of our work to improve interconnection and traffic exchange in emerging markets, we also collaborated with the Argentine ISP association (CABASE) on the launch of the first Internet network access point in the Patagonia region of Argentina.

Through a partnership with the Digital Empowerment Foundation and Internet Society Chapters in India, the Internet Society advanced rural wireless networking in India. The programme was rolled out across five states in India (Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh). The primary instruction language for the project is

Hindi. Workshops organized by the Internet Society provided benefit and value to both the Chapters and the communities.

The Internet Society also conducted a variety of capacity-building trainings and workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America that responded to local needs on Internet development. Many were conducted in partnership with Internet Society Chapters, reinforcing the local value provided by our Chapter network. The skills development and knowledge transfer activities brought about a range of concrete outcomes, including the installation of a network link to a primary school in Trinidad, graduating new networking trainers in Africa, and women taking on greater technical leadership roles, among others.

InterNetWorks

In an effort to advance one of our key thematic objectives—advancing the health of the Internet—the Internet Society in 2010 focused on building relationships and expanding outreach. The result was measurable progress toward raising

“The Internet Society is committed to the establishment of Internet exchange points in Africa as they provide immediate and significant benefits to Internet users and to the local Internet industry.”

—Michuki Mwangi, Internet Society Regional Development Manager for Africa

awareness of the critical need for broad-based deployment of IPv6. Internet Society leaders reached out to executive-level decision makers, laying out the facts and offering a balanced perspective on IPv4 run-out, IPv6 deployment, and potential impacts of the transition on businesses and other sectors.



Relationship-building efforts were also aimed at Internet operations community members. Leveraging opportunities such as IPv6 Deployment Day, round-table discussions, and Internet exchange point activities, we worked throughout the year to expand and improve awareness of key Internet technology issues. The dissemination of important factual information about issues such as bandwidth usage, including the

publication of a briefing paper titled "Growing Pains: Bandwidth on the Internet," opened up opportunities for us to frame the issues to a widening audience and to make substantive contributions to discussions and consultations on network neutrality in Europe, South



Internet Architecture Board chair Olaf Kolkman (leaning over laptop) at the Internet Society's panel discussion on IPv6 at IETF 77 in Anaheim, California, USA.

"Just as any business that uses the Internet should have a strategy and a plan for deploying IPv6, the Internet Society believes that a clear plan for deploying IPv6 will help governments continue to provide effective Internet-based services for their citizens."

—Internet Society's Leslie Daigle, in response to the U.S. government's announcement of a timetable for IPv6 deployment

America, and the United States. In one example of increased recognition, the Internet Society was invited to participate in the U.S. Broadband Internet Technical Advisory Group.

Trust and Identity

Several projects related to identity management reached major milestones in 2010, including a round-table discussion aimed at identifying and exploring the gaps that exist between the policy/legal and technology communities in their understanding of digital identity and online privacy. Held in March in Washington, D.C., USA, the Internet Society's "Map the Gaps" event attracted an international audience as well as participation from both the Identity Commons ID-Legal group and the Kantara Initiative Privacy and Public Policy working group. The exercise benefited the overall identity community by cataloguing and examining the characteristics and approaches of various online identity-related technical

and legal initiatives to help find common ground to integrate the research and development initiatives in the identity space.

In October, the Internet Society's Trust and Identity initiative announced the release of an Identity Management (IdM) Policy Audit System, a suite of tools designed to give Internet users a clearer understanding of the online usage policies of the websites they visit. The system's components include a Policy Monitor (a mechanism that tracks known website usage policies), a Policy Library (a repository of policy snapshots as they change over time), and a Policy Audit Client (a Firefox plugin that presents policy information to the user). The source code, which enables the creation of multiple other client applications, is available for download. The Internet Society Policy Audit Plugin, created specifically for Firefox, is a working reference application that accesses the Policy Library and alerts users when they visit a website that publishes a policy that the Policy Monitor is tracking.

In December, the Trust and Identity initiative cosponsored a two-day intensive workshop on Internet privacy at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with the IAB, MIT, and the W3C. The workshop examined the experience and approaches taken by Internet technology developers, including web technologies, when designing privacy into protocols and architectures. The result was an agreement to work together with the broader Internet community, including the IAB, the W3C, and the IETF, to ensure greater attention to privacy needs during the technology-development stage.