

#### THE INTERNET PAVILION

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www.linx.net











# Working together for the Internet

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## The Internet - Who makes it work?



The Internet Society (ISOC) is a not-forprofit membership organization providing leadership in Internet related standards, education, and policy. For over 13 years ISOC has run international network training programs for developing countries and these have played a vital role in setting up the Internet connections and networks in virtually every country connecting to the Internet during this time.



The Council of European National Top-Level-Domain Registries, CENTR, is an association of Internet Country Code Top Level Domain Name (TLD) registries (such as .uk for United Kingdom, .it for Italy, .es for Spain). CENTR has a European focus, but no geographical restrictions to membership which includes a number of non-European registries, including some emerging countries. CENTR membership is responsible for 95% of all domain names currently registered worldwide.



The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) has provided leadership in the development of Internet standards for nearly 20 years. The IETF is a large open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet. It is open to any interested individual.

### **Community Coordination and Cooperation...**

The day-to-day functioning of the Internet is dependent upon the combined and cooperative efforts of the Internet Community. This Community has responsibilities for the protocols and standards that enable basic point-to-point communications (such as the Internet Protocol), the resources that direct these communications (such as IP addressing and the Domain Name System), the provision of reliable connectivity that ensures the communications reach their intended destinations, linking end-users, and the policy and education necessary to ensure the Internet's openness, continuity and flexibility.

These technologies, resources and services are all highly interdependent and require a significant amount of coordination. This is supported by a number of key organisations responsible for coordination, administration and day-to-day management in the Internet sphere. Each organisation has a specific role and provides fundamental value to the overall functioning of the Internet.

These organisations have a proven, long-standing relationship in coordinating the technical infrastructure of the Internet and have contributed to the incredible growth and stability of the Internet today. There are well-established mechanisms, including open, public meetings, mailing lists and bottom-up policy development processes that enable direct participation by any interested party. This ensures that policies are defined by those who require them for their operations and gives the system the flexibility to respond and adapt to the changing needs of the Internet community.

The organisations, along with many other industry partners, share a number of common principles and goals, such as maintaining the open nature of the Internet. In addition, these organisations share a proven, long-standing history in the successful administration and management of the technologies, resources and services that have made the Internet the success it is today.



Formed by the Regional Internet Registries to formalise their cooperative efforts, the Number Resource Organisation exists to protect the unallocated Number Resource pool. It also promotes and protects the bottom-up policy development process, and acts as a focal point for Internet community input into the RIR system.



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is an internationally organized,non-profit corporation that has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions.



LINX is a mutual, not-for-profit organisation, which connects the networks of Content Delivery and Internet Service Providers so that traffic may flow more efficiently between them.



AfrISPA is a continental Association of African Internet Service Provider Associations whose primary objective is to provide industry perspective on policy formulation and regulation as it relates to the Internet industry and to act as an interface with Governmental bodies and the public at large.