

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE INTERNET SOCIETY?

The Internet Society is the international organization for global cooperation and coordination for the Internet and its internetworking technologies and applications.

► WHO ARE ITS MEMBERS?

Its members reflect the breadth of the entire Internet community and consist of individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

► WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

Its principal purpose is to maintain and extend the development and availability of the Internet and its associated technologies and applications - both as ends in themselves, and as a means of enabling organizations, professions, and individuals worldwide to more effectively collaborate, cooperate, and innovate in their respective fields and interests. Its specific goals and purposes include:

- development, maintenance, evolution, and dissemination of standards for the Internet and its internetworking technologies and applications;
- growth and evolution of the Internet architecture;
- maintenance and evolution of effective administrative processes necessary for operation of the global Internet and internets;
- education and research related to the Internet and internetworking;
- harmonization of actions and activities at international levels to facilitate the development and availability of the Internet;
- collection and dissemination of information related to the Internet and internetworking, including histories and archives;
- assisting technologically developing countries, areas, and peoples in implementing and evolving their Internet infrastructure and use;
- liaison with other organizations, governments, and the general public for coordination, collaboration, and education in effecting the above purposes.

► HOW DOES IT OPERATE?

The Internet Society operates through its international Board of Trustees, its International Networking Conferences and developing country work-

shops, its regional and local chapters, its various standards and administrative bodies, its committees, and its secretariat. The Board of Trustees is headed by a President with the assistance of several officers. The Board consists of 18 eminent individuals drawn from every region of the world - most of whom were instrumental in creating and evolving different components of the Internet and the technology.

► WHERE IS IT LOCATED?

The permanent international headquarters and secretariat of the Society is located at Reston VA USA and is headed by the Executive Director.

► WHAT IS ITS LEGAL STATUS?

The Internet Society is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation, with tax-deductible status in Washington DC USA, near its headquarters location.

► WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The Internet Society was announced in June 1991 at an international networking conference in Copenhagen and brought into existence in January 1992 by a worldwide cross-section of individuals and organizations who recognized that the Society was a critical component necessary to evolve and globalize the Internet and internet technologies and applications, and to enhance their availability and use on the widest possible scale.

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► HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SOCIETY OR MEMBERSHIP?

Email:

<membership@isoc.org> (individual)

<org-membership@isoc.org> (organization)

Fax: +1 703 648 9887

Tel: +1 703 648 9888

Tel: 800 468 9507 (USA only)

Internet Society information URLs:

<gopher://gopher.isoc.org:70/11/isoc.and.ietf>

<ftp://ftp.isoc.org/isoc>

(Forms are in the "membership" subdirectory)

Postal address:

Internet Society

12020 Sunrise Valley Dr., Suite 270

Reston VA 22091

USA