IETF/Internet Society History

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Pre-IETF

- 1958: Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) formed in reaction to Sputnik
- 1960s: ARPA and others explored concepts of packet switched data networks
- 1968: ARPANET RFP
- 1969: ARPANET first nodes
- 1969: RFC series started
  to record notes about ARPANET related work
  Jon Postel became RFC Editor (& IANA)
- 1974: ITCP proposed (Cerf and Kahn)
  evolved into TCP/IP

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Pre-IETF, contd.

- 1979: "Internet Configuration Control Board" (ICCB)
    established by Vint Cerf (ARPANET program manager)
    to oversee development of Internet technology standards
- 1983: ICCB Renamed "Internet Activities Board" (IAB)
    Reorganized around Task Forces
        Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
        Internet Research Task Force (IRTF)
    Same year that ARPANET switched to TCP/IP
    IAB was standards approval body for IETF
- 1992: IAB renamed Internet Architecture Board
- IETF & IRTF funding (as needed) from US government
    U.S. government funding ended in 1997

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Internet Society Emerging

- October 26, 1989: discussion of IETF liability
- Late 1989-early 1991: Vint Cerf & Bob Kahn started talking about forming the Internet Society
    Vint & Bob were at the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI)
    CNRI was serving as the IETF's secretariat
- August 30, 1991: ISOC announced
- November 18, 1991: Vint presented ISOC plans at IETF
- June 15, 1992: First Board meeting in Kobe, Japan
- Dec 11, 1992: ISOC incorporated
    as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization in Washington, DC, USA

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ISOC Purposes

- Original Purposes:

  To facilitate and support the technical evolution of the Internet …

  To educate the academic and scientific communities and the public concerning the Internet

  To promote scientific and educational applications of Internet technology for the benefit of educational institutions

  To provide a forum for exploration of new Internet applications and to foster collaboration in use of the Internet

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ISOC Activities

- Original Activities:

  Support for Internet Technical Evolution
  - IAB & IETF
  - Offered to be IETF legal home & provide liability shield

  Meetings and Conferences
  - INET conferences

  Information and Infrastructure Services
  - Publish technical newsletter

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ISOC

- Individual membership organization

  Originally direct trustee elections

  Except for 3 Charter Members (TERENA, EDUCAUSE & CNRI)

  Had permanent Board seats and veto power over by-laws changes

  Charter members relinquished veto power and permanent Board membership in 1969

- Funding through memberships, INET revenues

- Provided some support for IETF in early 1990s

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IETF

- 1992: IETF reorganized (RFC 1396)

  Precipitated by "Kobe" – IAB overreach

  IESG became standards approval body

  IAB: architectural advice and external relationships

- 1996: IETF accepted ISOC's legal housing offer with RFCs 2026 and RFC 2031

  ISOC purchased insurance for IETF decision makers

- IETF was (and is) described as an "organized activity of the Internet Society"

  IETF has no independent legal standing

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IETF & ISOC

- 1998: ISOC contracted for RFC Editor
- 2005: IETF agreed that ISOC was the IETF financial home with RFC 4071 (a.k.a. BCP 101)
  - All IETF funding handled by ISOC under direction of the IETF Administrative Oversight Committee (IAOC)
  - ISOC committed to providing support for IETF
    - IETF funding from IETF meeting fees, sponsorships & ISOC
    - $6 million annual budget (ISOC contribution $2 M)
- December 15, 2005: IETF Trust formed by ISOC & CNRI
  - To hold IETF-related IPR

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IETF Today

- 126 working groups in 9 areas
- Areas managed by area directors
- IETF Chair is area director for the General Area
- Area directors, sitting as a body, comprise the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG)
  - Review and approve publication of IETF documents
  - Standards, and other documents, published as "RFCs"
- Internet Architecture Board (IAB)
- Face-to-face meetings 3 times per year
  - 1,100 to 1,500 people on-site

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ISOC Evolution

- 2002: Public Interest Registry formed
  Becomes the major ISOC funding source
- 2003: Board selection revised: IETF(3), chapters(3), organizational members(6)
  Individuals if quantity threshold reached
- 2013: Board selection revised: IETF(4), chapters(4), organizational members (4)

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