

# “The new network economy”

Dr Tim Kelly,  
Strategic Planning Unit,  
International  
Telecommunication Union,  
Webster’s University, Geneva,  
29 February 2000



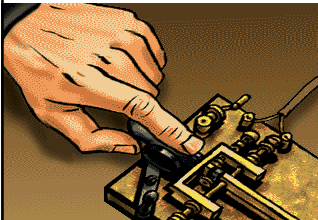
The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ITU or its membership.



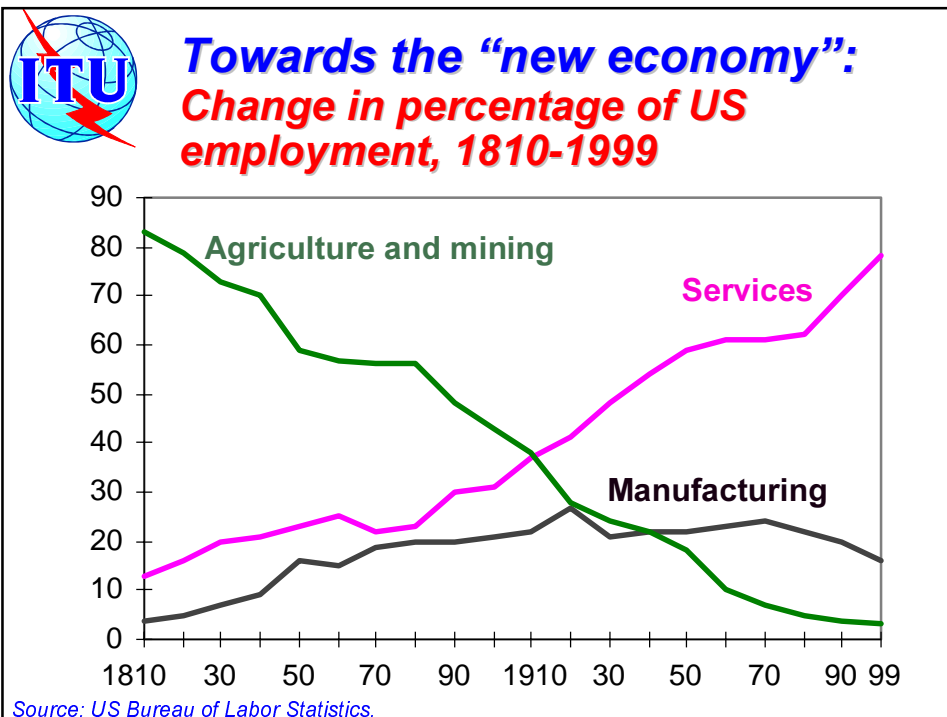
***The world is moving from an industrial to an information economy***

- **The evidence**
  - ⇒ **The rise of the “new economy”**: information-based, network-driven and global in nature
- **The “new economy” network**
  - ⇒ **IP-based networks**
  - ⇒ **Privately-owned and operated**
  - ⇒ **“Light touch” regulation**
- **Some consequences and possible costs**
  - ⇒ **The nature of the “new economy” network**
  - ⇒ **Uneven patterns of investment in IP networks**
  - ⇒ **New gaps opening up between developed and developing countries?**

**“No revolutions in technology have as visibly marked the human condition as those in transport... Yet technologies to transport *ideas and information* across long distances have arguably achieved even more: they have spread knowledge and are the basis for economic growth”**



**The Economist,  
Millennium edition**





## **The “New Economy” is a world in which:**

- people work with their brains instead of their hands;
- communications technology creates global competition;
- innovation is more important than mass production;
- investment buys new concepts or the means to create them, rather than new machines;
- rapid change is a constant.

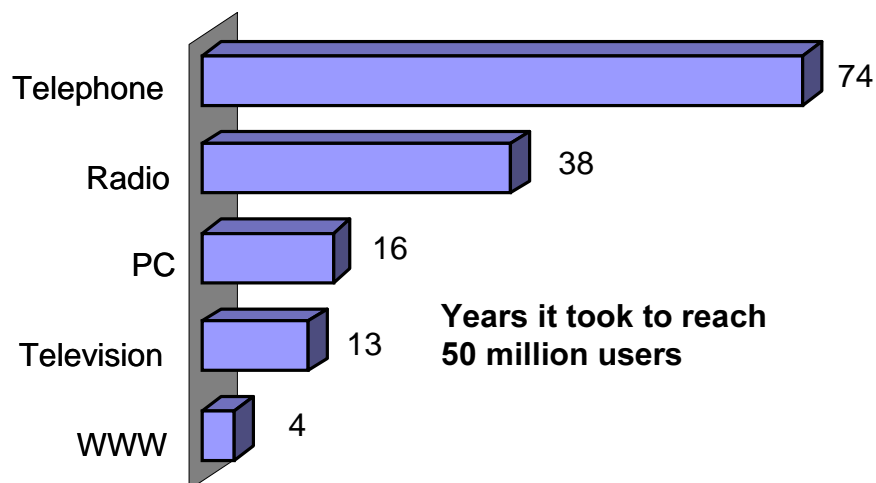
**A world so different, its emergence can only be described as a revolution.**



*Source: Wired Magazine, “The Encyclopaedia of the New Economy”, [www.hotwired.com](http://www.hotwired.com).*



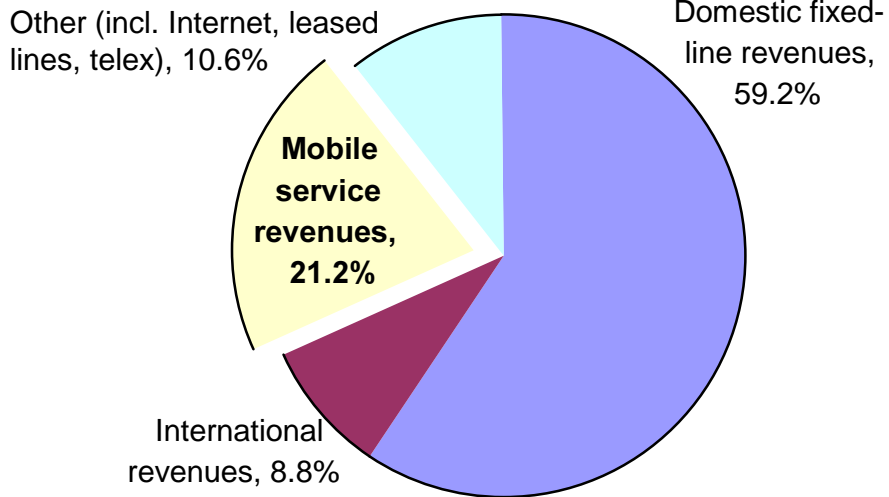
## **Accelerating pace of diffusion**



*Source: ITU 1999 “Challenges to the Network: Internet for Development”*



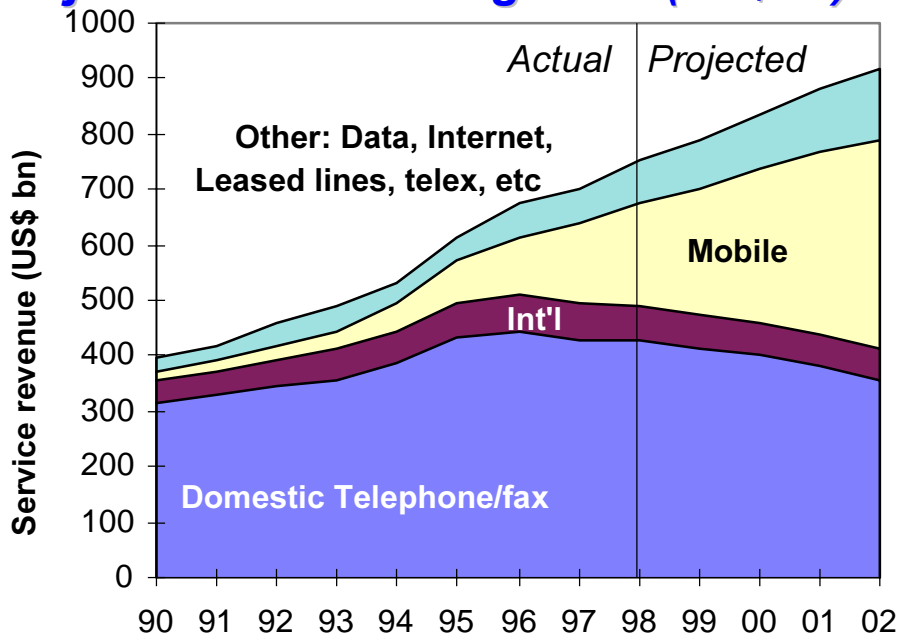
## The changing pie: Global telecom service revenue, 1998



1998 Telecom service revenue. Total = US\$724b

Source: ITU "World Telecommunication Development Report 1999: Mobile cellular" (forthcoming)

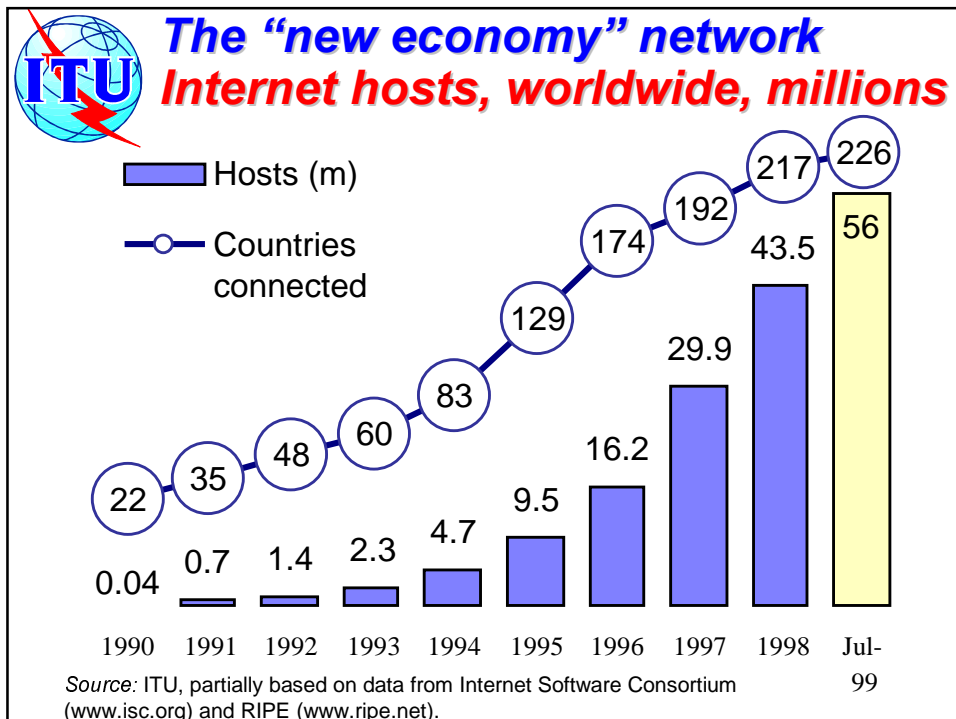
## Projection of revenue growth (US\$bn)



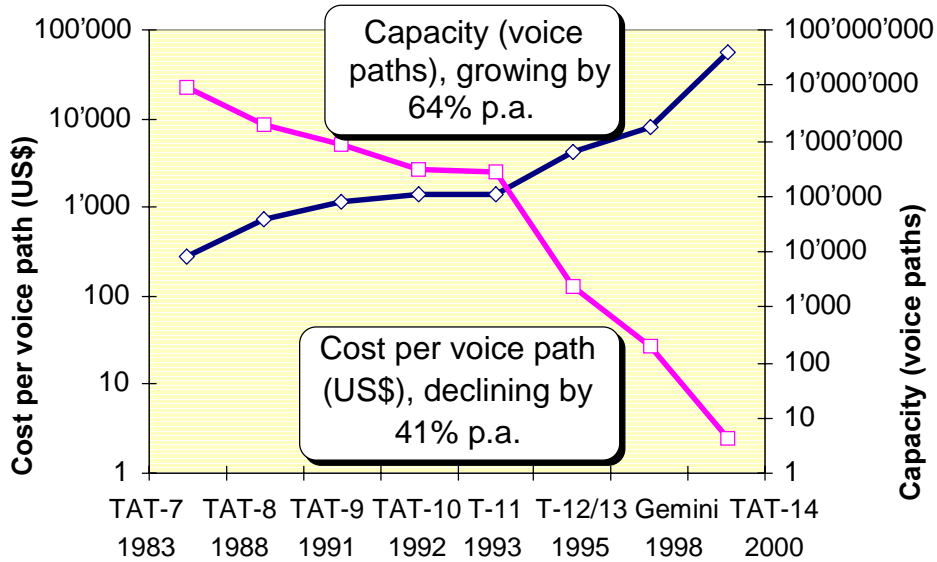
Source: ITU.

**Selected “new economy” corporations,  
ranked by market capitalisation, Jan 2000**

| <i>Company</i>  | <i>Market capitalisation</i> | <i>Equivalent country (in terms of GDP)</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---|
| Microsoft       | US\$564 bn                   | Spain                                       |
| GE              | US\$497 bn                   | India                                       |
| Cisco           | US\$348 bn                   | Netherlands                                 |
| NTT DoCoMo      | US\$312 bn                   | Switzerland                                 |
| AOL-Time Warner | US\$254 bn                   | Belgium                                     |



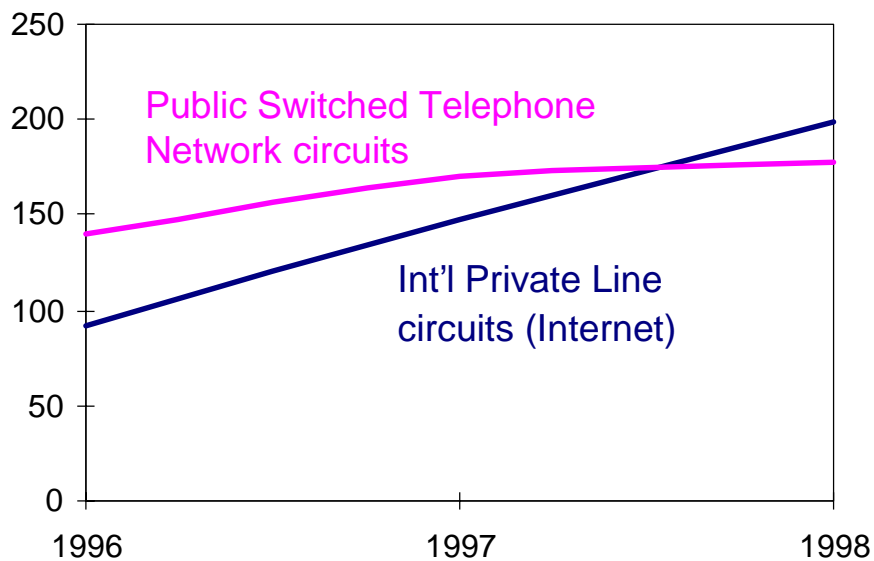
## Infrastructure capacity and costs, TransAtlantic cables, 1983-2000



Source: ITU, TeleGeography Inc., FCC.

Note: Voice-path numbers assume a compression ratio of 5:1 to number of circuits.

## Out with the old; in with the new: Usage of International circuits, in thousands



Note: Based on usage of circuits between the US and the rest of the world. Source: FCC.

## **“Old economy” and “new economy” networks: *What’s the difference?***

### **“Old economy” network**

- Hybrid analogue/digital
- Circuit-switched
- Highly regulated
- Priced per minute
- Distance-sensitive pricing
- Generally state-owned and operated
- Accounting rate system means cash flows from net traffic generating to net traffic receiving countries

### **“New economy” network**

- All digital
- IP (packet-switched)
- Largely unregulated
- Priced per megabyte
- Distance-insensitive pricing
- Generally privately-owned and operated
- Peering and transit system means cash flows from net traffic receiving to net traffic generating countries

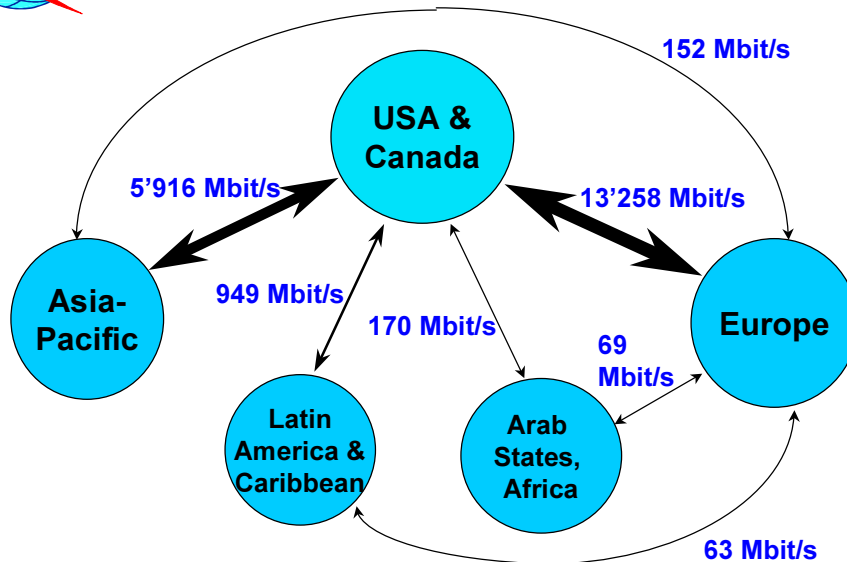


## **Some features of the “new economy” network**

- >95 per cent of global IP capacity passes through United States
- 96 out of top 100 websites in the United States
- Developing countries wanting to hook up to US IP backbone must pay both half-circuits of the leased line
- Smaller ISPs must pay bigger ones for transit
- Accelerating returns to scale
  - ⇒ high volume routes have lowest unit costs
  - ⇒ big hubs get bigger
  - ⇒ resources go to the strong



## Inter-regional Internet backbone



Source: TeleGeography Inc., Global Backbone Database. Data valid for Sept. 1999.



## Top Internet cities, Ranked by Int'l IP bandwidth (Mbit/s) available per 1'000 inhabitants

| World         |       | Asia-Pacific |      |
|---------------|-------|--------------|------|
| Geneva        | 15.06 | Tokyo        | 0.31 |
| Amsterdam     | 9.81  | Sydney       | 0.19 |
| Washington DC | 7.36  | Auckland     | 0.16 |
| Brussels      | 5.54  | Kuala Lumpur | 0.15 |
| Toronto       | 5.38  | Singapore    | 0.15 |
| San Francisco | 5.37  | Taipei       | 0.12 |
| Seattle       | 4.98  | Osaka        | 0.10 |
| Frankfurt     | 3.00  | Seoul        | 0.10 |
| Stockholm     | 2.84  | Hongkong     | 0.08 |

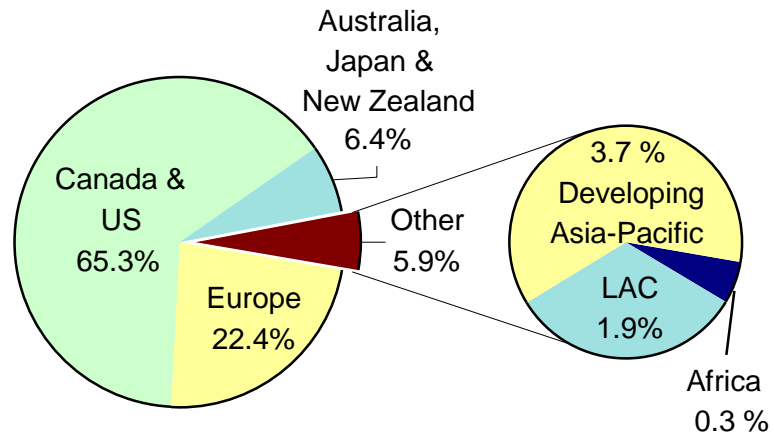
Source: ITU, adapted from TeleGeography Inc. Global Backbone Database. Data valid for Sept. 1999.



## Global distribution of IP hosts is uneven

**Developed:**  
94 % of hosts  
16 % population

**Developing:**  
6 % of hosts  
84 % population



Source: ITU 1999 "Challenges to the Network: Internet for Development"



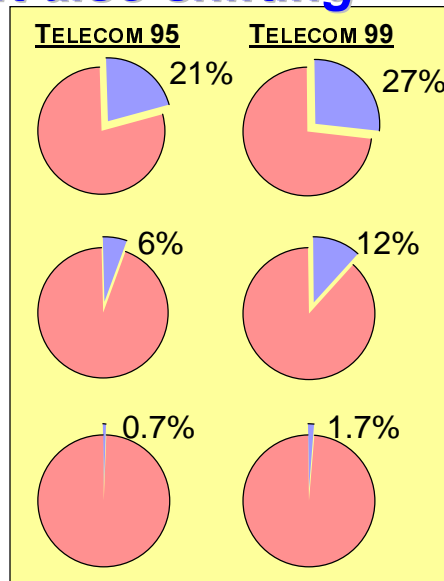
## The development gap is shrinking, but also shifting

Share of low and lower-middle income countries in:

Telephone main lines

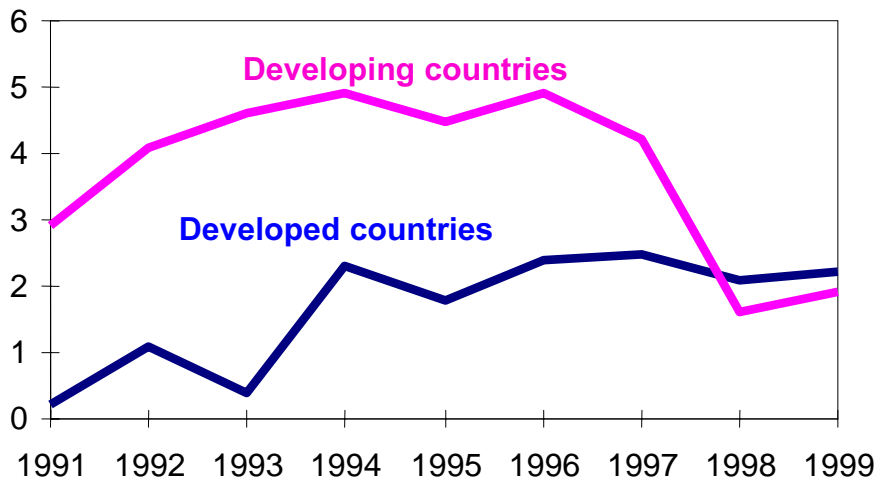
Mobile subscribers

Internet host computers



Source: ITU World Telecommunication Indicators Database.

**Is the “new economy” changing the nature of the development gap?  
GDP growth per capita, 1991-1999**



Source: IMF



**Forecasting  
Projecting forward current trends**

- **By 2005, there could be:**
  - ⇒ 1.4 billion telephone lines
  - ⇒ 1.3 billion cellular telephone subscribers
  - ⇒ 500-750 million Internet users
- **These could account for:**
  - ⇒ 250 billion minutes of int'l voice/fax traffic
  - ⇒ 2.5 trillion minutes of total voice/fax traffic
  - ⇒ 1'000'000 Gigabits (1 Petabit) per second of Internet traffic
  - ⇒ Services market of around US\$1.1 trillion
  - ⇒ Equipment market of around US\$400 billion



## **Forecasting** **Identifying discontinuities**

- **By 2001, less than 10% of int'l traffic will use accounting rate system**
  - ⇒ **Domestic interconnect fees will be dominant mode**
- **Major price cuts in international calls early in decade**
  - ⇒ **Availability of new infrastructures**
  - ⇒ **Impact of Internet pricing model (distance and duration independent)**
- **Mobiles exceed fixed-line phones worldwide by 2006/07**
  - ⇒ **Introduction of "third generation" mobiles after 2001**
  - ⇒ **Generational shift, as new users reject fixed-lines**



## **The int'l telecoms market in** **2005: Some educated guesses**

- **The premium of an international call over a domestic call (currently >300%) will be <20%**
  - ⇒ **Internet-like pricing structure**
- **Traffic flows will be dictated by a small number of hubs connected to multiple fat pipes**
  - ⇒ **Major hubs in New York, London and Hong Kong?**
- **Major alliances will own a smaller share of the market as infrastructure owners resell capacity**
  - ⇒ **Market significantly bigger by volume, but only slightly bigger by revenue**
- **Telecom development gap will shift**
  - ⇒ **Gap between middle income countries and LDCs**



## **Conclusions:** ***Towards the new economy***

- **Long-term trends (post-war period)**
  - ⇒ **Rise of services employment**
  - ⇒ **Development of info-communication networks**
  - ⇒ **Information as a means for creating wealth**
  - ⇒ **Gap between rich and poor narrowing**
- **Short-term trends (latter half of 1990s)**
  - ⇒ **Development of information-based economy**
  - ⇒ **IP-based networks eclipsing voice-based networks**
  - ⇒ **Elevated stock market valuations for “dot.com” companies**
  - ⇒ **Gap between rich and poor widening**