



Joint UNESCO and ITU
Global Symposium on Promoting the Multilingual Internet



Global IDN Coordination by the MINC ICMC initiative: Fixing the Internet Split

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Geneva, 9-11 May 2006





Facing the Current Internet Reality



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- o Internet Fragmentation is the most serious that we have ever faced.
- o We must address it at once.

May 15-22, 2006 issue - Sometimes it's tough to remember what life was like before the Internet. In those long-ago-seeming days, phone calls were expensive, document-shipping frequent, and we actually had to troll for random information in (gasp!) books. The Web made everything better. Suddenly, we could connect as often as we liked, for as long as we liked, with anyone and everything. Data became a commodity. Life was good. That was Internet 1.0. But consider Internet 2.0, currently in development. No longer an egalitarian utopia, it has become much like the rest of society—divided by class and geography. And its growing fragmentation threatens the smooth operation of the global economy.

economically efficient communications network, the Internet is poised to become a quagmire of special interests, competing political agendas and international bureaucracy. "Sadly, it looks like the period in which the Internet functions seamlessly is over," says Vint Cerf, one of the Internet's better-known creators, now "chief Internet evangelist" for Google.

The Balkanization of the Net has been a long time coming. Its roots lie in the system's





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The real power struggles began...



governing body to oversee its growth. Even then, there were battles over how much control the government should maintain, and how much should be distributed in a more decentralized way in the private sector. All this was largely done under the public radar, and almost entirely within the United States. "Foreign governments by and large hadn't understood the technology, and hadn't paid much attention to the Net until it was pretty far along," notes Milton Mueller, a historian and Syracuse University computer-science professor. "Once they woke up and realized that the U.S. was in complete control, commercially and policywise, they became alarmed."

SEARCH THE SITE

The situation was unprecedented. Telecoms had always been under national control, and an international body, the International Telecommunications Union, coordinated things on the global level. But on the Web, American companies like IBM were helping make policy, U.S. start-ups were getting rich charging fees for domain names, and the U.S. Commerce Department, which was eventually put in charge of the whole thing, had the final say on how things were run. (It outsourced daily administration to a private California company called the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, which Cerf now chairs.) "That's when the real power struggles began," says Mueller.

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Who will step up to fix this?

While such questions might seem trivial, they are part of a larger shift that could have huge implications. The Balkanization of the Internet could well undermine all our livelihoods. The unprecedented global wealth creation of the past 15 years has happened in large part because the Internet has helped us reach across borders. Clearly the Internet must move beyond its U.S.-centric roots, but it's just as clear that it shouldn't look like the United Nations, or like China, or like a for-profit enterprise. Figuring out the right balance between commerce, culture and connectivity won't be an easy task. But there could be no better use for our global bandwidth right now.

With Florence Villeminot in Paris and Sarah Schafer in Beijing

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The Internet Splits Up

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Those battles are taking place along predictable geopolitical lines. Most of the world, especially the developing world, is angry that the United States still holds so much sway over what is now the planet's most crucial technological resource. Fanning the rage, ICANN, which has the sole power to approve top-level domain names, like .com, .net and so on, has been slow to create local language domains, making it tougher for people who speak languages not based on Roman characters to use the Net. This issue was front and center at the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis last year, where some developing countries protested Western hegemony. "A private California company simply shouldn't be running this system that we all depend on," says José Marcos Viana, one of the Brazilian delegates at the meeting.

THE NEW JET

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- Fashion For
- Living At Jet

Having created this fire, someone needs to put it out...

Who is it the best party? ICANN has not been able To stop this fragmentation! Some would argue that the delays happened on their watch.



Icann recognizes that they cannot stop this balkanization let alone reverse it, as per Vint cerf,



Icann Chairman

ITILT
Telecoms in the United States and Europe are battling high-tech behemoths such as Google and Microsoft over who should reap the financial benefits of the digital superhighway. Poor countries are begging rich ones for better online infrastructure, while activists urge governments and companies alike to keep Web access free and unrestricted. The bottom line? Instead of a borderless, well-functioning, economically efficient communications network, the Internet is poised to become a quagmire of special interests, competing political agendas and international bureaucracy. "Sadly, it looks like the period in which the Internet functions seamlessly is over," says Vint Cerf, one of the Internet's better-known creators, now "chief Internet evangelist" for Google.

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MINC's Solution



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- First things first... the principles:
- Mutual Respect
 - We shouldn't tell people who have been using a language or a script for thousands of years: *"Nobody owns a language or script"*, implying anyone can do what they wish with their language or script.
 - We shouldn't go around telling them they cannot do what they want in their own country, under their own laws.
 - We shouldn't inflame their **sense of injustice**.
 - We shouldn't call their actions to serve the needs of their own people; *"Breakaways"* and *"Censorship"*.
- *If we really & truly want them to be included*



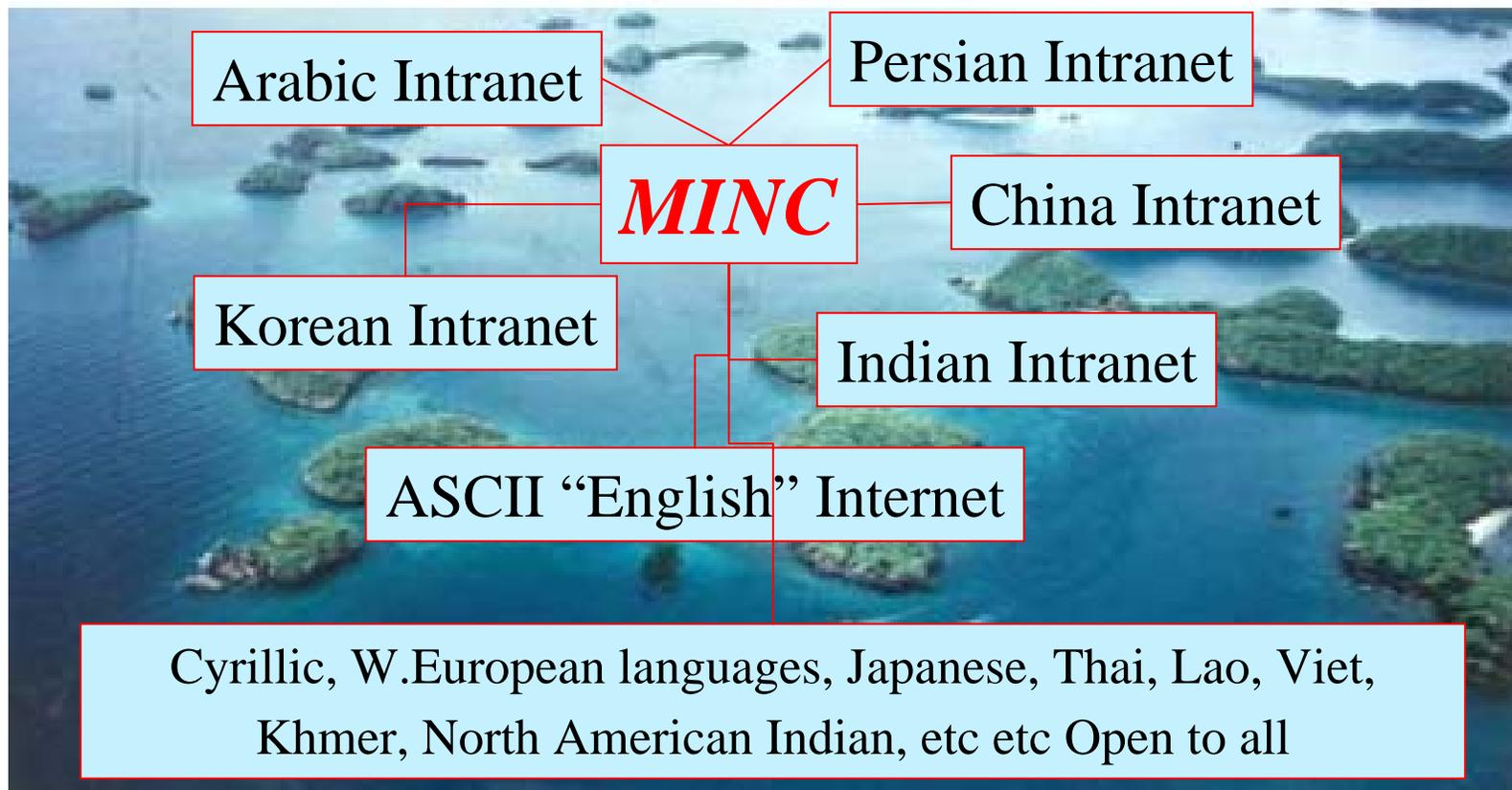
- MINC's principles:
 - Local Empowerment -
"Devolution is the way"
 - Enfranchise the powerless
 - Bottom-up Open Access and Process
 - Lowered entry barriers
 - Organic home-grown contextualized democracy
 - Basic Right to Self-E-Determination as an extension of basic human rights
 - Minimalist coordination

- o Joining the fragmented and isolated, non-interoperable islands of IDN into an interoperable whole



From May 9th, 2006 – no more a fragmented Internet

- o MINC has rendered the fragmented and isolated, non-interoperable islands of IDN into an interoperable multilingual information ecosystem, able to embrace any new ones... but we are not stopping here...



What Next for MINC After Interoperating isolated segmented national deployments into a super...

- o Tackling the private TLD namespaces
 - o Enable viable businesses to emerge
 - o Bringing back intranet IDN TLDs back into the fold
 - o Getting all alternate roots to resolve identically.
-
- o For a practical solution, come join MINC ICMC for a neutral unbiased, and an enabling platform



What can MINC ICMC do for you?



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- o May I ask professor Tin wee to come and take the floor.

