Dr. Robert E. Kahn, President & CEO, CNRI

Robert E. Kahn is President & CEO of the Corporation for National Research Initiatives (CNRI), a not-for-profit organization created in 1986 to provide leadership and funding for research and development of a National Information Infrastructure.

After receiving a B.E.E. from the City College of New York in 1960, Dr. Kahn earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University in 1962 and 1964 respectively. He worked on the Technical Staff at Bell Laboratories and, after graduating from Princeton, became an Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at MIT. He took a leave of absence from MIT to join Bolt Beranek and Newman, where he was responsible for the system design of the Arpanet, the first packet-switched network. Dr. Kahn joined DARPA in 1972 and eventually became director of its Information Processing Techniques Office. He was responsible for originating DARPA's Internet Program and, along with Vint Cerf, co-invented the TCP/IP protocols that formed the basis of the Internet.

In his recent work, Dr. Kahn has been developing the concept of a digital object architecture for managing information in digital form in the Internet. This technology is now in widespread use and provides a framework for interoperability of heterogeneous information systems.

Dr. Kahn is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, a Fellow of the IEEE, AAAI, ACM and the Computer History Museum. Among his many awards are the National Medal of Technology, ACM Turing Award, Japan Prize, Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He is a recipient of numerous honorary degrees.