
Kenneth Neil Cukier
Research Fellow
National Center for Digital Government
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University
Five basic points

1. New voices = return to zero
2. ICANN intended as first word, not last word
3. Historic pitfalls and core principles
4. Framework for Net governance: below / above
5. Internet akin to global financial architecture.
1. New voices = return to zero

As more voices rightly take a role, policy evolution stalls
2. ICANN intended as first word, not last word

Forum for dialogue, and structure open to reform
3. Historic pitfalls and core principles

Pitfalls: Too closed, too rushed

Principles: Flexible, inclusive, decentralized, power at the edge
4. Framework to view Net governance: below / above

Infrastructure – names, numbers, protocols and root servers make network work (traditionally managed by technical community)

Superstructure – usage and content atop the Net (traditionally regulated by governments).
5. Considering Internet akin to global financial architecture.

Bretton Woods Agreement = IMF, WB, OECD

Central banks vs. currency traders

Reality to be lived with, not problem to be solved
Conclusion

Where Schrödinger meets Einstein:
What you see depends on where you stand.
(A feeble call for empathy from all sides)

Thank you.
kenneth_cukier@harvard.edu
kn@cukier.com