Growth and Evolution of the Internet

The Internet has enabled tremendous innovation, economic growth, and societal benefits, and its future offers great opportunity, especially as we enter the era of the Internet of Things. There is a dramatic transformation to Internet-enabled devices that network and communicate with each other, providing unprecedented opportunities for new services, improved productivity and efficiency, real-time decision making, and innovative user experiences. But when objects can sense and communicate, it changes how and where decisions are made and who makes them, and magnifies the issues of cybersecurity and privacy.

With great advances in technologies that impact the Internet and bring to bear public policy issues such as security, privacy, and identity management, it is increasingly important for the technical community to provide sound, unbiased technical perspective and knowledge, and to understand the public policy landscape.

The IEEE Internet Initiative connects the voice of the technical community to global policymaking for Internet governance, cybersecurity, and privacy, to inform debate and decisions, and to help ensure trustworthy technology solutions and best practices.

Through the Initiative, IEEE is connecting technologists and policy experts to help improve the state of knowledge about technology and its implications and impact on Internet governance issues, and to raise awareness of public policy issues and processes in the global technical community.

With IEEE’s neutral standing and its strong convening and collaborating capacity across thousands of engineers, scientists, industry leaders, and others engaged in an array of technology and industry domains globally, IEEE is building a community of experts in technology and policy—and you are invited to join.

For more information please visit, internetinitiative.ieee.org.
Q: What is the IEEE Internet Initiative?
IEEE Internet Initiative connects the global technical community to policy makers for Internet governance, cybersecurity, and privacy to:

- Help inform, foster debate, findings, and decisions
- Help ensure trustworthy technology solutions and best practices
- Advance awareness of public policy issues and processes in the global technical community.

Q: What is the Internet Technology Policy (ITP) Community?
The Internet Technology Policy (ITP) Community is the official community space of the IEEE Internet Initiative and provides a platform for connecting technology and policy experts (engineers, scientists, industry leaders, policy makers, and others), to discuss and address technology policy issues related to Internet governance, cybersecurity, and privacy. The ITP community can be accessed via IEEE’s Collabraten™ platform.

Q: What are the benefits of joining the ITP Community?
Membership in the ITP community is open and free. As an active member of the community, you will have access to:

- IEEE Collabraten, an integrated online community platform providing authoring tools for collaboration
- Dialogue with experts working in technology and public policy
- Resources and information on Internet governance, cybersecurity, and privacy
- Surveys, videos, and polls on Internet governance and related issues and topics.

Q: What are some examples of specific topics being addressed by the IEEE Internet Initiative?
- Options and challenges in providing universal access and connectivity
- Machine-readable privacy agreements
- Protecting Internet traffic, encrypted by default
- Algorithmic decision making
- Biometrics discussions
- Threats and opportunities in data analytics towards developing a standard to anonymize data.

Q: How can I get involved with the IEEE Internet Initiative and the ITP Community?
Involvement with the IEEE Internet Initiative is open to anyone with an interest or expertise in Internet technology policy issues.

- Start new discussions in the Collabraten ITP community by posting relevant issues and asking questions
- Open your own private group in Collabraten, then invite others to research and co-author with you around specific topics
- Participate in and help organize global-wide Experts in Technology and Policy (ETAP) Forums; then lead follow-up activities around the resulting outputs and takeaways
- Participate in Internet Initiative webinars and other online panel discussions.