

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Version 3.0

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Geneva Internet Platform

 Internet
Society

INTERNET GOVERNANCE GLOSSARY

ARTS Glossary

G L O S S A R Y

INTERNET GOVERNANCE | **ACRONYM GLOSSARY**

Version 3.0

A

ACTA

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

<https://www.eff.org/issues/acta>

- Proposed multinational agreement to establish enforcement of intellectual property rights, signed in 2011, which triggered protests across Europe and the USA.

ADR

Alternative Dispute Resolution

<http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org/issues/arbitration>

- A legal mechanism offered in lieu of traditional courts. ADR mechanisms include arbitration, a widely used mechanism to resolve a range of cases, including Internet-related cases.

A4AI

Alliance for Affordable Internet

<https://a4ai.org/>

- Brings together businesses, governments, and civil society actors to deliver the policies needed to reduce the cost to connect and make universal, affordable Internet access a reality for all.

AFRINIC

African Network Information Centre

<http://www.afrinic.net/>

- One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing the African region.

AI

Artificial Intelligence

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_intelligence

- Refers to the simulation of human intelligence processes by machines.

AoC

Affirmation of Commitment

<http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/aoc>

- An assertion of agreement or commitment. In Internet governance (IG) G language, commonly refers to the latest stage of the legal relations between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the US Department of Commerce, signed in 2009.

APC

Association for Progressive Communications

<http://www.apc.org/>

- One of the oldest civil society organisations on Internet issues aimed at promoting access to a free and open Internet, empowering users through information and communication technology (ICT). In December 2010, APC had 50 members in 35 countries, the majority from developing countries.

APEC

Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation

<http://www.apec.org/>

- Asia-Pacific economic forum.

APNIC

Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre

<http://www.apnic.net/>

- One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing the Asia-Pacific region.

ARIN

American Registry for Internet Numbers

<https://www.arin.net/>

- One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing the North America region (the USA, Canada, parts of the Caribbean, and Antarctica).

ARPANET

Advanced Research Projects Agency Network

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/arpnet.htm>

- The academic network precursor to the Internet.

ASCII

American Standard Code for Information Interchange

<http://www.ascii-code.com/>

- A 7-bit character code. Each single bit represents a unique character.

AT&T

American Telephone and Telegraph

http://www.att.com/shop/internet/internet-service.html#fbid=5AH6V5gJ_ps

- Large US telecom and Internet provider.

AB

AU

African Union

<https://au.int/>

- A continental body consisting of the 55 member states that make up the countries of the African Continent. It was officially launched in 2002 as a successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU, 1963-1999).
-

BBS

Bulletin Board System

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bulletin_board_system

- Computer system using software to connect users/user groups in the 1980s and early 1990s.

BGP

Border Gateway Protocol

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border_Gateway_Protocol

- One of the main protocols of the Internet, carrying out fully decentralised routing based on path, network policies, and/or rule-sets.

blog

From weblog: web + blog or online blog

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/weblog>

- A website that displays in chronological order the postings by one or more individuals and usually has links to comments on specific posts.

BYOD

Bring your own device

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/BYOD-bring-your-own-device>

- An emerging practice allowing employees to use their own devices at work. Smartphones are now the most common device, but laptops, tablets, and other devices may be brought into the workplace, adding a significant security challenge to corporate data and corporate network risk.

CC

Creative Commons

<http://creativecommons.org/>

- An open licensing system that assists authors in sharing their work.

CCWG-Accountability

Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability

<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/ccwg-accountability-draft-proposal-2015-05-04-en>

- The CCWG-Accountability gathers community feedback for proposed enhancements to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)'s accountability framework that it has identified as essential to happen or be committed to before the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition takes place.

ccTLD

country code Top Level Domain

<http://www.icann.org/en/resources/cctlds>

- Two-letter country code top top-level domain names, such as .ve (Venezuela) or .uk (United Kingdom), which are administered by the country code manager.

CDN

Content Delivery Network

- Data centres that consist of proxy servers. CDNs are used for swifter delivery of Internet traffic to the specific geographic region to prevent bottlenecks. CDN is a group name for different networks delivering video streaming, software downloads, applications, social media, etc.

CERN

European Centre for Nuclear Research

<http://home.web.cern.ch/>

- Leading Geneva-based scientific organisation involved in many breakthroughs in Internet technology (invention of WWW and grid-computing).

CERT

Computer Emergency Response (or Readiness) Team

<http://www.enisa.europa.eu/activities/cert>

- Teams of security and computer experts organised at national and government, corporate, or other levels, to prevent and instantly react to cyber-attacks or major incidents on networked systems in order to limit damage and ensure the continuity of critical services.

C

CI

Critical Infrastructure

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/cyb/cybersecurity/docs/itu-draft-cybersecurity-framework.pdf>

• CI is generally considered as the key system, services, and functions whose disruption or destruction would have a debilitating impact on public health and safety, commerce, and national security, or any combination of these. CI is composed of both physical elements (such as facilities and buildings) and virtual elements (such as systems and data).

CIA triad

• A concept commonly used in cybersecurity, to refer to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information and its underlying infrastructure.

CIIIP

Critical information infrastructure protection

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/policy-critical-information-infrastructure-protection-ciip>

• One of the main objectives of cybersecurity strategies and policies, to protect critical information infrastructure of the country (and institutions) including links, data, hardware, and software.

CIX

Commercial Internet Exchange

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commercial_Internet_eXchange

• An early step towards the Internet, which permitted exchange of Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) traffic.

CJEU

Court of Justice of the European Union

<http://curia.europa.eu>

• The CJEU constitutes the judicial authority of the European Union and interprets EU law to make sure it is applied in the same way across all EU countries, and settles legal disputes between national governments and EU institutions.

CoE

Council of Europe

<http://hub.coe.int/>

• European organisation with 47 member states active in Internet governance: cybersecurity, digital human rights, data protection, etc.

COP

Child Online Protection

<http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org/issues/child-safety-online>

- Also referred to as child safety online; an area of digital policy dedicated to the protection of children online.

CRC

Convention on the Rights of the Child

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx>

- Considered the cornerstone of children's rights, the convention recognised for the first time that children are people who have human rights, and is one of the most widely ratified international human rights treaties.

CSAM

Child sexual abuse material

<http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org/issues/child-safety-online>

- Also referred to as child pornography, especially in legislation, refers to content or material which abuses or exploits children in a sexual way.

CSIRT

Computer Security Incident Response Team

- An entity tasked with coordinating responses to cyber incidents

CSTD

Commission on Science and Technology for Development of United Nations ECOSOC

<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/cstd.aspx>

- A body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) which gives advice to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on science and technology issues. Mandated to review the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) process and to initiate discussions about Enhanced Cooperation in Internet Governance.

Cyclades

Not an acronym, a name taken from the Greek

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CYCLADES>

- One of the technical predecessors to the Internet.

D

DARPANET

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

<http://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/DARPANET>

- US defense precursor to the Internet, sometimes used interchangeably with ARPANET.

DCAF

Democratic Control of Armed Forces

<http://www.dcaf.ch/>

- Geneva-based think-tank which supports security sector governance through security sector reform; active in cybersecurity issues.

DDoS

Distributed Denial of Service

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denial-of-service_attack

- A systematic attack to disable a network resource by causing suspension of service, for example through server overload.

DLT

Digital Ledger Technology

A system for recording data in multiple locations or among multiple participants at the same time.

DMCA

Digital Millennium Copyright Act

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Digital_Millennium_Copyright_Act

- US copyright law implementing two 1996 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties which criminalise circumvention of digital rights management (DRM).

DNS

Domain Name System

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domain_Name_System

- A system managed by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), allowing strings of letters (the domain name) to be assigned to an Internet Protocol (IP) address, for ease of URL (uniform resource locator) management by the user.

DNSSEC

Domain Name System Security Protocol

<http://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/factsheets/dnssec-qa-a-09oct08-en.htm>

- Technology to secure the domain name system (DNS).

DoC

Department of Commerce

<http://www.commerce.gov/>

- The US Department of Commerce is relevant in the Internet governance context because it is mandated to perform US oversight over the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) as a non-profit registered in state of California.

DoD

Department of Defense

<http://www.defense.gov/>

- The US Department of Defense was involved in the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and the early stages of Internet development.

DPI

Deep Packet Inspection

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_packet_inspection

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FPHUv1LfS4&list=PLa6vw8V5aVvqDSitCVXFdFmngABXWcMA&index=6>

- Inspection or review of the data (content) of each digital packet, to improve protocol and routing and avoid security threats. There is concern that it can be used for surveillance, privacy breaches, or other types of data-mining.

DRM

Digital Rights Management

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/drm.htm>

- Technologies that impose rights-based limits and controls on the software, media, and applications on users' devices.

DSM Directive

Digital Single Market Directive

- Directive (EU) 2019/790 of the European Parliament and of the Council dated 17 April 2019 on copyright and related rights in the digital single market.

E

EC

European Commission

<http://ec.europa.eu/>

- A body that represents the EU as a whole, made up of 28 commissioners, and proposing, enforcing and enforcing laws for the EU.

ECOSOC

Economic and Social Council

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/>

- The United Nations (UN) platform to address economic and social issues.

ECPAT

End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes

<http://www.ecpat.net/>

- A global network of organisations working together for the elimination of child prostitution, child sexual abuse content, and the trafficking of children for sexual purposes.

EEA

European Economic Area

<https://www.efta.int/eea/eea-agreement>

- Based on the The Agreement on the European Economic Area, which entered into force on 1 January 1994, EEA brings together the EU member states and Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway – in a single market, referred to as the Internal Market.

ENISA

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security

<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/about-enisa>

- The European Union's response to cybersecurity issues, it serves European institutions as well as member states. Many of the European countries' Computer Emergency Response (or Readiness) Teams (CERTs) are active members, as ENISA plays a central information role for cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection.

enQUIRE

Not an acronym, but the name of a software project written in 1980

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ENQUIRE>

- A predecessor to the World Wide Web, enQUIRE was a software program written by Tim Berners-Lee.

EuroDIG

European Dialogue on Internet Governance

<http://www.eurodig.org/>

- A regional European discussion forum on Internet governance.

Europol

European Police

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/>

- The European Union's law enforcement agency which assists EU member states in the fight against serious international crime and terrorism.
-

FCC

Federal Communications Commission (USA)

<https://www.fcc.gov/>

- Regulates interstate and international communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable in all 50 US states, the District of Columbia, and US territories. An independent US government agency overseen by Congress, the FCC is the federal agency responsible for implementing and enforcing communications law and regulations in the USA.

FOC

Freedom Online Coalition

<https://freedomonlinecoalition.com>

- A partnership of 31 governments working to advance Internet freedom.

FRT

Facial Recognition Technology

- The ability of technology to identify and verify a person's identity from a digital image or video.

G

GAC

Governmental Advisory Committee (part of ICANN)

<https://gacweb.icann.org/display/gacweb/Governmental+Advisory+Committee>

- Representatives of state governments, forming an advisory committee which reports to and advises the Internet Corporate Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) board.

GATS

General Agreement on Trade and Services

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/serv_e/gatsqa_e.htm

- A WTO treaty that entered into force in January 1995 created to extend the multilateral trading system to the service sector.

GATT

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/gatt_e/gatt_e.htm

- A multilateral agreement promoting international trade by reducing or eliminating trade barriers such as tariffs or quotas.

GCSC

Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace

<https://cyberstability.org>

- An international and multistakeholder 26-member commission working to 'promote mutual awareness and understanding among the various cyberspace communities working on issues related to international cybersecurity'.

GDPR

General Data Protection Regulation

<https://eugdpr.org/>

- EU Regulation 2016/679 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. It repealed Directive 95/46/EC (Data Protection Directive).

GGE

Group of Governmental Experts

<https://ccdcoe.org/2015-un-gge-report-major-players-recommending-norms-behaviour-highlighting-aspects-international-l-0.html>

- A United Nations (UN) GGE examines, for example, the existing and potential threats from the cyber-sphere and possible cooperative measures to address them; it proposes norms of responsible behaviour and comments on how international law applies.

GIP

Geneva Internet Platform

www.giplatform.org

- An initiative of the Swiss authorities operated by DiploFoundation, which includes a centre for research and training, and an online digital policy observatory (*Digital Watch observatory*).

GSMA

Groupe Speciale Mobile Association

www.gsma.com

- GSMA represents the interests of mobile operators worldwide.

gTLD

generic Top Level Domain

<http://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/glossary>

- Sponsored or unsponsored generic top level domains. The first seven gTLDs established in 1980 were .com, .edu., gov, .int., .ml, .net, .org.

3G

Third Generation

- The third generation of wireless mobile telecommunications technology, succeeding 2G and 2.5G.

4G

Fourth Generation

- The fourth generation of broadband cellular network technology, succeeding 3G.

5G

Fifth Generation

- The fifth generation of cellular network technology, succeeding 4G.



HTML

HyperText Mark-up Language

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTML>

- Commonly used mark-up language for creating web pages and for preparing information for display in a web browser.
-

IAB

Internet Architecture Board

<https://www.iab.org>

- Chartered both as a committee of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and as an advisory body of the Internet Society. Its responsibilities include architectural oversight of IETF activities, Internet Standards Process oversight and appeal, and the appointment of the RFC Editor. The IAB is also responsible for the management of the IETF protocol parameter registries.

IANA

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/page/iana-functions-purchase-order>

- Originally the global coordinator of the domain name system (DNS) root, Internet protocol (IP) addressing, and other IP resources, IANA allocated IP addresses to the Regional Internet Registers (RIRs) and implemented the changes in the root zone file. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has been mandated by the US Department of Commerce (DoC) to perform IANA functions through a contract with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA; this contract is expected to expire by the end of 2016).

IAP (IBP)

Internet Access Providers (also Internet Bandwidth Providers)

<http://searchsoa.techtarget.com/definition/IAP>

- Major national, regional, or global Internet service providers (ISPs) or entities that provide broadband Internet access to users and other ISPs (commonly big telecom companies).

IBRD

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/who-we-are/ibrd>

- A global development cooperative owned by 189 member countries. As the largest development bank in the world, it supports the World Bank Group's mission by providing loans, guarantees, risk management products, and advisory services to middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries, as well as by coordinating responses to regional and global challenges.

ICANN

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

<http://www.icann.org/>

- Corporation registered in the state of California, USA, which coordinates key technical services for the Internet domain name system (DNS), generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs) and country code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs), as well as Internet numbering resources.

ICC

International Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.iccwbo.org/>

- Paris-based global business forum addressing issues of world economy.

ICG

IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group

<http://www.ianacg.org/>

- A discussion group for collaboration related to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)/ the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)/ the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) transition.

ICMEC

International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children

<http://www.icmec.org/>

- A non-governmental organisation (NGO) which leads a global movement to protect children from sexual exploitation and abduction; also offers training to law enforcement officers.

ICT

Information and Communication Technology

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_and_communications_technology

- A synonym for information technology (IT), describing the use of all media communications and computer technologies. Its strategies and access are important for development and the economy, and are documented globally by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

IDA

International Development Association

<http://ida.worldbank.org/>

- The part of World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries. Overseen by 173 shareholder nations, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (credits) and grants for programmes that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.

IDN

Internationalised Domain Name

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internationalized_domain_name

- Domain names that include characters in character sets other than the basic Latin alphabet. In 2010, the first Arabic IDNs were put into use.

IEC

International Electrotechnical Commission

<http://www.iec.ch/>

- Geneva-based leading global organisation for publication of international standards for electrical, electronic, and related technologies (electrotechnologies).

IEEE

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

http://www.ieee.org/about/ieee_history.html

- An association for the advancement of technology and innovation.

IETF

Internet Engineering Task Force

<http://www.ietf.org/>

- A technical support organisation for the Internet organised by the Internet Society (ISOC).

IG

Internet Governance

<http://www.diplomacy.edu/IGBook>

- The management of the Internet, emphasising the legal, social, linguistic and economic perspectives of the Internet, in addition to its technical base.

IG4D

Internet Governance for Development

<http://www.africatelecomit.com/event/internet-governance-for-development-ig4d-2013/>

- Emphasis on the capacity of the Internet to foster development.

IGC

Internet Governance Caucus

<http://igcaucus.org/>

- An online civil society discussion group to address Internet governance (IG) as it affects human rights, social equity and interdependence, cultural concerns, and social and economic development.

IGF

Internet Governance Forum

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

- A forum for multistakeholder policy dialogue to discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance (IG) as established in Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

IGO

Inter-governmental organisation

<http://www.law.harvard.edu/current/careers/opia/public-interest-law/public-international/intergovernmental-organizations.html>

- An organisation created by a treaty between two or more nations, to work on issues of common interest, particularly peace and security.

IMF

International Monetary Fund

<https://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>

- An organization of 189 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world.

INTERNET

INTERconnected NETworks

<http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Internet>

- The global computer network which links computers and users worldwide.

INTERPOL

International Criminal Police Organization

<http://www.interpol.int/>

- An intergovernmental organisation with 190 member countries, which assists law enforcement agencies around the world in combating all forms of transnational crime and terrorism.

IoT

Internet of Things

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_of_Things

- First proposed by Kevin Ashton in 1999, the IoT would assign a unique identifier to each unique identifiable object, no matter how small or large, in an Internet-like structure.

IP

Internet Protocol

<http://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/glossary>

- The communications protocol that allows a unique identifier to be assigned to a computer, that is called the IP address, which identifies the location of a device on the Internet.

IPO

Initial Public Offering

<http://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/ipo.asp>

- The first sale of stock by a private company (to the public).

IPR

Intellectual Property Rights

http://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/intel1_e.htm

- IPRs are the rights a creator has to their creation, for a certain period of time, especially copyright and industrial property rights.

IPv4

Internet Protocol version 4

<http://www.techterms.com/definition/ipv4>

- The fourth and most commonly used version of the Internet protocol, which uses a 32-bit format.

IPv6

Internet Protocol version 6

<http://www.techterms.com/definition/ipv6>

- The sixth version of the Internet protocol, which uses 128-bit addresses, increasing the number of available IP addresses to an extremely large, though still finite number (IPv6 allows approximately 340 trillion trillion trillions of IP addresses, compared to IPv4, which uses 32-bit addresses. IPv4 has approximately 4.3 billion addresses).

IRC

Internet Relay Chat

<http://www.irchelp.org/>

- Networks of separate servers which allow users to connect as large groups of users, instead of the typical one-to-one chat of text messaging.

IRPC

Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition

<http://internetrighsandprinciples.org/site/charter/>

- An international network of individuals and organisations 'working to uphold human rights in the online environment and across the spectrum of internet policy-making domains that has produced a Charter of human rights and principles for the Internet.

IRTF

Internet Research Task Force

<https://irtf.org>

- Body that focuses on longer-term research issues related to the evolution of Internet protocols, applications, architecture, and technology.

ISOC

Internet Society

<http://www.internetsociety.org/>

- A global organisation aligned with the technical community, dedicated to keeping the Internet open, transparent, and user-defined.

ISP

Internet Service Provider

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_service_provider

- An organisation (generally a business) that provides access to the Internet, and related support services.

IT

Information Technology

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_technology

- The use of computers and other telecommunications devices to store, retrieve, transmit, and manipulate data as a support mechanism for a larger enterprise.

ITR

International Telecommunication Regulations

<http://www.internetsociety.org/itr>

- A treaty developed at the 1988 World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference, to facilitate global interconnection and interoperability of telecommunications traffic across national borders, and amended during the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) Dubai in 2012 in a controversial voting process.

ITU

International Telecommunication Union

<http://www.itu.int/en/Pages/default.aspx>

- Geneva-based United Nations (UN) specialised agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs).

ITU-D

International Telecommunication Union – Telecommunication Development Sector

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/default.aspx>

- ITU-D is a sector of the ITU dedicated to fostering (a) international cooperation on telecommunication and ICT development issues, (b) an enabling environment for ICT development, and (c) the development of telecommunication and ICT networks.

ITU-R

International Telecommunication Union – Radio Communication Sector

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/information/Pages/default.aspx>

- ITU-R is a sector of the ITU focusing on creating the conditions for harmonised development and efficient operation of radiocommunication systems. Its primary objective is to ensure interference-free operations of radiocommunication systems.

ITU-T

International Telecommunication Union – Telecommunication Standardization Sector

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Pages/default.aspx>

- ITU-T is a sector of the ITU comprising study groups that develop international standards (ITU-T Recommendations) for the global ICT infrastructure.

IXP

Internet eXchange Point

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_exchange_point

- Centres where ISPs and CDNs exchange Internet traffic. Traffic between parties is exchanged by BGP. IXP's reduce the amount the traffic to be sent upstream, therefore reducing delivery cost for ISPs. They also improve the Internet routing efficiency.

JPA

Joint Project Agreement

<http://www.icann.org/en/about/agreements>

- The JPA of 2006 is an iteration in relations between the US Department of Commerce (DoC) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), towards managing the transition of the domain name system (DNS) to the private sector. It builds on the previous Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two parties.

kB

Kilobyte

<http://www.t1shopper.com/tools/calculate/>

- A measure of data capacity, kB is 1024 bytes. Similarly, MB stands for Megabyte and refers to a thousand kilobytes (i.e., a million bytes) per second; GB stands for Gigabyte and refers to a thousand Megabytes (i.e., a billion bytes), etc.

Kbps

Kilobits per second

<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/K/Kbps.html>

- A measure of data transfer speed, kilobits per second is 1024 bits per second. Similarly, Mbps stands for Megabits per second and refers to a thousand kilobits (i.e., a million bits) per second; Gbps stands for Gigabits per second and refers to a thousand Megabits (i.e., a billion bits) per second, etc.

LACNIC

Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre

<http://www.lacnic.net/web/portal/inicio>

- One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing Latin America and parts of the Caribbean.

LIR

Local Internet Registry

<http://www.ripe.net/lir-services/resource-management/faq/independent-resources/phase-three/whatis-a-local-internet-registry-lir>

- Members of a Network Coordination Centre (NCC) called LIRs because they are responsible for the distribution of address space and registration of the address space on a local level.

M

mbps

Megabits (millions of bits) per seconds

<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/M/Mbps.html>

- A measure of data transfer speed: megabits per second or one million bits per second (Mbps). Similarly kB is 1024 bits per second.

MDGs

Millenium Development Goals

[https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/millennium-development-goals-\(mdgs\)](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/millennium-development-goals-(mdgs))

- Eight goals that UN member states agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000, committed world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women.

MILNET

Military Network

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MILNET>

- The part of the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) used for unclassified US Department of Defense (DoD) traffic; later the Defense Data Network.

MIT

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

<http://web.mit.edu/>

- A university founded in 1861 in the state of Massachusetts, USA, for the study of science and technology.

modem

MOdulate-DEModulate

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modem>

- A device used to transmit and decode digital data.

MoU

Memo of Understanding

<http://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/mou.asp>

- A legal document outlining the terms and details of an agreement between parties, including each party's requirements and responsibilities. In Internet governance language, it commonly refers to the agreement between the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and the US Department of Commerce (DoC).

MP3

Music file MPEG Layer 3

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MP3>

- A commonly used encoding format for digital audio which uses a form of lossy data compression, a data encoding method that compresses data by discarding (losing) some of it.

MSP

Multistakeholder process

<http://toronto45.icann.org/node/34391>

- Strategy to foster consensus between all involved stakeholders, even with diverging interests, to include the public domain, governments, the private sector, and civil society.

MUD

Originally Multi-User Dungeon, later both Multi-User Dimension and Multi-User Domain

<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Multi-User+Domain>

- A computer program, usually run over the Internet that allows multiple users to participate in virtual reality role-playing games.

NIC

Network Information Centre

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/InterNIC>

- A network information centre, but usually referring to one of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing Latin America and parts of the Caribbean (LACNIC), Africa (AFRINIC), Asia and the Pacific (APNIC), North America and parts of the Caribbean (ARIN), and Europe (RIPE). NIC also refers to the national registries of country-code top level domains (ccTLDs).

NIR

National Internet Registries

- Part of the hierarchical system for allocating IP addresses . NIRs receive certain number of IP addresses from RIR s to allocate on a national level. NIRs allocate to national ISPs and individual users.

NIS Directive

Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems

<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/network-and-information-security-nis-directive>

- Directive (EU) 2016/1148 of the European Parliament and of the Council dated 6 July 2016 concerning measures for a high common level of security of network and information systems across the EU.

N

NIST

National Institute for Standards and Technology

http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/nandyou.cfm

- Founded in 1901 as physical science lab by the US government, NIST is active in scientific domains as a measurements and standards institute. It has becoming increasingly present in cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection.

NNTP

Network News Transfer Protocol

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Network_News_Transfer_Protocol

- An application protocol used for transporting Usenet news articles (netnews) between news servers and for reading and posting articles by end-user client applications.

NRO

Number Resource Organization

<http://www.nro.net/>

- Formed by the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) to formalise their co-operative efforts, the NRO exists to protect the unallocated Number Resource pool, to promote and protect the bottom-up policy development process, and to act as a focal point for the Internet community's input into the RIR system.

NSF

National Science Foundation

<http://www.nsf.gov/>

- An independent US federal agency created by the US Congress in 1950 to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense.

NSFNET

National Science Foundation Network

<http://www.nsf.gov/about/history/nsf0050/internet/launch.htm>

- NSF's supercomputing program, launched in 1984, designed to make high performance computers accessible to researchers around the country (USA).

NTIA

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration

<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/about>

- NTIA is the US President's principal adviser on telecommunications and information policy. It is one of the main points of contact of the US government with the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

ODR

Online Dispute Resolution

<http://digitalwatch.giplatform.org/issues/arbitration>

- Often referred to as the online equivalent of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR); uses technology to facilitate the resolution of disputes between parties.

OASIS

Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards

<https://www.oasis-open.org/>

- A not-for-profit international consortium that drives the development, convergence, and adoption of open standards for the global information society. OASIS promotes industry consensus and produces worldwide standards for security, cloud computing, Internet of Things, the Smart Grid, content technologies, emergency management, eGovernment, and many other areas.

OECD

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

<http://www.oecd.org/>

- Paris-based organisation established in 1961 to provide a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

OES

Operators of Essential Services

- Certain businesses operating in critical industries (drinking water supply and distribution, energy, digital infrastructure, banking, financial market structures, health, transport) and subject to the NIS Directive. OES are obliged to implement a cyber resilience programme that incorporates measures for information security, business continuity, and incident response.

OSCE

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

<http://www.osce.org/>

- World's largest regional security organisation with 57 member states from Europe, Central Asia, and North America; addresses cybersecurity through confidence building measures.

OSI

Open Systems Interconnection

<http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/O/OSI.html>

- An International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standard for worldwide communications that defines a networking framework for implementing protocols in seven layers.

OP

OTT

Over-the-top (services or providers)

http://www.itvdictionary.com/definitions/over-the-top_definition.html

- General term for service utilized over a network that is not offered by that network operator (commonly referring to Skype, Google, Facebook, and other online content and service providers).

PC

Personal Computer

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_personal_computers

- A general purpose computer meant for individual use.

PGP

Pretty Good Privacy

<http://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/Pretty-Good-Privacy>

- A popular software program used to encrypt and decrypt e-mail over the Internet.

PKI

Public Key Infrastructure

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public-key_infrastructure

- A set of hardware, software, people, policies, and procedures needed to create, manage, distribute, use, store, and revoke digital certificates.

PLC

Programmable Logic Controller or Programmable Controller

http://www.plcdev.com/definition_of_a_plc

- A PLC is a device used in industrial control systems. Based on industry specific requirements, it monitors the inputs, processes and outputs of an automated process in order to verify their compliance with pre-established norms. Its use is closely related with [Supervisory Control And Data Acquisitions](#) (SCADAs).

PS

Packet-switching

<http://compnetworking.about.com/od/networkprotocols/f/packet-switch.htm>

- The approach used by some computer network protocols to deliver data across a local or long distance connection. Examples of packet switching protocols are Frame Relay, [Internet Protocol](#) (IP) and X.25.

PTI

Public Technical Identifiers

<https://pti.icann.org>

- Companies that work with ICANN on enabling technical implementation of basic DNS functions and managing public identifiers. PTI was incorporated in August 2016 as an ICANN affiliate.

RFC

Request for Comments

<http://www.ietf.org/rfc.html>

- Usually refers to the publication of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), established in 1969 by Steve Crocker to record Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) notes. They are now used to record Internet specifications, communications protocols, etc.

RFID

Radio Frequency Identification

<http://electronics.howstuffworks.com/gadgets/high-tech-gadgets/rfid.htm>

- Smart labels or intelligent bar codes that can communicate with a networked system for tracking purposes.

RIPE

Ripe Network Coordination Centre

<http://www.ripe.net/>

- One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing the European region.

RIPE NCC

Réseaux IP Européens Network

<http://www.ripe.net/>

- One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) representing the European region.

RIP

Routing Information Protocol

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/tech/tk365/tk554/tsd_technology_support_sub-protocol_home.html

- A distance-vector protocol that uses hop count as its metric. RIP is widely used for routing traffic on the global Internet and is an interior gateway protocol (IGP), which means that it performs routing within a single autonomous system.

RS

RIR

Regional Internet Registry

<https://www.arin.net/knowledge/rirs.html>

- Non-profit corporations that administer and register Internet Protocol (IP) address space and Autonomous System (AS) numbers within a defined region. RIRs also work together on joint projects.

SCADA

Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition

<http://energy.gov/oe/downloads/21-steps-improve-cyber-security-scada-networks>

- Systems of centralised monitoring able to set the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) parameters which may trigger an alarm in case of unusual behaviour.

SDGs

Sustainable Development Goals

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

- A set of goals agreed upon by all members of the United Nations (UN), covering a broad range of development issues.

SOPA

Stop Online Piracy Act

http://money.cnn.com/2012/01/17/technology/sopa_explained/index.htm

- Known as SOPA, this proposed bill aims to crack down on copyright infringement by restricting access to sites that host or facilitate the trading of pirated content.

Spam

Adopted from the brand name SPAM (Hormel Spiced Ham)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spam_%28electronic%29

- Use of electronic messaging systems to send unsolicited bulk messages, especially advertising, indiscriminately.

SRI

Stanford Research Institute, now SRI International

<http://www.sri.com/about>

- US-based independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit research institute conducting client-sponsored research and development for government, industry, foundations, and other organisations.

SSL

Secure Sockets Layer

<http://www.digicert.com/ssl.htm>

- A standard security technology for establishing an encrypted link between a server and a client - typically a web server (website) and a browser; or a mail server and a mail client (e.g. Outlook).

TCP/IP

Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol

http://compnetworking.about.com/od/tcpip/TCPIP_Transmission_Control_Protocol_Internet_Protocol.htm

- Arguably the single most important computer networking technology. The Internet and most home networks support TCP/IP as the 'language' computers use to find and connect with each other.

TLD

Top Level Domain

<http://archive.icann.org/en/tlds/>

- The Internet's domain name system (DNS) allows users to refer to websites and other resources using easier-to-remember domain names (such as www.icann.org) rather than the all-numeric Internet Protocol (IP) addresses (such as 192.0.34.65) assigned to each computer on the Internet. Each domain name is made up of a series of character strings (called labels) separated by dots. The right-most label in a domain name is referred to as its top-level domain (TLD).

TMCH

Trademark Clearinghouse

<http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse>

- A mechanism, developed by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which has been built into ICANN's new generic Top Level Domain (gTLD) programme; it works by authenticating information from rights holders and provides this information to registries and registrars..

TPP

Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

<https://ustr.gov/tpp>

- A free trade agreement between 12 Pacific Rim countries: Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

ToS

Terms of service

- Terms and conditions that users need to read and formally accept (by clicking 'I agree') when using most online services.

TRIPS

Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

http://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/whatis_e/tif_e/agrm7_e.htm

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), negotiated in the 1986-1994 Uruguay Round, introduced intellectual property rules into the multilateral trading system for the first time.

TTIP

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

- A free trade and investment agreement between the EU and the United States.

UCLA

University of California, Los Angeles

<http://www.ucla.edu/>

- A public research university in Los Angeles, CA, USA.

UCSB

University of California, Santa Barbara

<http://www.ucsb.edu/>

- A public university in Santa Barbara, CA, USA.

UDHR

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

- Basic United Nations (UN) declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1948.

UDRP

Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy

<http://www.icann.org/en/help/dndr/udrp>

- Policy whereby most types of trademark-based domain-name disputes must be resolved by agreement, court action, or arbitration before a registrar will cancel, suspend, or transfer a domain name.

UN

United Nations

<http://www.un.org/en/>

- International organisation with 193 member states, founded in 1945 to replace the League of Nations.

UN/CEFACT

United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business

<https://www.unece.org/cefact/>

- A subsidiary, intergovernmental body of the UNECE which serves as a focal point within the UN ECOSOC for trade facilitation recommendations and electronic business standards.

UNCITRAL

United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

<http://www.uncitral.org/>

- The core legal body of the United Nations (UN) system in the field of international trade law. A legal body with universal membership specialising in commercial law reform worldwide for over 40 years. UNCITRAL's business is the modernisation and harmonisation of rules on international business.

UNCTAD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

<https://unctad.org>

- A permanent intergovernmental body established by the UNGA in 1964. It promotes the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. UNCTAD has progressively evolved into an authoritative knowledge-based institution whose work aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development.

UNESCO

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

<https://en.unesco.org/>

- A specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) with five major programmes: education, natural sciences, social and human sciences, culture, and communication and information.

U

UN HLP-DC

UN High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation

<https://digitalcooperation.org/>

• The High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation was established by the UN Secretary-General in July 2018 to identify good examples and propose modalities for working cooperatively across sectors, disciplines, and borders to address challenges in the digital age. The Panel conducted a broad engagement and consultation process, resulting in a final report with recommendations in 2019.

UNICEF

United Nations Children's Fund

<http://www.unicef.org/>

• A United Nations (UN) programme providing humanitarian and developmental assistance to children, and an important stakeholder working in the field of child online protection.

UNIX

Not an acronym, but an Open Group brand for a computer operating system, based on a play on words for MULTICS multitasking, multi-user computer operating system

• Today the definition of UNIX® takes the form of the worldwide Single UNIX Specification integrating X/Open Company's XPG4, IEEE's POSIX Standards and ISO C.

UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

<http://www.unodc.org/>

• United Nations (UN) body, established in 1997 to deal with illicit trafficking in and abuse of drugs, crime prevention and criminal justice, international terrorism, and political corruption.

USENET

Slang for 'use the Net'

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Usenet>

• Usenet is a worldwide distributed Internet discussion system. It was developed from the general purpose Unix-to-Unix Copy (UUCP) dial-up network architecture.

UUCP

Unix-to-Unix Copy

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UUCP>

• The term generally refers to a suite of computer programs and protocols allowing remote execution of commands and transfer of files, e-mail, and netnews between computers.

VoIP

Voice over Internet Protocol

http://www.cisco.com/en/US/prod/voicesw/networking_solutions_products_generic-content0900aecd804f00ce.html

- A way to carry phone calls over an Internet Protocol (IP) data network, whether on the Internet or your own internal network. A primary attraction of VoIP is its ability to help reduce expenses because telephone calls travel over the data network rather than the phone company's network.

W3C

World Wide Web Consortium

<http://www.w3.org/>

- An international community where member organisations, a full-time staff, and the public work together to develop Web standards. Led by Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee and CEO Jeffrey Jaffe, W3C's mission is to lead the Web to its full potential.

WCIT

World Conference on International Telecommunications

<http://www.itu.int/en/wcit-12/Pages/default.aspx>

- The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) convened the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 3-14 December 2012. This landmark conference reviewed the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR).

WELL

Whole Earth 'Lectronic Link

<http://www.well.com/aboutwell.html>

- One of the oldest virtual communities founded more than two decades ago in association with the Whole Earth Review. The service was recently purchased to be run by a group of its own long-term active members.

WGIG

Working Group on Internet Governance

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Working_Group_on_Internet_Governance

- Working group on Internet governance (IG) set up by the Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) to investigate and make proposals for action on the governance of the Internet by 2005.

WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization

<http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/>

- United Nations (UN) agency dedicated to the use of intellectual property (patents, copyright, trademarks, designs, etc.) as a means of stimulating innovation and creativity.



WSIS

World Summit on the Information Society

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/index.html>

- Held in two phases. The first phase took place in Geneva hosted by the government of Switzerland from 10 to 12 December 2003; the second phase took place in Tunis hosted by the government of Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005.

WTO

World Trade Organization

<http://www.wto.org/>

- International organisation runs by its member governments whose primary purpose is to open trade for the benefit of all.

WTPF

World Telecom and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Forum of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

<http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Pages/default.aspx>

- A high-level international event to exchange views on the key policy issues arising from today's fast changing information and communication technology (ICT) environment. The Fifth WTPF took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14 May to 16 May 2013.

World Wide Web

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Wide_Web

- Not to be confused with the Internet, the World Wide Web is a system of interlinked hypertext documents accessed via the Internet. With a web browser, one can view web pages that may contain text, images, videos, and other multimedia and navigate between them via hyperlinks.

XML

eXtensible Mark-up Language

<http://www.w3.org/XML/>

- A simple, very flexible text format derived from SGML (ISO 8879). Originally designed to meet the challenges of large-scale electronic publishing, XML is also playing an increasingly important role in the exchange of a wide variety of data on the Web and elsewhere.

NOTES

NOTES

VISIT THE *GIP DIGITAL WATCH* FOR INFORMATION ON ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES BEHIND IG ACRONYMS LISTED IN THIS PUBLICATION.

<https://dig.watch>



DiploFoundation provides systemic capacity development support through online and blended courses, in situ workshops, policy research, policy immersion, and community support. In Internet governance (IG) processes, Diplo acts on all levels, from local to global, and works together with many partners to ensure long-lasting capacity improvements.

The main achievement of IG capacity development is a generation of leaders and pioneers who represent their countries and communities in Internet policy-making, and initiate capacity development work in their own communities. For more information: <http://www.diplomacy.edu/ig/>

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Geneva Internet Platform

The Geneva Internet Platform, <https://www.giplatform.org>, is an initiative supported by the Swiss authorities and operated by DiploFoundation. The GIP's work focuses on strengthening the participation of small and developing countries in Geneva-based digital policy processes. The GIP facilitates research for an evidence-based, multidisciplinary digital policy approach beyond existing policy silos (e.g. technology, security, human rights), and provides tools and methods for in situ and online engagement in digital policy processes.



The Internet Society, <http://www.internetsociety.org>, is the trusted independent source for Internet information and thought leadership from around the world. It is also the organizational home for the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). With its principled vision and substantial technological foundation, the Internet Society promotes open dialogue on Internet policy, technology, and future development among users, companies, governments, and other organizations. Working with its members and Chapters around the world, the Internet Society enables the continued evolution and growth of the Internet for everyone.