I've tweaked our suggested add to get at the censorship issue that Fiona wanted to address.

"There has been some concern that this could lead to a governmental takeover of these functions or **to increased censorship on the Internet.** There is little likelihood of that outcome and we would oppose such a development. The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which made Friday's announcement, has made it clear that it would not accept a proposal that replaces NTIA's role with a government-led or an inter-governmental solution."

Also, we were wondering you were planning to pitch it to? We would suggest the Wall Street Journal. We could probably get you the name of a contact over there if you need it.

Let me know if there is anything else we can do to help.

Thank you,

Juliana

**From:** Vint Cerf [mailto:vint@google.com]
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 2:28 PM
**To:** Juliana Gruenwald
**Cc:** Fiona Alexander; Heather Phillips; Larry Strickling
**Subject:** Re: Possibility of an op ed

latest version

On Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 1:21 PM, Juliana Gruenwald <JGruenwald@ntia.doc.gov> wrote:
Hi Mr. Cerf – I just wanted to follow-up in response to Fiona's email. As Fiona said, she and Larry believe it would be helpful to add a line to your piece countering the Wall Street Journal op-ed's claim that this will lead to censorship. It might work well to add such a line after the fourth paragraph that begins with this sentence: **"We were among the group of engineers who have worked diligently to bring the benefits of the Internet to everyone on the planet….."**

Also, the paragraph below could be helpful to counter claims that this will lead to a governmental takeover of the DNS. (This graph could possibly go below the line related to censorship):
**There has been some concern that this could lead to a governmental takeover of these functions. There is little likelihood of that outcome and we would oppose such a**

**development. The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which made Friday's announcement, has made it clear that it would not accept a proposal that replaces NTIA's role with a government-led or an inter-governmental solution.**

Let me know if you need anything else.

Best regards,

Juliana

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**From:** Fiona Alexander
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 19, 2014 12:31 PM
**To:** Vint Cerf
**Cc:** Larry Strickling; Juliana Gruenwald; Heather Phillips
**Subject:** RE: Possibility of an op ed

Hi Vint

Larry and I are getting ready to board for the flight to Singapore so Juliana and Heather will be following up with you directly.  We have a few suggestions including the need to directly counter the WSJ opinion piece today that says this will facilitate/allow censorshiop. Obviously this guy lacks any technical understanding.

Fiona


-------- Original message --------
From: Vint Cerf
Date:03/19/2014 9:59 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: Fiona Alexander
Cc: Larry Strickling ,Juliana Gruenwald ,Heather Phillips
Subject: Re: Possibility of an op ed

sorry, it was nii quaynor and me. here's the draft

i am urging ICANN to get this out. Any comments?

v



On Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 9:33 AM, Vint Cerf <vint@google.com> wrote:
ICANN has an op-ed that is authored by Adiel Akplogan and me. I am frankly struggling with the PR team at Google who seem very reluctant to let me get out in front of this because they don';t want this to be about Google. Let me see if we can accelerate the ICANN piece.

v

On Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 9:10 AM, Fiona Alexander <FAlexander@ntia.doc.gov> wrote:
Hi Vint

While the press has gotten better there have been a couple of unhelpful oped's including one in toddy's Wall Street Journal.  Obviously those folks are uniformed but our press folks were wondering if you were going to write something.

Fiona


Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2014, at 12:57 PM, "Vint Cerf" <vint@google.com> wrote:

> About to board flight to chicago. Juliana and heather what changes  do you suggest. This is all happening with in real time and parallel...
>
> On Mar 19, 2014 12:30 PM, "Fiona Alexander" <FAlexander@ntia.doc.gov> wrote:
> Hi Vint
>
> Larry and I are getting ready to board for the flight to Singapore so Juliana and Heather will be following up with you directly.   We have a few suggestions including the need to directly counter the WSJ opinion piece today that says this will facilitate/allow censorshiop.  Obviously this guy lacks any technical understanding.
>
> Fiona
>
>
> -------- Original message --------
> From: Vint Cerf
> Date:03/19/2014 9:59 AM (GMT-05:00)
> To: Fiona Alexander
> Cc: Larry Strickling ,Juliana Gruenwald ,Heather Phillips
> Subject: Re: Possibility of an op ed
>
> sorry, it was nii quaynor and me. here's the draft
>
> i am urging ICANN to get this out. Any comments?
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> v
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>
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On Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 9:10 AM, Fiona Alexander <[FAlexander@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:FAlexander@ntia.doc.gov)> wrote:
Hi Vint

While the press has gotten better there have been a couple of unhelpful oped's including one in toddy's Wall Street Journal.  Obviously those folks are uniformed but our press folks were wondering if you were going to write something.

Fiona

**The Internet of Everyone**
By Vinton G. Cerf and Nii Quaynor

More than a third of our planet is now online.[1] Each day, the Internet connects more than three billion users all around the world and more go online everyday[2]  The Internet belongs to them. And that's what the US Government confirmed last week.

On Friday, The United States government announced plans to transition to multi-stakeholder responsibility its stewardship of a key component of the Internet ecosystem. This is an important step toward globalizing and protecting the open Internet.

The Internet is expanding at an explosive pace. But as it grows, we must ensure that it continues to promote choice and competition, drive innovation and infuse development across the globe. The US Government last week said those decisions would now be best made by the Internet's global multistakeholder community – in a sense, everyone.

We were among the group of engineers who have worked diligently to bring the benefits of the Internet to everyone on the planet.  We endorsed open languages, protocols and processes to support communication among the network of networks that make up the global Internet.[3] This open structure continues to increase the Internet's value.  No one government, organization or any individual controls the global Internet.[4] Instead, multiple stakeholders oversee the layers and distributed components of this global platform.

There has been some concern that this could lead to a governmental takeover of these functions or to increased censorship on the Internet. There is little likelihood of that outcome and we would oppose such a development. The Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), which made Friday's announcement, has made it clear that it would not accept a proposal that replaces NTIA's role with a government-led or an inter-governmental solution.

The U.S. Government has served as steward for one of these components, in large part because of the Internet's origins as a US Government sponsored research project. Since 1998, the U.S. Commerce Department has contracted with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to coordinate unique Internet identifiers, specifically, the top level domain names of the Domain Name System, IP addresses, and protocol parameter registries.

For the last 15 years, ICANN has administered these critical identifier spaces to keep the Internet operating smoothly and it has done so through a multistakeholder policy development process that it has refined repeatedly during that time.

As has been anticipated even in the founding of ICANN, the U.S. Government is now asking ICANN to conduct a process for transitioning US Government stewardship of this Internet function to a mechanism rooted in the global multistakeholder Internet community.

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[1] http://www.Internetworldstats.com/stats.htm (as of 2012)
[2] http://content.netmundial.br/contribution/panel-on-global-Internet-cooperation-and-governance-mechanisms-contribution-to-netmundial/204
[3] http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2013/01/marking-birth-of-modern-day-Internet.html
[4] http://content.netmundial.br/contribution/panel-on-global-Internet-cooperation-and-governance-mechanisms-contribution-to-netmundial/204

This action by the U.S. Government not only aligns with the fundamental spirit of the Internet, it strengthens its many benefits and resources. The U.S. Government is to be commended for its stewardship and its endorsement of and support for the multistakeholder model of administration.

Open access to the Internet creates the opportunity to improve societies and enhance wealth creation through commerce. With Internet access, economies flourish. And thus far, global development from the digital revolution has been impressive.

Indeed, the digital economy is now outpacing the offline economy in most countries.[5] Nations with a prominent and open Internet presence experience economic growth 2.5 percent higher than countries with fragmented Internet activity, according to the Boston Consulting Group.[6] By 2016, the digital economy will expand to $4.2 trillion across G-20 countries.

The Internet is an especially critical economic engine in the developing world. Businesses in emerging markets with web access are 50 percent more likely to export their products and services to create wealth.

Fortunately, these countries are gaining access at record rates. The Internet economies of the developing world are expanding by as much as 25 percent each year.[7] The explosion of smart phone availability has had a key role in enabling Internet access around the world but especially in the developing world. In just two years, the digital economy is expected to contribute close to five percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP).[8]

But as the open Internet expands and evolves, it faces new challenges and potential threats to its openness.

There are now some movements to establish new global rules that would limit Internet access and use. This approach contradicts the inherent spirit of the Internet and threatens its ability to propel innovation. A fragmented Internet that is divided by walls will interfere with the free exchange of ideas, increase business costs, stagnate job creation, and fundamentally disrupt our most powerful global resource. Arguments that this transition risks additional censorship are unfounded. Some countries have done and will do everything they can to stifle freedom of speech, but the proposed transition lodges responsibility for maintaining Internet openness in the institutions and individuals that have created, and now operate and use the Internet daily. That includes the governments of the world for whom an open Internet is a priority, including the United States.

The U.S. Government's decision to transfer its stewardship of this technical function is the right one at the right time. It's an important step in ensuring that the Internet operates as intended for the benefit of all its stakeholders. As our global online community grows, we need an Internet

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[5] Boston Consulting Group: "The Connected World: Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy"
[6] Client Provided: "IG-deck-script-final-20Feb2014" and Boston Consulting Group: "The Connected World: Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy"
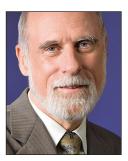[7] "The Connected World: Greasing the Wheels of the Internet Economy"
[8] IBID

that belongs to everyone and is responsible to everyone—one that encourages us all to freely create and contribute, to speak, to be heard and to prosper.

*Vinton G. Cerf, widely known as one the "Fathers of the Internet," has served as Vice President and chief Internet evangelist for Google since 2005. Nii Quaynor is a scientist and engineer who has played an important role in the introduction and development of the Internet throughout Africa.*

# The Internet of Everyone

**Vinton G. Cerf** • *Google*

**Nii Quaynor** • *Network Computer Systems*

More than a third of our planet is now online (www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm). Each day, the Internet connects close to 3 billion users worldwide, and more go online every day.[1] The Internet belongs to them. And that's what the US government confirmed on 14 March, when the US National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announced plans to transition its stewardship of a key component of the Internet ecosystem to multistakeholder responsibility.[2] This is an important step toward policy globalization while protecting the open Internet.

The Internet is expanding at an explosive pace. But as it grows, we must ensure that it continues to promote choice and competition, drive innovation, and infuse development across the globe. The NTIA has now said that stewardship for these outcomes will be best protected by the Internet's global, multistakeholder community — in a sense, everyone.

We were among the group of engineers who worked diligently to bring the benefits of the Internet to everyone on the planet. We endorsed open languages, protocols, and processes to support communication among the network of networks that make up the global Internet.[3] This open structure continues to increase the Internet's value. No one government, organization, or individual controls it.[1] Instead, multiple stakeholders oversee the layers and distributed components of this global platform.

Some concern has arisen that the NTIA's proposed change could lead to a governmental takeover of these functions. We would oppose such a development. The NTIA has made it clear that it would not accept a proposal that replaces its role with a government-led or intergovernmental solution.

The US government has served as steward for the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) in large part because of the Internet's origins in the late 1960s as a US-government-sponsored research project. Since 1998, the NTIA has contracted with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to administer the so-called IANA Functions: coordination of unique Internet identifiers, specifically, the top-level domain names of the Domain Name System (DNS), IP addresses, and protocol parameter registries.

For the past 15 years, ICANN has administered these essential identifier spaces to keep the Internet operating smoothly, and it has done so through a multistakeholder policy development process that it has repeatedly refined during that time.

As has been anticipated even in ICANN's founding, the US government is now asking ICANN to help transition stewardship of this Internet function to a mechanism rooted in the global multistakeholder Internet community.

This action not only aligns with the fundamental spirit of the Internet, it strengthens its many benefits and resources. The NTIA is to be commended for its stewardship and its endorsement of and support for the multistakeholder model of administration.

Open access to the Internet creates the opportunity to improve societies and enhance wealth creation through commerce. With Internet access, economies flourish. Thus far, global development from the digital revolution has been impressive. But as the open Internet expands and evolves, it faces new challenges and potential threats to its openness.

Some governments and institutions are attempting to establish rules that would limit Internet access and use. This approach contradicts the inherent spirit of the Internet and threatens its ability to propel innovation. A fragmented Internet that is

divided by walls will inhibit the free exchange of ideas, increase business costs, stagnate job creation, and fundamentally disrupt our most powerful global resource.

Some countries have done and will do everything they can to stifle freedom of speech, but the proposed transition lodges responsibility for maintaining Internet openness in the institutions and individuals that have created and now operate and use the open Internet daily. Internet technology lets ISPs independently choose to use the global, common DNS that ICANN administers to assure global and uniform resolution of domain names. Even if some governments choose to isolate themselves from the open and global Internet, they cannot force the rest of the world to adopt a similar position.

Though not necessarily familiar to the general public, ICANN, the Internet Society, the IETF, the Internet Architecture Board, the Regional Internet Registries, the Root (Zone) Servers, the Country Code and generic top-level domain operators, domain name registrars, ISPs, civil society, and the private sector are all part of the ICANN policy development and operational process. ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee also provides public policy input from the world's participating governments to ICANN's multistakeholder board of directors.

ICANN is now charged with convening an effort to devise a multistakeholder process to assure transparency and accountability for the IANA functions that satisfies the criteria laid out in the NTIA's mid-March announcement.

The US government's decision to transfer its stewardship of this technical function is the right one at the right time. It's an important step in ensuring that the Internet operates as intended for the benefit of all its stakeholders. As our global online community grows, we need an Internet that belongs to everyone and is responsible to everyone — one that encourages us all to freely create and contribute, to speak, to be heard, and to prosper.

## References

1. "Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms: Contribution to NETmundial," Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance, to appear, Apr. 2014; http://content.netmundial.br/contribution/panel-on-global-Internet-cooperation-and-governance-mechanisms-contribution-to-netmundial/204.
2. "NTIA Announces Intent to Transition Key Internet Domain Name Functions," US Nat'l Telecommunications and Information Administration, press release, 14 Mar. 2014; www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2014/ntia-announces-intent-transition-key-internet-domain-name-functions.
3. "Marking the Birth of the Modern-Day Internet," Google blog, 1 Jan. 2013; http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2013/01/marking-birth-of-modern-day-internet.html.

**Vinton G. Cerf** is vice president and chief Internet evangelist at Google, and president of ACM. He's widely known as one of the "fathers of the Internet." Contact him at vint@google.com.

**Nii Quaynor** is the chairman of Network Computer Systems in Ghaha, a former director of ICANN, and an Internet pioneer in Africa. Contact him at nquaynor@gmail.com.

*Selected CS articles and columns are also available for free at http://ComputingNow.computer.org.*