

.

# Has the paradigm shift happened?

Actually, not yet...

Janis Karklins, former Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the  
Second phase of WSIS

Italian IGF, Torino

20 October 2012

# What we will be talking about

- Internet Governance definition
- What is at stake
- Governance issues
- Milestones in IG
- Ongoing governance issues
- Putting my UNESCO hat

# Internet Governance definition

- Working definition given by WGIG – wide approach
  - *Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet*
- Narrow approach
  - Names and numbers only

# Internet Governance

## Standards

- transmission
- character sets
- security
- domain names
- encryption
- etc

## Regulations

- spectrum allocation
- taxation
- licensing
- intellectual property
- content
- etc

## Operations

- transmission
- routing
- hosting
- names (DNS)
- numbers
- etc

## Applications

- browsing
- video
- audio
- mail
- content distribution
- etc

## Legal use

- education
- social networking
- economy
- research
- entertainment
- etc

## Illegal use

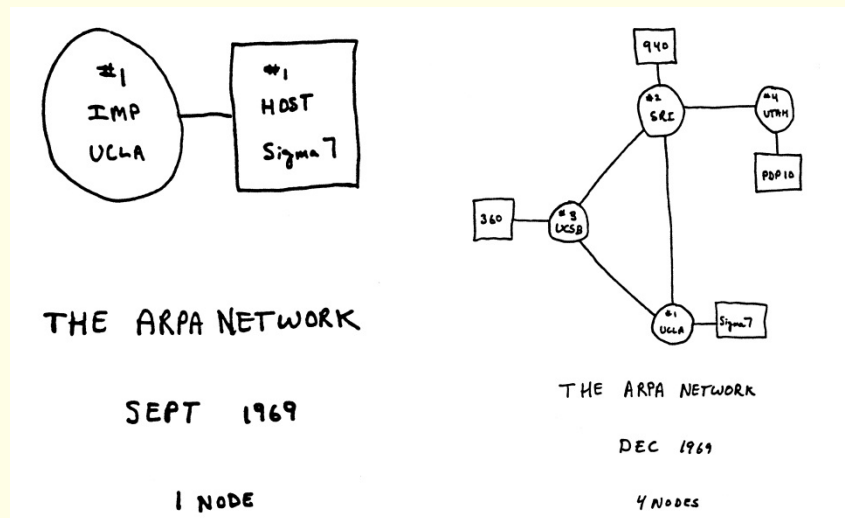
- fraud
- theft
- child abuse
- spam
- bullying
- etc

# What is at stake?

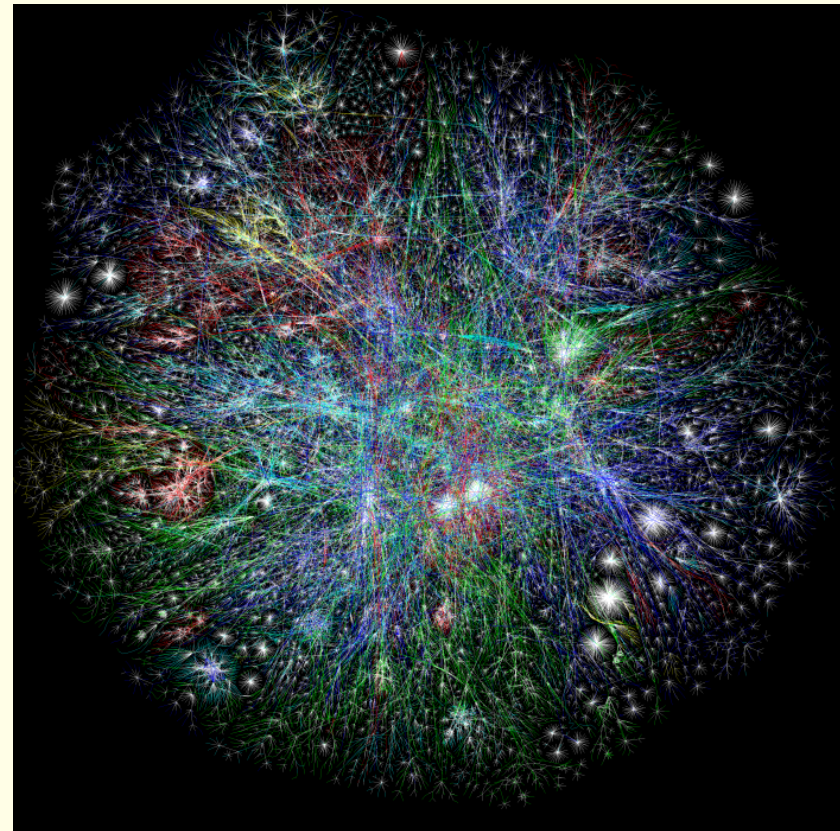
- **Idealistically:** stable and accurate functioning of a unique communication system which gradually has become basis of world economy and significant component of a social life of humanity
- **Realistically:** control / fear of control by others
  - governments
  - business
  - industry

# Governance issues

This was the beginning



This is today



# Governance issues

- What kind of governance system should be applied to the Internet?
  - Westphalian system from 1648 based on the principle of sovereignty of the nation states?
  - Alternative based on decentralized collaboration of different stakeholders?

# Governance issues

- Decentralized vs. centralized
  - Multi-stakeholder in respective roles and responsibilities vs. government regulated
  - Bottom-up policy development vs. top-down regulation



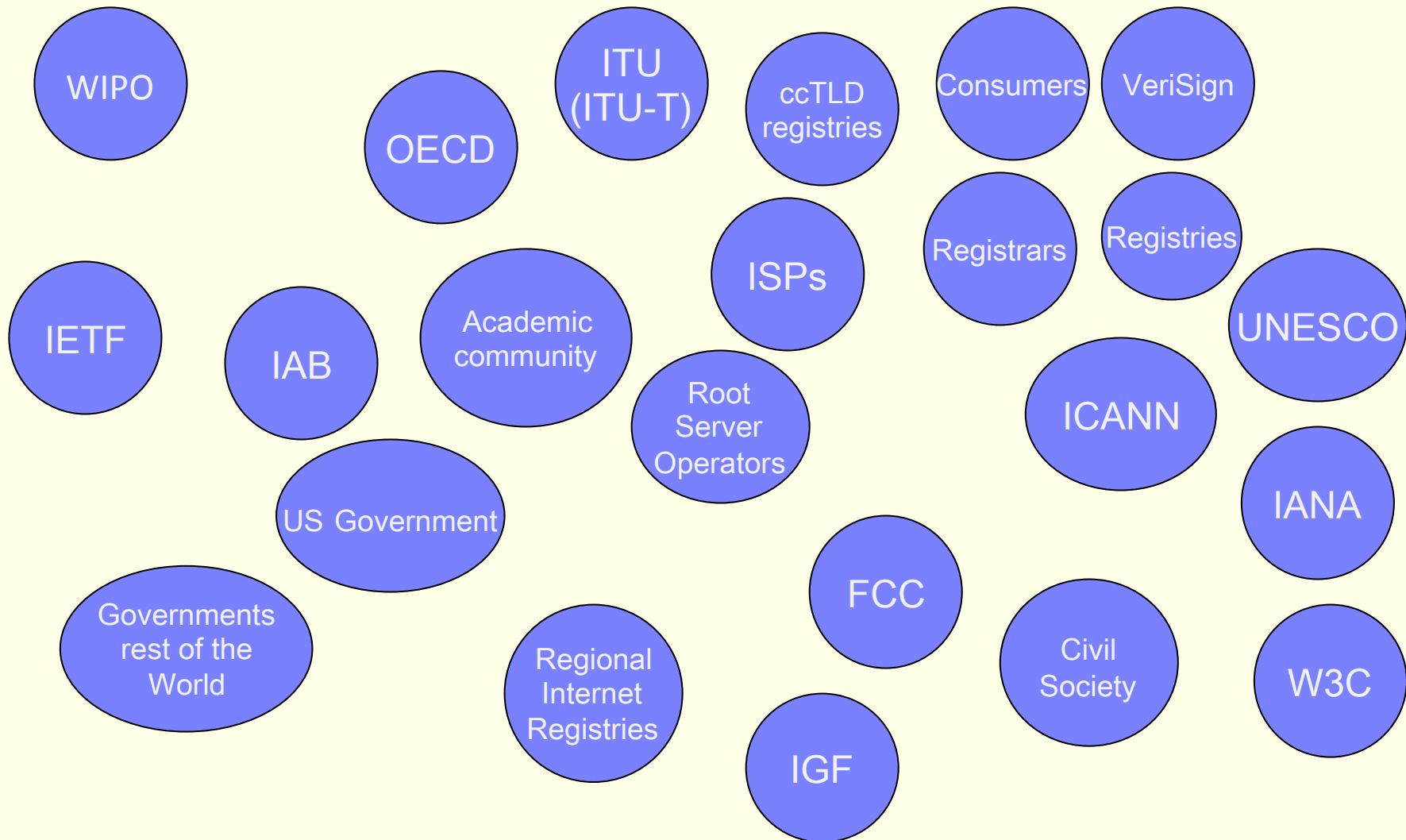
# Governance issues

- Main complaints from governments
  - Unilateral oversight over DNS management
  - Lack of transparency in ICANN/ IANA
  - Exclusion from the decision making process
  - Uneven distribution of IP addresses
  - Uneven distribution of data transmission costs
  - Dominance of one language

# Governance issues

- Main complaints from other stakeholders
  - Wish to impose centralized heavy-hand regulation
  - Wish of control of information flow
  - Application of telecom cost sharing regulations which may lead to stifling of innovation

# Participants in governance



# Internet already is heavily regulated

- IAB – architecture
- IETF, ITU-T – technical standards
- ICANN – names and numbers
- RIR – IP block allocation
- GNSO/ccNSO – registry policies
- Governments
  - spectrum allocation
  - public policy / public interest
- Industry – different aspects of use (Google, Facebook)

# Milestones in Internet Governance

- Creation of ICANN 1998
- WSIS Geneva phase 2003/ creation of WGIG
- WGIG report 2004
- WSIS Tunis phase 2005
- Creation of IGF 2006
- Proliferations of regional and national IGF initiatives
- NTIA supervision of ICANN
  - MoU 1999-2007
  - Joint Project Agreement 2007-2009
  - Affirmation of Commitments 2009 – today
- Gradual increase of importance of the GAC

# Stake for governments

- Public policy is agreed domain of government responsibility
- But public policy:
  - Is not clearly defined
  - Is intertwined with other interests and result in tensions with other stakeholder groups
- That results in tensions with other stakeholders

# Important ongoing governance issues

- Protect freedom of the Internet (innovation) and freedom on the Internet (free speech)
- Promote literate use of Internet
- Ensure Internet security
- Minimize misuse
- Foster multilingualism of the cyberspace
- Enhance local Internet infrastructure development and local content production
- Prevent the development of digital amnesia

# Where we are?

- Internet is the first technology that is changing human nature. We are obsessed by the opportunities.
- Our understanding about the possible responses to the new challenges are lagging behind the speed of technological development.
- And all that because many of us are thinking in old categories – to regulate/dominate instead of cooperate/share.



# Putting my UNESCO hat

- UNESCO does not regulate but promote
  - Freedom of speech
  - Privacy issues
  - Multilingualism
  - Local content creation
  - Ethical dimension
  - Digital preservation
- WSIS + 10 review event – 25/27 Feb 2013
  - UNESCO Internet forum

**Thank you**

Janis Karklins

Assistant Director General of UNESCO

[j.karklins at unesco.org](mailto:j.karklins@unesco.org)