RIRs and the ICANN Process

RIPE 36

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Motivation

- The ICANN Process

  Background Context
  - Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
  - What is it?
  - What does it do?
  - Why does it not do?
  - Why does it exist?
  - What has it done?
  - What has it to do?
  - How does it work?

What does ICANN do?

Coordinates policies relating to the unique assignment of:

- – Names   Internet domain names
- – Numbers   Numerical IP Address
- – Protocols   Protocol Port and Parameter Numbers

Coordinates the DNS Root Server System

- - through Root Server System Advisory Committee

… Technical Coordination

ICANN: The Basic Idea

ICANN =

An Experiment in
Technical Self-Management
by the
global Internet community

(An experiment that must succeed!)

ICANN: The Basic Bargain

ICANN =

<u>Internationalization</u>
of Policy Functions for DNS
and IP Addressing systems

+

<u>Private Sector</u>
(non-governmental) Management

What does ICANN **not** do?

So does ICANN make law?

- Or: Is ICANN a cyber-government for the Internet?

A: NO!

- ICANN has no inherent coercive power, only the ability to enter into contractual relationships through a process of consensus & consent
- ICANN is not a substitute for the powers of governments (i.e., courts and laws)

Does ICANN regulate/govern?

- No: ICANN <u>coordinates</u>.
- **But**: technical coordination of unique values sometimes requires touching non-technical policy areas:
  - Data privacy protection
    - (WHOIS database)
  - Intellectual property/trademark law
    - (UDRP)
  - Competition law
    - (Registrars)

So why does ICANN exist?

Situation Before ICANN

Most Internet DNS and IP Address coordination functions performed by, or on behalf of, the US government

- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
    - Information Sciences Institute (ISI) of University of Southern California
    - Stanford Research Institute (SRI)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
    - IBM, MCI, and Merit
    - AT&T, General Atomics, Network Solutions, Inc.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Department of Energy

… Things worked and life was good

Key Role of the IANA

- IANA acted for 30 years to mediate disputes and to assure proper technical coordination and function of all parts of the domain name system.

- These functions are still critical to the successful operation of Internet which is now a GLOBAL and rapidly growing medium.

Need for Change

- [Globalisation](#) of Internet
- [Commercialisation](#) of Internet
- Need for [accountability](#)
- Need for more [formalized management](#) structure
- Dissatisfaction with [lack of competition](#)
- Trademark/domain name [conflicts](#)

IANA
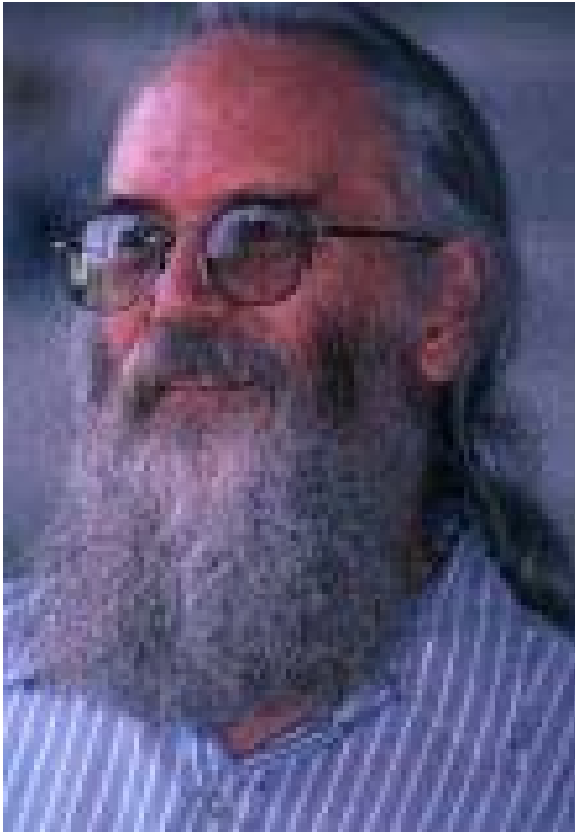
Jon Postel 1943-1998

- 1996 - Postel initiates Internet Ad Hoc Committee (IAHC) with support from Internet Society (ISOC) to institutionalize the IANA functions and open top level domains to competitive registration

- This proves to be very difficult with many people with differing views and interests. The debate doesn't come to closure...

US Government Steps In

- 1998 - Ira Magaziner, at the request of President Clinton, initiates an effort to facilitate formation of a neutral, industry-sponsored oversight organization to continue the IANA functions performed in the past under US Government contract in a global, consensus building setting.

- 'Green' and 'White' Papers developed

White Paper Principles

White Paper: new policy/management structure must promote 4 goals:

- ◆ Stability – first priority
- ◆ Competition
- ◆ Private, bottom-up coordination
- ◆ Representation

White Paper Implementation

- Internet community to form non-profit corporation meeting White Paper's 4 criteria
- US Government (through Commerce Department) to transition centralised coordination functions
- Amendment of Network Solutions agreement to require competitive registrars in gTLD registries
- WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation) to recommend solutions for trademark/domain-name dilemma

What has ICANN Done?

- ✓ 25 November 1998 - ICANN recognized in MoU
- ✓ June 1999 - Cooperative agreement among ICANN, US Government, root server operators
- ✓ 10 November 1999
  - ICANN and Network Solutions sign gTLD registry and registrar agreements
  - DoC transfers root authority over gTLDs to ICANN
- ✓ 9 February 2000
  - Contract with US Government to complete transfer of IANA functions
- ✓ 10 March 2000
  - MOU with IETF/IAB formalising prior appointments of ICANN to perform IANA functions
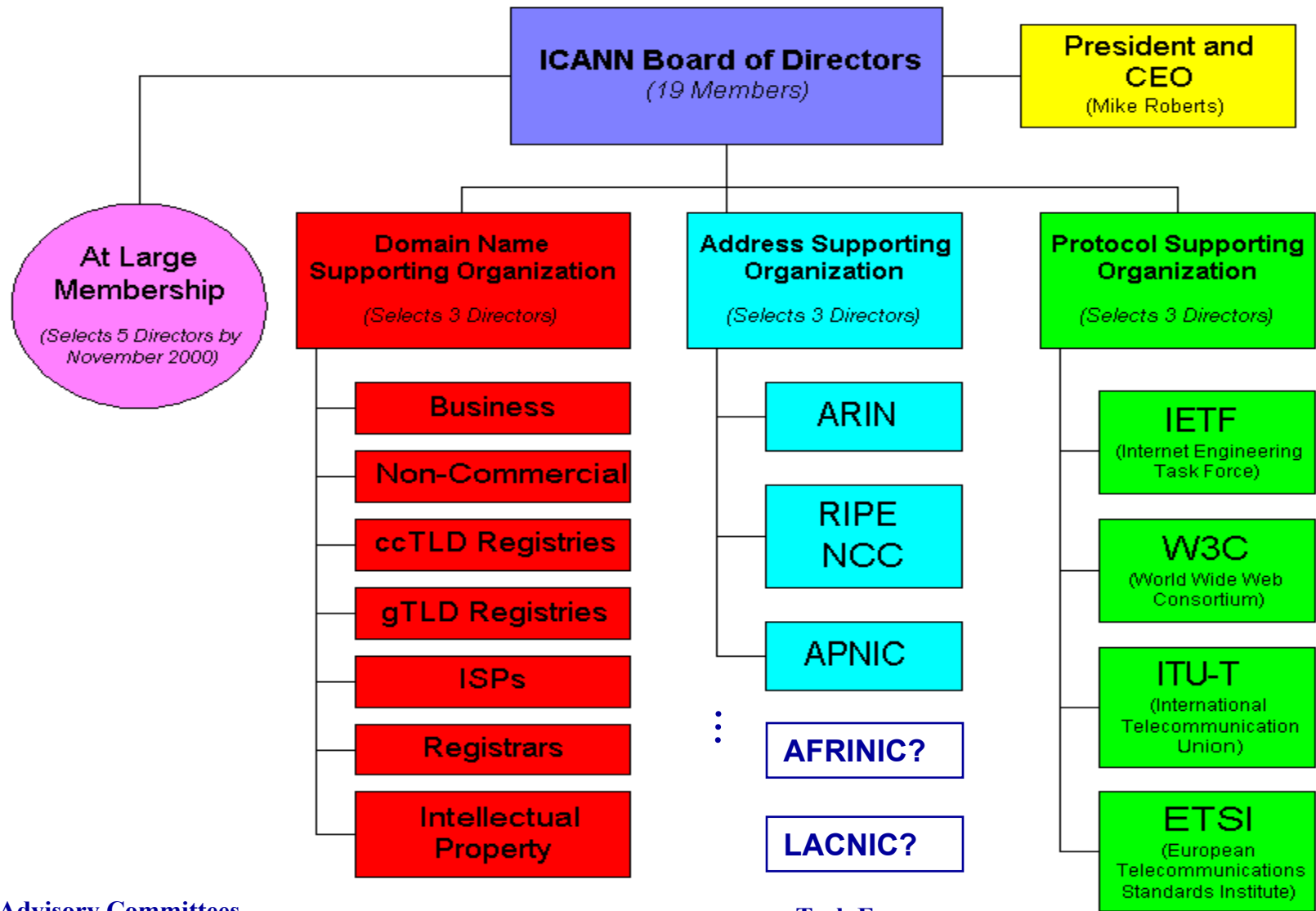
What has ICANN to do?

- Year 2000:
  - ccTLD registry agreements
  - IP Address registry agreements
  - Root server operator agreements
  - New gLTDs (.info, .shop, .eu/.eur, etc.)

- 30 September 2000 - Target date for ICANN to settle all registry + registrar + root server relationships

Structure of ICANN...
How does it work?

ICANN Board of Directors

At Large Directors:

- **Esther Dyson (USA) – Chairman**
- **Geraldine Capdeboscq (France)**
- **George Conrades (USA)**
- **Greg Crew (Australia)**
- **Frank Fitzsimmons (USA)**
- **Hans Kraaijenbrink (Netherlands)**
- **Jun Murai (Japan)**
- **Eugenio Triana (Spain)**
- **Linda S. Wilson (USA)**

ASO Directors (Numbers)

- **Blokzijl (Netherlands)**
- **Fockler (Canada)**
- **Wong (Hong Kong, China)**

DNSO Directors(Names):

- **Abril i Abril (Spain)**
- **Cohen (Canada)**
- **Pisanty (Mexico)**

PSO Directors (Protocols):

- **Abramatic (France)**
- **Cerf (USA)**
- **Davidson (U.K.)**

Geographic and Cultural Diversity

- Geographically diverse Board of Directors
  - **Directors selected by Supporting Organizations**
    - 4-Europe
    - 3-North America
    - 1- Latin America
    - 1-Asia/Pacific
  - **At Large Directors - current**
    - 4-North America
    - 3 Europe
    - 2-Asia Pacific
  - **At Large Directors - future**
    - 1 from each of 5 regions + 4 (to be determined)

At Large Membership

- Open to any individual with verifiable name, email address, physical address
- Free to join and to vote
- Members will directly elect 5 ICANN Directors by November 2000
- Election by Region
- Nominations committee + petition process
- 6-month study period to follow
- Membership Implementation Task Force
- JOIN! <http://members.icann.org>

Applications for Membership

- Africa
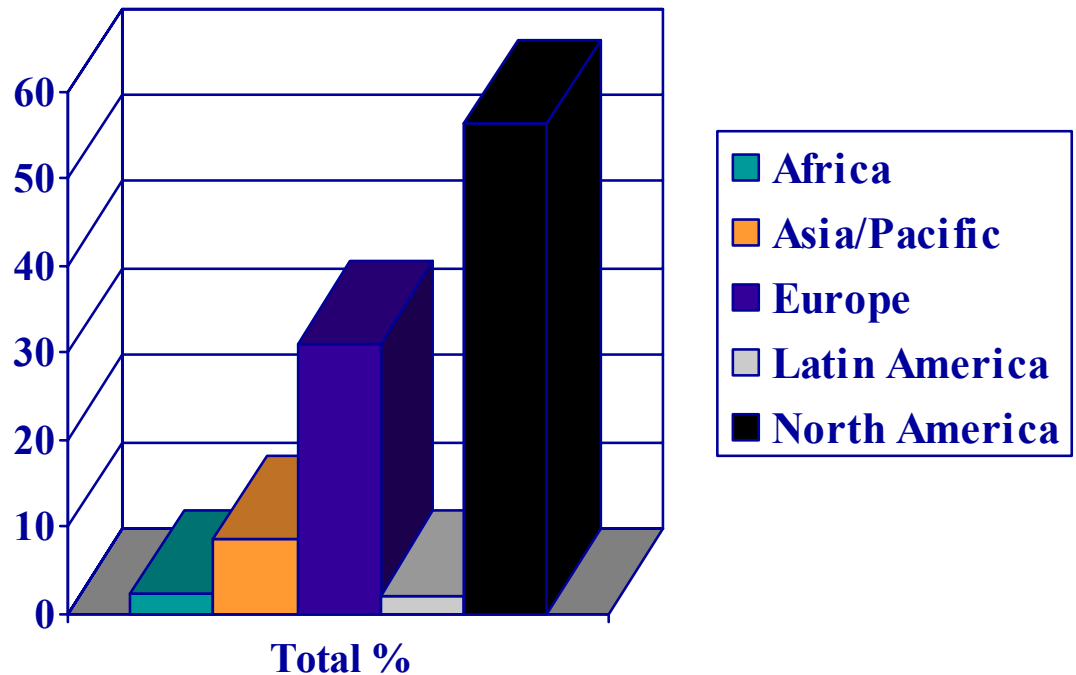 - 257 (2.33%)
- Asia/Pacific
  - 937 (8.50%)
- Europe
  - 3395 (30.79%)
- LA/C
  - 227 (2.06%)
- North Am
  - 6209 (56.32%)

Total %

Legend: Africa, Asia/Pacific, Europe, Latin America, North America

ICANN Staff

Model: Lightweight, minimal staffing

Current Staff:

- Interim President and CEO   (Mike Roberts)
- Vice President/General Counsel   (Louis Touton)
- Policy Director   (Andrew McLaughlin)
- IANA   (Joyce Reynolds, Michelle Schipper)
- Business Manager
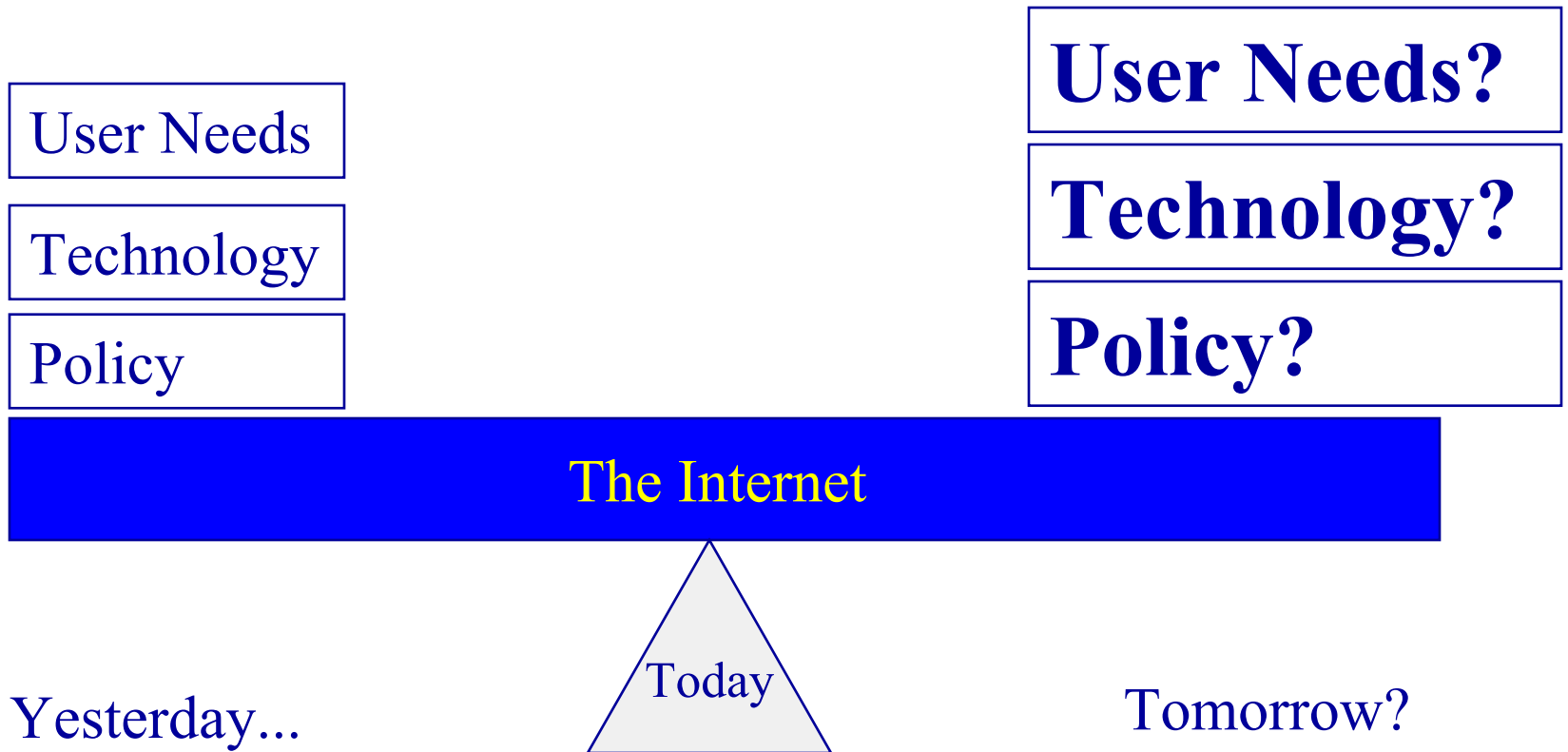- Network Administrator

6 FTE currently, 12.3 authorized

… Permanent CEO
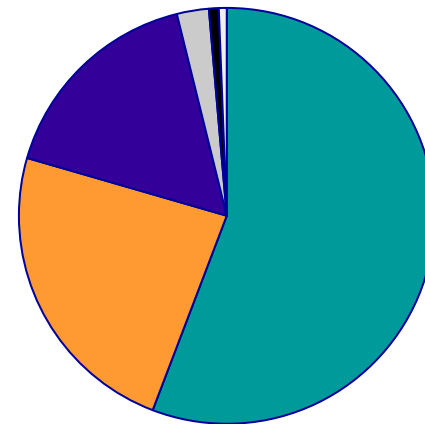Search Underway

So what really is the ICANN Process?

The ICANN Process: Finding Balance

User Needs

Technology

Policy

User Needs?

Technology?

Policy?

The Internet

Today

Yesterday...

Tomorrow?

Users on the Internet

Africa   - 1.72M

Asia/Pac   - 33.61M

CAN/US   - 112.4M

Europe   - 47.15M

Latin Am   - 5.29M

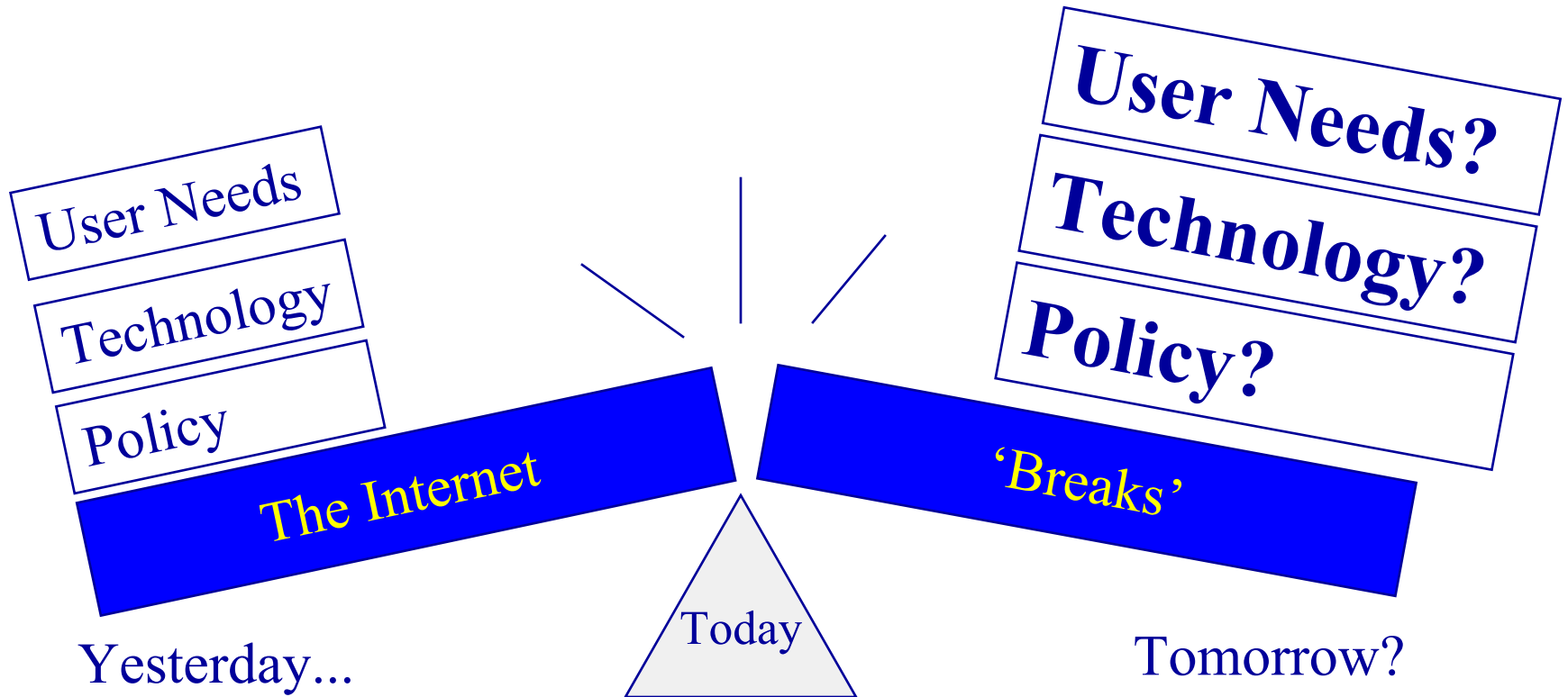Mid-east   - 0.88 M

Total - 201.05M

(NUA-Nov'99)

Legend:
- CAN/US
- Europe
- Asia/Pac
- Latin Am
- Africa
- Mid East

What about Tomorrow?

What is Failure?

User Needs

Technology

Policy

The Internet

Yesterday...

Today

User Needs?

Technology?

Policy?

'Breaks'

Tomorrow?

What is Success? The Internet Keeps Growing Transparently

User Needs?
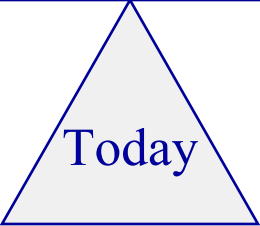
Technology?

Policy?

User Needs?

Technology?

Policy?

The Internet

Today

Yesterday...

Tomorrow?

Lessons from the Experiment So Far?

- Global consensus is difficult to define; even harder to achieve
  - Consensus can be achieved in the technical community from which ICANN was created, because you can test options
  - Consensus on policy questions is elusive, because you can't rely on objective data

Pending Address Issues:

- IPv6 Implementation
- Global/Regional Address Policy Mix
- Emerging RIRs
  - Africa
  - Latin America

For Further Information:

http://www.icann.org

JOIN! http://members.icann.org

email: touton@icann.org

Thank You! ;)