

The Internet Societal Task Force (ISTF)

The first I can think about while beginning this short Note is to give an URL of ISOC <http://www.isoc.org> and kindly ask the reader who is used to those issues to have a look at it, to check its advantages and for about 30 Euros he may become a member, if he finds it useful or profitable. The Internet Society was created in Copenhagen in 1991, with about 350 members including the Fathers of the Internet, John Postel (Domain, Addresses...etc.) Vinton G. Cerf (Protocol IP/TCP), Brand Scott (Standards) David Faber (BITNET)...etc.

The ISOC gathers today about 14.000 experts from all over the world. It has celebrated 10 very large INET Conferences in America, Asia and Europe and it has been the first NGO which has given access and coverage to **all countries** in the world, that is about 246, more than at the UN. ISOC has given support & shelter to very important NGO's as the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) which is building the free evolution of the Internet together with more than 2.000 experts which *by majority consensus*, are enlarging the Internet and its applied technologies.

There are also other NGO's under the seriousness and experienced Umbrella which ISOC has for them. The IAB (Internet Architectural Board) or the ICANN (Internet Council for Assign Names and Numbers)...etc.

But there is one in whose birth I **personally participated** on the 22nd of March 1999 in Paris, at the special meeting about "Strategies for the year 2000" of the Board of Trustees of ISOC, which I have to mention with special emphasis due to its importance for the present and the future of the Internet. I am

talking about the ISTF. A Task Force specially dedicated to the social impacts, though we prefer to refer to the *Societal effects*, because since the creation of the Internet Society in 1991 even its most eminent technologist have admitted that the Nets needs reflection and action in issues as Education in the use of the NN.TT. its free and general access by society, as well as the search for an *innovative management system* which must include three essential elements: **speediness** in the search of answers, **flexibility** in their solutions and **creativity** which produces an optimism¹ for innovations.

This is how the Internet began and this is how we all want to develop it in the bosom of ISOC and the new ISTF, which reflections as the ones contained in this short Note could add one more step beyond. Vide <http://www.istf.isoc.org> .

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¹ It refers to the generally known concepts, in the new Social Sciences, of the three F's: Fast, Flexible and Feasible.