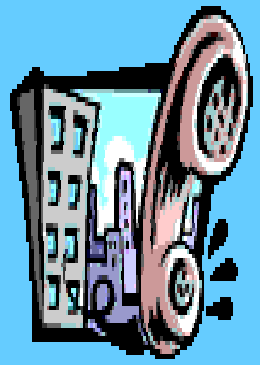
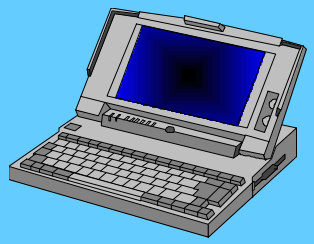


NICC Open Forum 2001

Network Interoperability Consultative Committee

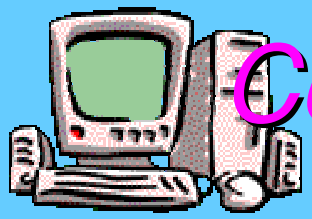
"Living in an IP World"



The IETF World of Standardisation

Jon Crowcroft,

Computer Lab, Cambridge University



Ofel Office of Telecommunications

The “I*” Organisations

- ISOC – Internet Society
  http://www.rfceditor.org/overview.html
- IAB – Internet Architecture Board
- IESG – Internet Engineering Steering Group
- IETF – Internet Engineering Task Force
- IRTF – Internet Research Task Force
- IANA – Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
- RFC Editor
- ICANN – Internet Corporation for assigned names and numbers

The Standards Docs

- RFC != Standard
- Start life as idea
- Go to ietf working group
- If no group, go to Area Dirs (IESG) and ask for one. Requires a charter
- Document idea with I-d – can be procedure, protocol, practice or implementation hint
- WG last call, IESG last call
- Can last between 1 and 10 years!
- http://www.rfc-editor.org/overview.html

In Practice

- Important topics (e.g. MPLS, VOIP, Signaling, IP on Bluetooth/GPRS/3G) require a lot more effort…
- Modest ideas can still proceed rapidly
- Inertia and workload take their toll.
- Industry or Fora pressure still frowned on…
- …but happens (e.g. cisco mpls, ETSI megaco☺

Governments and IETF

- Don’t mix well
- C.f. raven/intercept/calea
- Also recent “call” logging
- Also failure to understand global nature (despite governments claims to be all for global markets☺

Operational Internet

- See NANOG
- See RIPE, etc
- See weak anarchy, but strong tendency towards social good – e.g. multiple roots for DNS frowned on, non congestion avoiding TCP frowned on etc etc

Summary

- Internet standards a transparent process
- Internet operations are largely a free market
- Cost of entry to both standards and market are low
- Model adopted by others (E.g. Global Grid Forum)