

ICANNWIKIQUICKIE

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Gore didn't claim that he invented the Internet

from <http://www.snopes.com/quotes/internet.asp>

Claim: Vice-President Al Gore claimed that he "invented" the Internet.

Status: **False.**

Origins: Despite the derisive references that continue even today, Al Gore did not claim he "invented" the Internet, nor did he say anything that could reasonably be interpreted that way. The "Al Gore said he 'invented' the Internet" put-downs were misleading, out-of-context distortions of something he said during an interview with Wolf Blitzer on CNN's "Late Edition" program on 9 March 1999. When asked to describe what distinguished him from his challenger for the Democratic presidential nomination, Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey, Gore replied (in part):

During my service in the United States Congress, I took the initiative in creating the Internet. I took the initiative in moving forward a whole range of initiatives that have proven to be important to our country's economic growth and environmental protection, improvements in our educational system.

Clearly, although Gore's phrasing was clumsy (and perhaps self-serving), he was not claiming that he "invented" the Internet (in the sense of having designed or implemented it), but that he was responsible, in an economic and legislative sense, for fostering the development of the technology that we now know as the Internet. To claim that Gore was seriously trying to take credit for the "invention" of the Internet is, frankly, just silly political posturing that arose out of a close presidential campaign. Gore never used the word "invent," and the words "create" and "invent" have distinctly different meanings — the former is used in the sense of "to bring about" or "to bring into existence" while the latter is generally used to signify the first instance of someone's thinking up or implementing an idea. (To those who say the words "create" and "invent" mean exactly the same thing, we have to ask why, then, the media overwhelmingly and consistently cited Gore as having claimed he "invented" the Internet, even though he never used that word, and transcripts of what he actually said were readily available.)

If President Eisenhower had said in the mid-1960s that he, while President, "created" the Interstate Highway System, we would not have seen dozens and dozens of editorials lampooning him for claiming he "invented" the concept of highways or implying that he personally went out and dug ditches across the country to help build the roadway. Everyone would have understood that Ike meant he was a driving force behind the legislation that created the highway system, and this was the very same concept Al Gore was expressing about himself with his Internet statement.

Whether Gore's statement that he "took the initiative in creating the Internet" is justified is a subject of debate. Any statement about the "creation" or "beginning" of the Internet is difficult to evaluate, because the Internet is not a homogenous entity (it's a collection of computers, networks, protocols, standards, and application programs), nor did it all spring into being at once (the components that comprise the Internet were developed in various places at different times and are continuously being modified, improved, and expanded). Despite a spirited defense of Gore's claim by Vint Cerf (often referred to as the "father of the Internet") in which he stated "that as a Senator and now as Vice President, Gore has made it a point to be as well-informed as possible on technology and issues that surround it," many of the components of today's Internet came into being well before Gore's first term in Congress began in 1977.

It is true, though, that Gore was popularizing the term "information superhighway" in the early 1990s (although he did not, as is often claimed by others, coin the phrase himself) when few people outside academia or the computer/defense industries had heard of the Internet, and he sponsored the 1988 National High-Performance Computer Act (which established a national computing plan and helped link universities and libraries via a shared network) and cosponsored the Information Infrastructure and Technology Act of 1992 (which opened the Internet to commercial traffic).

In May 2005, the organizers of the Webby Awards for online achievements honored Al Gore with a lifetime achievement award for three decades of contributions to the Internet. "He is indeed due some thanks and consideration for his early contributions," said Vint Cerf.



Articles of Incorporation: Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)



As Revised November 21, 1998

1. The name of this corporation is Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (the "Corporation").

2. The name of the Corporation's initial agent for service of process in the State of California, United States of America is C T Corporation System.

3. This Corporation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable and public purposes. The Corporation is organized, and will be operated, exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes within the meaning of § 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), or the corresponding provision of any future United States tax code. Any reference in these Articles to the Code shall include the corresponding provisions of any further United States tax code. In furtherance of the foregoing purposes, and in recognition of the fact that the Internet is an international network of networks, owned by no single nation, individual or organization, the Corporation shall, except as limited by Article 5 hereof, pursue the charitable and public purposes of lessening the burdens of government and promoting the global public interest in the operational stability of the Internet by (i) coordinating the assignment of Internet technical parameters as needed to maintain universal connectivity on the Internet; (ii) performing and overseeing functions related to the coordination of the Internet Protocol ("IP") address space; (iii) performing and overseeing functions related to the coordination of the Internet domain name system ("DNS"), including the development of policies for determining the circumstances under which new top-level domains are added to the DNS root system; (iv) overseeing operation of the authoritative Internet DNS root server system; and (v) engaging in any other related lawful activity in furtherance of items (i) through (iv).

4. The Corporation shall operate for the benefit of the Internet community as a whole, carrying out its activities in conformity with relevant principles of international law and applicable international conventions and local law and, to the extent appropriate and consistent with these Articles and its Bylaws, through open and transparent processes that enable competition and open entry in Internet-related markets. To this effect, the Corporation shall cooperate as appropriate with relevant international organizations.

5. Notwithstanding any other provision (other than Article 8) of these Articles:

a. The Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by a corporation exempt from United States income tax under § 501 (c)(3) of the Code or (ii) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under § 170 (c)(2) of the Code.

b. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall be empowered to make the election under § 501 (h) of the Code.

c. The Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

d. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of or be distributable to its members, directors, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article 3 hereof.

e. In no event shall the Corporation be controlled directly or indirectly by one or more "disqualified persons" (as defined in § 4946 of the Code) other than foundation managers and other than one or more organizations described in paragraph (1) or (2) of § 509 (a) of the Code.

6. To the full extent permitted by the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law or any other applicable laws presently or hereafter in effect, no director of the Corporation shall be personally liable to the Corporation or its members, should the Corporation elect to have members in the future, for or with respect to any acts or omissions in the performance of his or her duties as a director of the Corporation. Any repeal or modification of this Article 6 shall not adversely affect any right or protection of a director of the Corporation existing immediately prior to such repeal or modification.

7. Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Corporation's assets shall be distributed for one or more of the exempt purposes set forth in Article 3 hereof and, if possible, to a § 501 (c)(3) organization organized and operated exclusively to lessen the burdens of government and promote the global public interest in the operational stability of the Internet, or shall be distributed to a governmental entity for such purposes, or for such other charitable and public purposes that lessen the burdens of government by providing for the operational stability of the Internet. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as such court shall determine, that are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes, unless no such corporation exists, and in such case any assets not disposed of shall be distributed to a § 501(c)(3) corporation chosen by such court.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in these Articles, if the Corporation determines that it will not be treated as a corporation exempt from federal income tax under § 501(c)(3) of the Code, all references herein to § 501(c)(3) of the Code shall be deemed to refer to § 501(c)(6) of the Code and Article 5(a)(ii), (b), (c) and (e) shall be deemed not to be a part of these Articles.

9. These Articles may be amended by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the directors of the Corporation. When the Corporation has members, any such amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members voting on any proposed amendment.

A Note to Google Users on Net Neutrality



from Google

The Internet as we know it is facing a serious threat. There's a debate heating up in Washington, DC on something called "net neutrality" – and it's a debate that's so important Google is asking you to get involved. We're asking you to take action to protect Internet freedom.

In the next few days, the House of Representatives is going to vote on a bill that would fundamentally alter the Internet. That bill, and one that may come up for a key vote in the Senate in the next few weeks, would give the big phone and cable companies the power to pick and choose what you will be able to see and do on the Internet.

Today the Internet is an information highway where anybody – no matter how large or small, how traditional or unconventional – has equal access. But the phone and cable monopolies, who control almost all Internet access, want the power to choose who gets access to high-speed lanes and whose content gets seen first and fastest. They want to build a two-tiered system and block the on-ramps for those who can't pay.

Creativity, innovation and a free and open marketplace are all at stake in this fight. Please call your representative (202-224-3121) and let your voice be heard.

Thanks for your time, your concern and your support.

Eric Schmidt

Welcome to iNames, your entry into the Social Web

from http://www.icannwiki.org/Welcome_To_iNames



The Social Web refers to an open distributed data sharing network similar to today's World Wide Web, except instead of linking documents, the Social Web links people, organizations, and machines. The term was introduced in a 2004 paper called "The Social Web: Building an Open Social Network with XDI" by members of the OASIS XDI (Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards) Technical Committee.

The Social Web explained how the introduction of a new protocol for distributed mediated data sharing and synchronization, XDI, could enable a new layer of trusted data interchange applications. The key building blocks for this layer were iNames and iNumbers (based on the OASIS XRI specifications).

iNames enable you to share resources and data across domains, and websites, simply, safely. Additionally, with iNames, your personal details are kept private and secure, so that your personal information cannot be mined or spammed.

Conventional addresses such as postal addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are tied to a specific location, device, or service. By contrast, iNames are abstract, in that they are not tied to any specific location or device. Instead they are a way to ask permission to contact an individual or organization and for the iName owner to control to whom this permission is granted.

iNames are "decentralized single sign-on systems." Using iNames enabled sites, users do not need to remember traditional authentication tokens such as username and password. Instead, they only need to be previously registered on a website with an iNames "identity provider", sometimes called an i-broker. Since iNames is decentralized, any website can employ iNames software as a way for users to sign in. An imposter cannot log in as you if he/she doesn't have access to your account at your Identity Provider. Because of this, as long as you keep your Identity Provider credentials secure, your ID will always be secure.

iNames are OpenIDs that use human-friendly XRIs intended to be as easy as possible for people to remember and use.

For example, a personal iName could be as simple as "=Dan" or "=Dan.Mendell".

An organizational iName can be as simple as "@Sedo" or "@Sedo.Corporation."

Other services accepting iNames and OpenID as an alternative to registration include AOL, Wikitravel, ICANNwiki, photo sharing host Zoomr, linkmarking host Ma.gnolia, identity aggregator Claim ID, Highrise by 37signals, Jyte, and many more.

iNames is increasingly gaining adoption among large sites, with organizations like AOL acting as an ID provider. In addition, integrated OpenID support, like iNames, has been made a mandatory priority in Firefox and Microsoft is working on implementing OpenID in Windows Vista.

How do I get an iName? There are two ways to obtain an iNames enabled URL that can be used to login on all iNames and OpenID enabled websites.

1. To use an existing URL that one owns or controls (such as one's blog or home page), and if one knows how to edit HTML, one can insert the appropriate iNames tags in the HTML code following instructions in the OpenID specification.
2. The second, and easier, option is to register an iNames identifier with an identity provider who offers the ability to register a URL (typically a third-level domain) that will automatically be configured with an iNames authentication service.

If you are an individual with personal and professional relationships to create and maintain, both online and off, you might want convenience and privacy. You don't want to juggle dozens of usernames and passwords. Why not take control of this mess with your own iName. An iName is the safest and most convenient way for you to assert, share and protect your digital identity.

The XRI (Extensible Resource Identifier) specification from OASIS is the first global identifier standard that combines the power of "people-friendly" names with "machine-friendly" numbers that are permanently assigned. Every global iName has a corresponding global "iNumber" that will never change even if a global iName expires or is sold.

This new technology, iNames and iNumbers, are the key to maintaining a persistent link to those people and resources that matter most to you.

A short List of i-Brokers: EZiBroker.net, lid.com, 2idi.com, CIM3.net, EnCirca.biz, JanRain.com, and safelink.name

Accountability and transparency - the way forward

from <http://blog.icann.org/?p=136>



In March, ICANN released a report by the One World Trust (OWT) into ICANN that came up with 39 recommendations to further improve standards of accountability and transparency within the organisation. That report is also being used as input into the development of management operating principles that will be released for comment at the upcoming meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the end of this month.

We have produced a webpage that goes through each of those recommendations and says precisely what ICANN's is doing about each, from those being implemented now, to those that have been referred to the Nominating Committee and Board reviews which will take place this year, or to the GNSO Improvements Working Group, for further consideration.

A month ago today, ICANN issued a request for comment on its performance in the area of transparency and accountability to obtain feedback from the community about measures introduced so far. These include: improved Board meeting reporting, the annual report, the introduction of the ICANN blog, correspondence posting, website improvements, the employment of a General manager Public participation and the public participation site. Feedback of this kind on the measures being initiated will be sought regularly and is useful in guiding ICANN management in understanding the value of new measures and the performance of the organisation.

Out of that process, attention was drawn to the OECD's best practices for conducting consultations, which ICANN will adopt for the development of the operating principles and future consultations. At the upcoming San Juan meeting an initial discussion will be held on the draft principles and that will commence the process of consultation as outlined by the OECD principles.

ICANN will actively - not passively - seek comments, by identifying organisations and requesting comment, and the drafts will be translated. A summary of responses will be published and focussed questions will be asked to make it clear where input would be especially valuable. Responses will be summarised and posted on this blog for discussion. A final summary that public debate had on the result will be published along with themes that come from the discussion.

Building Towards a Comprehensive Registry Failover Plan



from <http://www.icann.org/announcements/announcement-4-01jun07.htm>

The 2006-2007 ICANN Operating Plan (<http://www.icann.org/announcements/operating-plan-22jun06.htm>) describes the series of projects and deliverables based on the ICANN Strategic Plan (<http://www.icann.org/announcements/strategic-plan-22jun06.htm>). According to the Operating Plan, ICANN is to “establish a comprehensive plan to be followed in the event of financial, technical or business failure of a registry operator, including full compliance with data escrow requirements and recovery testing” (see Section 1.1.2).

This report is being prepared as part of the registry failover project to provide guidance to ICANN and the Internet community in the event of a registry failure. This is not intended to be a policy document. The registry failover project poses a complex set of issues that involve ICANN’s mission in both ensuring DNS stability and promoting competition. Following the 29th ICANN International Public Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, ICANN will synthesize a best practices document describing registry failover mechanisms. These mechanisms will also provide guidance or be incorporated into ICANN’s new gTLD process potentially as a best practices contractual requirement.

ICANN has conducted a review of the critical functions of a registry, examined transition of a registry from one operator to another, and examined potential failure scenarios. This report finds that the identification of critical functions, along with establishment of best practices by registries will assist ICANN in the event that a registry failure occurs. ICANN has identified a number of scenarios that require further examination and discussion before a registry failover plan can be adopted. This report provides the elements of the registry failover plan and initial recommendations based on current registry practices. These elements include best efforts at geographic diversity of name servers, the creation and testing of registry contingency plans, the establishment of a clear communications plan and identification of a failure as a temporary or long-term condition.

Next Steps

In order to provide guidance to the development of the comprehensive registry failover plan, ICANN is seeking input from all interested stakeholders on the issues described in this report. The scenarios described in this report are intended to serve as examples that will help inform and guide failover plan development. This report will also be discussed in a public forum session during the 29th ICANN International Public Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico (details to be announced when the meeting agenda is posted). Comments on this report may be submitted to registry-failure-report@icann.org through 28 June 2007 23:59 UTC and may be viewed at <http://forum.icann.org/lists/registry-failure-report/>. In addition, the report will also be posted on the ICANN blog to provide an additional venue for comments and discussion on this topic.

This is ICANN’s first study of registry failure, and represents a significant document with information for existing registries, future registries, registrars and registrants. The report will be discussed at the 29th ICANN International Public Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico as part of a public forum on protections for registrants.

Please take the time to read the report and provide your comments at registry-failure-report@icann.org. Comments may also be viewed at <http://forum.icann.org/lists/registry-failure-report/>.

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