

Annual Report 2016



AN OVERVIEW OF THE CHAPTER'S 2016 ACTIVITIES



Internet Society
US San Francisco
Bay Area Chapter

FOREWORD

The San Francisco Bay Area Internet Society Chapter is proud to be the largest Internet Society chapter in the world, with around 2,000 members. As an organization bridging Silicon Valley with the rest of the globe, we are well positioned to advocate for the core values of the Internet Society with our vision that "The Internet is for Everyone".

In 2016, thanks to our members and generous supporters, we launched some exciting projects and held several successful events, and invite you to look back on a year of accomplishments.

Special thanks to Vint Cerf, one of the 'fathers of the Internet' and Google's Chief Internet Evangelist, and our other guest speakers for supporting our main event of the year, the IoT Conference. Additionally, we thank all our other partners, and the Board for making 2016 a great success.



Throughout 2016, we achieved increased membership engagement, held successful regional community events, represented the Chapter at several regional and international conferences, forged a closer working relationship with Global ISOC and built upon strategic partnerships with ICANN, ARIN and Silicon Valley organizations.

Additionally, we are proud to have been awarded ISOC Beyond the Net Grants in support of our events and projects. These accomplishments, in conjunction with the recently introduced SF-Bay Area Chapter Sponsorship Program and Working Groups, provide strong foundations for continued success in 2017 and the future

Leah Symekher, Chair.

LEADERSHIP

A nimble organization, our work is largely organized by a talented and committed Board of Directors. Throughout the year, Leah Symekher continued to lead the executive team as Chapter President & Chair for a third term.

One of the important accomplishments in 2016 was adding new officers to the Board: Susannah Gray, an expert in global Internet governance, Internet infrastructure and multi-stakeholder communication, joined the Chapter in June as Vice Chair.

Janet Vong, who works at YouTube/Google as a content policy expert, joined as Manager of Membership Communications and Engagement in April.

Volunteers

We additionally encouraged volunteers to support the Chapter: Since December, Kristen Quan, who is an active member of our Chapter began supporting the Board as the Chapter's Social Media volunteer. Kristen has previously interned for



From left: Chapter founders and former Board Members Konstantin Kalaitzidis and Annalisa Rogers, Google's Chief Internet Evangelist Vint Cerf, Board Members Jim Ausman and Eve Edelson, former Board Chair Micheal Snell, and Leah Symekher, President & Chair.



ICANN in Washington D.C. and has a background in International Studies and global stakeholder engagement. Additional volunteers in 2016 include: Konstantin Kalaitzidis, former Vice Chair and Yasmeen Mwacity Ahlan, student at Foothill College, who provided support during the IoT conference.

Farewell

In 2017 the Board will say goodbye to Janet Vong in April after a one year commitment and Jim Ausman, long-time Board Member, who after long and dedicated service will move on to other commitments.

Jean-Jacques Subrenat, the Chapter's Global Representative, will step down from the Board but will continue to work with the Board as Advisor to the Board on global matters. These three board members will still provide support, continuity and guidance as Chapter members. We accomplished so much in 2016 only through the indispensable work of our Board, and we thank them all.

Find out more about our Board members [here](#).

JOIN THE BOARD

We invite you to strengthen your unique skill-sets by applying to join the Board.

In this career-enhancing opportunity, you will help lead this nonprofit to reinforce global Internet freedoms, access, security and policy development.

Open Board positions are available [here](#). There is no financial requirement for Board members.



As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity, the SF Bay-Area ISOC Chapter's work is funded entirely by donations, sponsorships and grants. In 2016, we continued to build capacity as we worked on improving the open development, evolution and access to the Internet.

In October, we launched our Sponsorship Program, which will provide a channel to build stronger relationships with other organizations both regionally and globally as well as enable us to put on more events and activities for our members and stakeholders, both regionally and globally.

By becoming a sponsor, you will showcase your support on our website, get free tickets to our (paid) events, and gain recognition through our community and network of affiliate organizations.

Learn more about how your organization can support us.

DONATE

The SF-Bay Area ISOC Chapter does not charge a membership fee to its members. We welcome financial and in-kind donations to support our work.

Find out more about how you can support your chapter [here](#).

EVENTS

We are proud to have hosted and organized three successful events in 2016.

INET IoT Conference

We hosted the INET Internet of Things (IOT) conference in February to explore the profound changes in the Internet of massive data collection involved in attaching objects to sensors. Our keynote speaker, Vint Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist at Google, spoke on maintaining safety, security, and privacy in IoT. The conference was highly attended and was also live-streamed for our online audience.

A wide-ranging group of speakers and sponsors helped us make this event possible and continue to support the Chapter to this day. We thank them for their support. You can still learn from [slides](#) from the event and watch the recording [online](#).



Karen Rose, Internet Society's former Senior Director, Strategy and Analysis, presenting at the INET IoT conference in 2016.

INET-Internet of Things Conference
February 18th, 2016
Computer History Museum
1401 N Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA

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Computer History Museum

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EVENTS

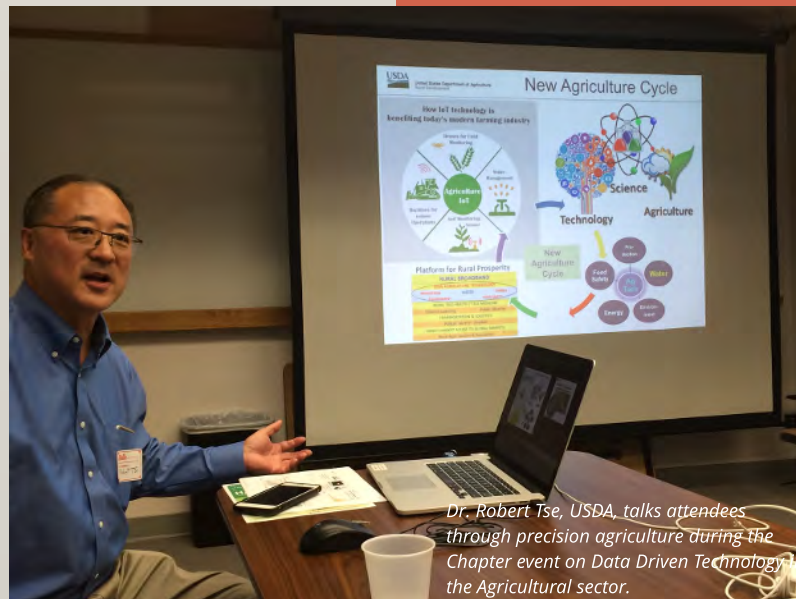
Precision Agriculture

In June, we held a membership event in collaboration with the Internet Systems Consortium (ISC). The event highlighted the growing need to maintain food security through the power of data-driven technology.

Dr. Robert Tse, State Broadband Coordinator, U.S. Department of Agriculture explained how, despite disruptive events like climate change, population increase, and labor changes, data-driven agriculture through IOT and biotechnology can increase productivity and maintain food access.

GOT AN IDEA FOR AN EVENT?

Do you have a project you're working on that you'd like other Chapter members to get involved in? [Let us know!](#)



Dr. Robert Tse, USDA, talks attendees through precision agriculture during the Chapter event on Data Driven Technology in the Agricultural sector.

EVENTS

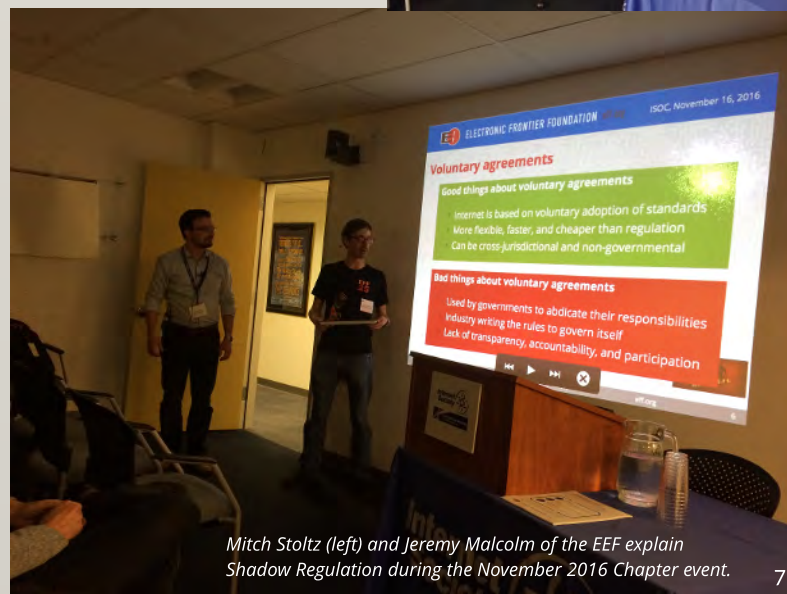
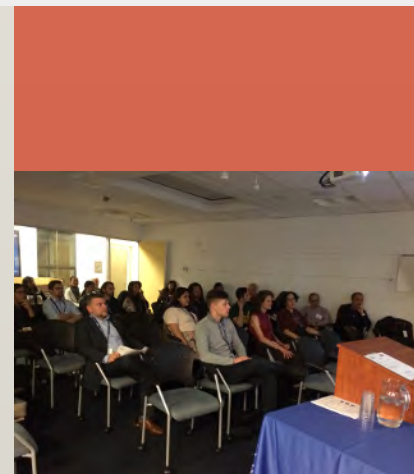
Shadow Regulation

Our latest Chapter event in November 2016 tackled an oft-ignored issue: Shadow Regulations, which are back-room agreements among companies that regulate Internet content.

Keynote speakers from the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) shared tactics on making this part of Internet infrastructure more transparent and accountable in order to better secure net neutrality.

This event was made possible by financial support from the global Internet Society through a [Beyond the Net Funding](#) small grant.

A video recording is available [here](#).



Mitch Stoltz (left) and Jeremy Malcolm of the EFF explain Shadow Regulation during the November 2016 Chapter event.

EVENTS

Stakeholder Engagement with ICANN

An important meeting with Chris Mondini, ICANN's VP of Stakeholder Engagement NA, Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to the President - Stakeholder Engagement, and Adam Peake, Senior Manager Accountability was held at the Google Headquarters in San Francisco.

This event, organized together with ICANN, provided members with the opportunity to discuss ICANN's goals, stakeholder model, the IANA oversight transition and the Chapter's responsibility as an ICANN At-Large Structure (ALS).

Meeting the ISOC Global Team

Another valuable event was a social evening held at Novela Restaurant in San Francisco and sponsored by the Internet Society.

This event provided Chapter members with the unique opportunity to interact with Internet Society executives from Reston, VA, and Geneva, Switzerland.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Both these events supported our efforts for closer collaboration and communication with ICANN and the Internet Society.



PROJECTS

In December, we received funding to break important ground on bridging California's Rural/Urban digital divide and assist with food security. The Chapter received a grant through ISOC's Beyond the Net funding program to support the "Bridging California's Rural/Urban Digital Divide with Mobile Broadband" project, which will collect data to analyze why farmers in Yolo County aren't receiving the mobile broadband performance they need to grow food efficiently with precision agriculture.

Measuring Rural Broadband

Many rural communities in California lack reliable, fast mobile broadband that can keep them competitive with global agriculture and safeguard our environment. The result is that rural economies in California are falling behind due to inadequate broadband access. Information collected will be used to report to state officials and inform public policy making on rural broadband. With support from the Internet Society, the Chapter will be working with California State University (CSU) Geographical Information Center (GIC), Chico, and Valley Vision in order to develop the most robust report it can.

Keep up to date with this project's progress through our [website](#).

The Chapter is proud to be working together with California State University (CSU) Geographical Information Center (GIC), Chico, and Valley Vision to help bridge the state's rural/urban digital divide.





In October, we pre-launched the SF-Bay Area Chapter Working Groups. Chapter Working Groups (WGs) comprise subject-matter experts and other interested parties working together to achieve specified goals. Their mission is to facilitate information dissemination to the Board, engage Chapter members and general public as well as to promote the Chapter and ISOC mission and goals.

There are three active WGs dedicated to achieving critical goals our members focused on in the 2016 Membership Survey. One, on Internet Governance, seeks to foster open dialogue between all stakeholders to ensure the continued stability and global availability of the Internet. Another, on Data Protection, Privacy, and Security, seeks to make recommendations, disseminate information and reinforce understanding to safeguard these digital rights. The final group, on IOT, Internet Technologies and Access, seeks to enhance understanding of IoT, issues around access, critical Internet infrastructure, innovation and open standards.

We still have an opening for the chair position for the working groups on IoT, Internet Technologies and Access and welcome applications from Chapter members located in the Bay Area. We also encourage all Chapter members to get involved in the working groups. [Contact us](#) to express your interest.

OUR CHAIRS

We are honored to welcome Ms. Brandie Nonnecke, a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) at UC Berkeley, as the WG Chair for the SF-Bay Area Working Group on Internet Governance. She brings her expertise on information and communications technology for development, law, policy, and emerging technologies to the group.

We are equally honored to welcome Ms. Jackie Kerr, Research Affiliate, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) at Stanford University and Post Doctoral Research Fellow, Center for Global Security Research (CGSR), Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, as the WG Chair for Working Group on Data Protection, Privacy and Security. Jackie brings a wealth of experience in cybersecurity and information security strategy, Internet governance, and the Internet policies of non-democratic regimes.



On October 1, 2016, the global Internet reached a historic milestone enabling the stewardship of the IANA functions (domain names, Internet number resources and Internet protocols) to be transitioned to the global Internet community, signaling the end of a 20-year process. The global Internet community worked tirelessly to develop a robust, consensus-based proposal that was acceptable to the US Government's NTIA, legitimizing the Internet community's long-standing, collaborative approach to governing critical Internet resources.

Civil Society Letter of Support

The Chapter helped support this historic milestone. Along with several other civil society organizations, the SF Bay Area Chapter signed a letter of support for the IANA Oversight Transition. This letter was submitted to Congress ahead of the Congressional hearing entitled Protecting Internet Freedom: Implications of Ending U.S. Oversight of the Internet, which took place on Wednesday, September 14th, and was passed on October 1st. The letter stressed the urgency of securing the Internet's open access by fulfilling the goal of multistakeholder governance.

Find out more about the IANA Oversight Transition [here](#).

THE IANA FUNCTIONS

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions are :

- Management of the DNS Root Zone (assignments of ccTLDs and gTLDs) along with other functions such as the .int and .arpa zones.
- Coordination of the global IP and AS number spaces, such as allocations made to Regional Internet Registries.
- Management of the central repository for protocol name and number registries used in many Internet protocols.

The IANA functions coordinate the Internet's globally unique identifiers, and are provided by Public Technical Identifiers (PTI), an affiliate of ICANN.

INDUSTRY OUTREACH

Aside from the three Chapter events held in 2016, the Board has represented the interests of the Chapter members at the following industry events.

- ▶ Net Neutrality, Connecting the Next Billion to the Internet event at Microsoft in Silicon Valley.
 - ▶ *The SF-Bay ISOC Chapter was one of the sponsoring organizations for this event joined by TechSoup and Churchill Club. The event was organized by SDG Nexus, founded by Ritu Sharma, an active member of the Chapter.*
- ▶ RightsCon 2016 Silicon Valley
- ▶ People Centered Internet (PCI) Conference, San Francisco
- ▶ Internet Summit at CloudFlare, San Francisco
- ▶ ARIN 38, Dallas, Texas



Vint Cerf speaks during the PCI Conference.



Panel Session during RightsCon 2016.



L-R. ARIN38 Fellow, Leah Symekher (Chair), Susannah Gray (Vice Chair), John Curran (ARIN CEO), Vint Cerf (Chief Internet Evangelist, Google), Alfredo Calderon (ISOC Puerto Rico Chapter Board Member), ARIN38 Fellow - ARIN38 Meeting 2016.

NARALO

In 2016, SFBay ISOC Chapter Board Representatives to ICANN's North America Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO), Eve Edelson and Leah Symekher continued to actively participate in the monthly NARALO meetings, elections, and provide input to support RALO activities and events.

The Chapter Chair & President Leah Symekher, was a successful recipient for NARALO-CROPP funding to attend the ARIN 38 conference, which took place in Dallas, Texas, in October.

More participation is expected in 2017, especially with NARALO hosting of the At-Large General Assembly in April.



Leah Symekher (Chair), Alfredo Calderon (ISOC Puerto Rico Chapter Board) and Susan Hamlin (Director, Communications and Member Services at ARIN) during ARIN38.

WHAT IS NARALO

The SF-Bay Area Chapter participates in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) community as an At-Large Structure (ALS). Within ICANN, the At-Large Community acts on the interests of Internet users and works to ensure that the Internet continues to serve the global public interest. ALSes are grouped together on a regional basis in Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs).

The SF-Bay Area Chapter is part of the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO). NARALO encompasses all Internet end-users in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. Together with other regions, it has a direct impact on the ICANN's direction and works to ensure that the expansion of the Internet serves the public interest.



In order to better guide the actions of the Chapter, we reached out to our members in August with a 2016 Chapter Member Survey. Members stated their biggest concerns were Internet governance and data protection/security, followed closely by freedom of speech, intellectual property, privacy, and Internet stability.

We have members all over the world, and so many were interested in networking and live-streamed events. Member surveys are an important avenue for guiding the direction of the Chapter, and this survey is driving the direction of our working groups.

We encourage you to make your voice heard by participating in our next survey or by contacting us.

OUTREACH

We worked hard in 2016 to improve our outreach efforts, focus on issues that are important to our members and improve communication methods.

We reached out more, with regular membership updates, an improved news section on the website, improved events section, more interactions on social media, and a live-streamed event.

Know that we're listening to your feedback and will keep improving in 2017 with your help!

Let's connect on Facebook and Twitter.



In 2017, we plan to further increase our presence in the Bay Area through more outreach, Chapter events and interaction with our members, the wider community and the many tech corporations in the area. In 2017, we'll also focus on the following:

- ▶ Getting our **Working Groups** up and running.
- ▶ Inspiring **NextGen** and **Academia**: helping the next generation of Internet leaders get involved.
- ▶ Corporate interests and policy development: **leveraging partnerships** and common values with Silicon Valley leaders and Internet industry organizations.
- ▶ Agriculture sector: California's economy depends on agriculture and 'tech-ag' is big business in our region. We will help support **Precision Agriculture** to secure food and improve the environment while improving Internet access.
- ▶ Sponsorship Program: developing **strategic partnerships** with regional organizations to support the Chapter's work.
- ▶ **Working with you**: offering meaningful opportunities through events, working groups, projects and volunteer openings, communicating about our work online, and listening to your feedback, always.

ABOUT US

The San Francisco Bay Area ISOC Chapter serves California, including the Bay Area and Silicon Valley, by promoting the core values of the Internet Society.

Through its work, the Chapter promotes open development, evolution and access to the Internet for those in its geographical region and beyond. With almost 2,000 members, the Chapter is one of the world's largest. As a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity, the SF Bay-Area ISOC Chapter's work is funded entirely by donations, sponsorships and grants.

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CONTACT US

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