

Af* introduction

Origin of Af*

- Roots at INET 95 in Hawaii when a group met on sidelines to discuss African inclusion
- INET 96 program committee accepted and hosted first meeting of African Networking Symposium (ANS) in Montreal
- The theme for the event was “Beyond basic connectivity in Africa”



The Internet Society is pleased to have offered this vitally important in-depth day-long African Networking Symposium, that addressed a range of highly pertinent technology and policy issues affecting Internet development in Africa. [Papers](#) and discussions between participants assessed the progress made to improve connectivity. Discussions were held about practical solutions regarding the further deployment of Internet applications in Africa.

The focus was on enhancing Africa's Internet infrastructure, content and expertise. Pragmatic, clearly-focused and comprehensive, the Symposium presented cutting-edge information on current and emerging technical and policy issues confronting African educators, technologists and policy-makers.

The theme of the Symposium was "Beyond Basic Connectivity in Africa" and [presentations](#) were made on the results of several international connectivity projects and on pressing Internet-related issues facing African nations today.

The African Networking Symposium keynote speech was delivered by the Honorable Cmdr. P. M. G. Griffiths, Dep. Minister of Communication for the Government of Ghana. Symposium papers addressed the status of various African Internet-related activities. The Symposium also included African country/regional reports and distinct panel sessions on:

- [Leland Initiative](#)
- the [Sustainable Development Network Program](#)
- the Orstom Initiatives ... and [more](#).

(You can also view these copies of the presentations at the website of the [Ghana Chapter of the Internet Society](#) if that is closer to you.)

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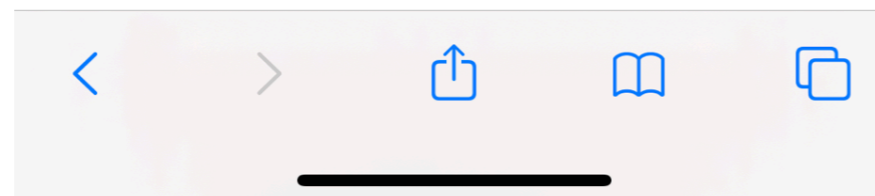
Presentations

The African Networking Symposium grew out of the activities of a group of African participants at the 1996 Developing Countries Workshop in Montreal, an activity of the Society.

At that time, about 250 participants were trained in depth in networking technology, use and management, in a one week workshop preceding the conference.

African participants convened and decided to share their experiences informally. Interest in the topic was sufficiently high that the Internet Society decided to formalize it as one of the events surrounding the annual conference.

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- [Papers](#)



Af* initial description

- During establishment of ICANN, there was renewed interest in African inclusion
- At Cotonou conference, December 1998, an Update titled “Emerging African Internet Institutions” was presented.
- It turned out to be a proposal for Af*
- Mentioned a forum, listed institutions and roles, types of governance, financing model and named leaders, focal points and contacts

Emerging African Internet Institutions

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15, December 1998

Af* intent

- Loose coordination of independent institutions collaborating in ecosystem
- Forum for regular contacts among institutions and initiatives
- The initial list included: AIG, AFTLD, AFRINIC, African Chapters, AfNOG, ISPs, AISI, RENs, CIX, commercial content

Status update

- In 22 years, we have these at this meeting: AfNOG, AFRINIC, AfTLD, AfREN, dotafrica, AfRegistrar, AfricaCert, ISOC Africa, ICANN Africa, AUC Information Society
- We held meetings on sidelines of other meetings
- Some groups disappear (ISPs, Content), some new (AfRegistrar, dotafrica, ICANN Africa, AfricaCert), others transformed (AISI-> AUC IS, Chapters->ISOC Africa,)
- These remain: AfNOG, AFRINIC, AfTLD, AfREN

What's the glue?

- Common interest of building Internet in Africa
- Share philosophy of openness and multi stakeholder bottom up approach
- Act as resources to each other (share resources)
- We maintain a 'Guiding principles' so we don't step on each other

The seed

- Afnog self formed as the initial community (a port of ISOC NTW)
- The rest we shall learn about from the institutions here

Guiding principles

- Objective
- Organisation
- Some activities
- Forum participants
- Procedures

Objectives

- Purpose is each organization become the other's keeper
- A Synchronizing Forum on public positions on internet related issues
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- To collaborate in internet development in Africa

Objective (2)

- To promote cooperation among organizations and within the larger community
- Retain shared IPR, trademarks and domains of the Forum

Organisation

- loose and lightweight organization as a cooperation of Af* organizations
- voluntary participation of organizations
- organizational members are legal entities in Africa
- associate members are global I* organizations and African inter governmental organizations

- Consent of Associate members shall be formally sought on communique and other consensus decisions prior to public mention
- As a lightweight organization, associated costs are expected to be kept very minimal
- Time by time, member organizations will be required to voluntarily share operational costs based on each and everyone's abilities

Some Activities

- African Internet Summit (AIS) is principal conference
- Synchronizing programs at annual AIS
- Public statements, communiquees and events
- Developing joint award and recognition program

Forum participants

- Afnog, Afrinic, Aftld, DotAfrica, AfRegistrar,
- Wacren (Afren), Africacert, AUC, ISOC Africa, ICANN Africa

Procedures

- consensus decision making
- non binding decision
- participating organization can negotiate an agenda item
- meetings driven by reports, updates and discussions

Secretariat

- Senior members of community who convene and moderate Af* meetings
- Folks helping in individual capacities are: Nancy Dotse, Pierre Ouedraogo, Adiel Akplogan, Alain Aina

Intellectual Property Rights update

Common brands

- African Internet Summit (AIS)
- Af*, Af Star

Shared trademarks

- African Internet Summit (AIS) registered in South Africa (registered by Afrinic)

Shared domain names

- Internetsummitafrica.org (registered by Nii Quaynor and transferred to Afrinic)
- Internetsummit.africa (registered by Afrinic)
- Afstar.org (registered by Nii Quaynor)
- Stars.africa (reserved by Nii Quaynor)

Domain names we reserved on behalf of others

- ren.africa (claimed)
- internetsummit.africa (claimed)
- tld.africa (?)
- rir.africa (?)
- cert.africa (?)

Discussion

- How do you manage IPRs for your organizations?
- How do we manage our shared IPRs?
- Some marks are in use, others claimed, others are yet to claim while others are reserved
- Incorporate Trust holdings?
- What is the way forward ?