

Internet Challenges and Leadership Opportunities for Taiwan in this Decade
Steve Crocker
Edgemoor Research Institute

Thirty-nine years ago, on 1 January 1983, was TCP Flag Day. The Arpanet switched from its original protocol to the TCP/IP suite and became the backbone of today's Internet. The Internet now serves half the world's population and is an integral part of every country's economy. A big success. Are we done? Not quite. Several challenges confront us.

- Cybercrime, terrorism, ransomware, child abuse and other ills continue to pose threats to us, and the numbers are getting worse. The bad guys seem to be winning.
- Political polarization is leading to increasing forms of fracture. Phrases like "Internet sovereignty" make it clear the Internet is no longer seen as a technological benefit to the entire world. Instead, in many countries the Internet is seen as either a threat to political control, a method of exerting political control, or both.
- Despite the incredible growth in bandwidth and connectivity, parts of the Internet remain fragile. In early October this year, Facebook was down across the world for six hours. How protected are we from other catastrophic disruptions and what can be done to prevent them?

None of these has easy or quick fixes. But there are various things we can and should do.

- Schools of Internet Governance, both physical and virtual, have sprung up across the world. This is a good trend. But notably absent is an emphasis on the technical side of the Internet. I'd like to see Internet School of Technical Governance.
- East Asia has traditionally been less represented than other parts of the globe. It's time more east Asian participation – and particularly for east Asian leadership in global Internet organizations.
- One area of personal interest is the data related to DNS registrations. Traditionally referred to as WHOIS and more recently as Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS). I will share the work I've been involved in over the past few years aimed at taking a fresh look at the rules for collection and access to registration data.