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Internet Governance Project Newsletter
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...current events in Internet Governance and the activities of the Internet Governance Project. <http://www.internetgovernance.org>

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[1] The Rio Internet Governance Forum
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The Rio IG Forum is over and a variety of criticisms and praises are being made of it.

Milton Mueller argues that "too much of the energy of the Forum and its participants is being thrown away on issues that have nothing to do with global governance of the Internet. IGF 2 was so cluttered with dialogue about things that do not require or will never get international coordination or agreement that it was impossible to focus on the things that do."

<http://blog.internetgovernance.org/blog/_archives/2007/11/27/3379397.html>

Brenden Kuerbis compares the IGF to the UN Environment Program and explains that the Forum may be emerging as a "a clearinghouse for knowledge acquisition and assessment concerning Internet governance" and "a magnet for the academic community to discuss Internet governance ideas."

<http://blog.internetgovernance.org/blog/_archives/2007/12/5/3393138.html>

Robert Faris from the Berkman Center offers an amusing set of anecdotes about his days at the IGF and asks (without suggesting an answer) the question we are all asking: "how the exchanges of opinions can be aggregated and channeled into something genuinely useful."

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<http://www.interesting-people.org/archives/interesting-people/200711/msg00112.html>>

John Mathiason tries to answer that question; looking forward to the New Delhi meeting, he argues that the real problem facing Internet governance is not "access", "openness," "security" and "diversity," which everyone can agree are "good things," but how you handle the tradeoffs between them.

<http://blog.internetgovernance.org/blog/_archives/2007/12/5/3393601.html>

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[2] IGF Workshop Summary: DNSSEC: Securing a Critical Internet Resource
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IGP's workshop on DNSSEC in Rio drew approximately 80-90 attendees from government, civil society, the private sector and technical communities. While the multi-stakeholder panel brought a diversity of opinions regarding DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC), they agreed that improving the security of the Internet's infrastructure is an important activity which should be pursued.

In general, there are two camps concerning the deployment of DNSSEC, which is a technical standard that requires coordination among many actors to be successfully deployed on a wide-scale basis. One side is ready to proceed

with deployment, particularly the hurdle of creating a "trust anchor" and digitally signing the root zone file. The other is more cautious in its approach, believing that the successful deployment of DNSSEC is subject to many open technical and governance questions.

Read the entire workshop report on IGP Blog:

<http://blog.internetgovernance.org/blog/_archives/2007/12/5/3393475.html>

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[3] IGF Workshop Summary: Public Policy on the Internet
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This lively meeting at the Rio IGF took up the question of how governments should relate to the internet, and specifically what was intended by the Tunis Agenda's call for the "development of globally-applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources" and what kind of "globally applicable principles" could be applied to the Internet? The sharp exchanges between Paul Twomey and other panelists and the audience was recorded and can be replayed via E-lluminate software.

Install Elluminate so you can view the workshop:

<<http://internetgovernance.org/usinglluminate.html>>

View/listen to the workshop:

<
http://cotelcocave.syr.edu/play_recording.html?recordingId=1194958871165_1195070252273>

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[4] Internationalized TLDs (iTLDs): Government Land Grab?
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The introduction of internationalized domain names (IDNs) offers the world one of the best opportunities it will ever have to introduce more diversity and competition into the domain name registry market. Unfortunately, the politics within ICANN are threatening that opportunity. There is a move afoot to give country code TLD registries a free gift of an IDN top level domain -- or maybe two, or three, six or even twenty free gifts by the time ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee and CCNSO gets done with it.

Read more on IGP Blog:

<http://blog.internetgovernance.org/blog/_archives/2007/12/5/3392238.html>

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[5] DNSSEC: Distributed Root Signing Arrangement Being Discussed
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In a promising sign that policy discussions regarding critical internet resources are responding to IGP advocacy and IG Forum discussions, the DNSSEC-Deployment group is now discussing options for distributing root signing authority using a threshold signature scheme. This turn in the debate shows that constructive criticism and discussion of DNSSEC governance arrangements can indeed lead to improvements, despite early resistance to even discussing the topic.

Read more at IGP Blog:

<http://blog.internetgovernance.org/blog/_archives/2007/12/5/3393603.html>

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[6] Upcoming IG Events & Opportunities
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2-7 December 2007, Vancouver, BC, Canada
70th Internet Engineering Task Force
<<http://www.ietf.org/meetings/70-IETF.html>>

10-15 February 2008, New Delhi, India
31st International Public ICANN Meeting
<<http://del.icann.org/>>

26 February 2008, Geneva, Switzerland
IGF Stocktaking and AG Planning Meeting
<<http://www.intgovforum.org/>>

Rockwood Fellowship Program in Media, Communications & Information Policy

Launched in 2006 with the goal to support current and emerging leaders, with experience in media policy advocacy, research, organizing, and media production to move to the next level of personal and collective effectiveness. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2008. To apply or nominate a leader, contact Stacy Kono <stacy@rockwoodleadership.org>, or download an application here <http://rockwoodleadership.org/doc/2008_Media_Fellow_Application_Form.doc >

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