

Internet Society
Board of Trustees meeting
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Internet Society Nederland

Internet voor iedereen

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Quick outline

- ISOC.nl was started in 1997
- Seed money from government to start things up
- Getting the 'movers and shakers' of the Netherlands together

Very successful indeed

- Strong growth in individual and organisational membership
- Presided by former minister
- Good corporate and governmental participation (at top approx 100 participants and 1500 members)
- High levels of sponsorship (up to 45kEuro)
- Annual budget of 1.5 million dollar
- Right people, right time, right place
- Then they hired me as staff member

But before I started

- The board replaced founding director Jan Prins by a new, expensive guy
 - (actually, the treasurer of the board had himself hired for a scandalous amount of money – essentially a blank cheque – to do a little bookkeeping before that)
- Our new director was instantly available because he had just gone bankrupt for the second time

What happened then

- Overly ambitious behaviour with recklessness and even bluff: we hired the largest congress facility in the country for a free event – but there were no sponsors
- Plunged into debt, and dot com crash took breath away from many participants
- Entire office (10 persons) went up in air – almost

We just didn't give up

- Kept work and activities going
- Moved offices to Amsterdam where we could sit for free at the Science Park and get some support
- Some core organisations (VKA, Stelvio) supported us selflessly – with fatal causes for some of them
- A group led by Koos Andriessen went round to get money everywhere and sanitized existing debts
- Board was renewed with very motivated people, some of whom you met
- In 2004 we passed the black figures again, and (we are still gaining speed)

Situation 2006

- Now about 800 members of which 10% pay out of their own pocket, the rest is either paid for by their organisations or is exempt from payment (which is voluntary)
- One person part time staff (me) – this is way too little

Some successful activities...

- Masterclasses about IETF/W3C/GGF standards
 - Over twenty so far with Steve Deering, Carl Kesselman, Fred Baker, Ivan Hermann, etc.
 - Formula: one afternoon of immersion in a technology by someone who was there when it was thought up
 - These draw in 50 to 100 people, from academia and corporations to government
 - For this we collaborate with W3C Benelux and Gridforum Netherlands, of which we are a founding partner

A monthly newsletter

- Inside ISOC.nl
 - This is the heartbeat of the Netherlands chapter; about 4000 people subscribe to it
 - Includes a job corner with global opportunities at places like W3C, ICANN, etc. and jobs in the Netherlands

Paper output

- A number of influential and less influential reports
- Typically three ways to achieve them:
 - a hand picked committee of unpaid experts with paid professional staff to support
 - a working group that has a couple of people that are prepared to take responsibilities
 - (a series of) consultation meeting(s) and/or interviews with members and experts, written by staff

Trips to international events

- Lead a Netherlands delegation to international conferences etc.
- Not as easy as during dot com period but still a valid idea because it connects local community with the global one

ISOC.nl Awards

- We get leading politicians, artists, engineers etc. to sit on a number of juries
- Our members nominate in a number of categories
- We signal to the community what is 'the right thing to do' - best current practises really

Educating politics and administrations

- Through press releases, informal and formal invitations, interviews
- If something in the internet happens, you know who to call

Working groups

- Some very active working groups
 - E-projects (wrote book)
 - Mobile internet
 - Free and Libre Open Source Software (FLOSS)
 - Internet marketing
- These bring peers and potential partners together
- They come and they go:
 - once their mission is completed the people wait quietly for something new to do

Web repair initiative

- Fixing all the important open source CMS-es to comply with standards and be fully accessible
- Early phase
- Interest from W3C to collaborate here

The future of VoIP

- Annual conference that brings together experts, users, operators on SIP & ENUM. Next edition: november 2006.
- SIP is seen as a strategic new standard that will shake the telecoms industry, but it can do more
- Ambitious new working group led by prof. Rob Meijer (University of Amsterdam) and with vice-chair Adrian Georgescu will start up in april this year

Projects: the SELF project

- Just got awarded, now in negotiation
- Led by ISOC.nl (Wouter Tebbens), seven partners including ISOC Bulgaria, Free Software Foundation Europe, three universities and a Brazilian foundation
- Budget 1 million Euro
- Goal: build a community for those that are involved with training and education materials for open source software.
- Wikipedia-like model
- Our biggest problem: 100% funded but too big for our own current budget

What can chapters do for ISOC?

- Chapters include many people with many skills and interesting resources
- We know our local press, politicians and companies
- We know our members by name and face
- We can present policies in other languages than English
- We are physically near our local internet communities and can reach outer circle of interested people and target specific sub groups

ISOC does not always think distributed yet

- If you want us to sell the 'product' as local value added resellers, you need more than one long list of directors on the website
- If every chapter organises two events per year (we do many more), you have a filled calendar all year round.

Things ISOC should do for chapters?

- We lack real-time information what ISOC is up to
 - Why can't we get RSS feeds or even early notification of press releases
- We want a federated global agenda utility to add 'our' ISOC events to – and we want it in our own website too

(more things to do)

- We hate doing administrative stuff (all of us) and are very bad at it. Very few chapters have arranged a decent online payment infrastructure – help us do it, and look at our conditions
- We may need your (now healthy) finances
- We need something like INET, to get together and see faces if we want to be a global community. Why not work together with W3C's annual get-together?

(more things to do)

- Inventorise who can do what for whom (matchmaking) – especially from North to South
- A place to advertise for partners for projects within the ISOC community
- We would like our members to be visible on the ISOC.org – there are no *people* on there