

**ISOC's participation in the ITU Telecom World 2006**  
**as chair of the Spam Workshop (8<sup>th</sup> December, Hong Kong)**  
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**Opening Remarks**

ISOC is very honored to chair the Spam event at ITU World Telecom 2006. This major event will be a great opportunity to gather the essential actors involved in this issue.

The issue of spam is now well known of. Users, industry, governments and international organizations have acknowledged its essential criteria and damages: it congests networks, increases costs and, finally, it ruins users' confidence.

Today, the need for security and confidence must be thought of as the counterpart of policies and initiatives in favor of Access. They were in fact clearly identified through the WSIS process as a priority for the immediate future (C5 Action Line of the Plan of action states with reason that: "confidence and security are among the main pillars of the Information society").

"Cooperation Agenda to Counter Spam", the title of the workshop, is an adequate response to the complex issue of spam. Indeed, in view of the global nature of spam, a multi-stakeholder approach and complementary initiatives are needed. All relevant stakeholders have an important role to play to secure the Internet, especially through partnerships; this implies public/private partnerships as well as multi-sector partnerships.

The Internet Society (ISOC) is a professional membership society with more than 100 organizations and over 20,000 individual members in over 180 countries, and is uniquely positioned to provide leadership in addressing issues that confront the future of the Internet. ISOC is the organization home for the groups responsible for Internet infrastructure standards, including the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Architecture Board (IAB).

At the moment, the IETF is focusing on one specific approach to email validation, namely Domain Keys Identified Mail (DKIM).

ISOC encourages policy makers to address spam through the coordination of various measures that leverage one another:

- Technical solutions constitute a core pillar in the battle against spam; it is essential that governments encourage private sector led innovation.
- Education and awareness building must ensure that users, from the individual to the organizational, understand the challenges and their respective responsibilities in addressing spam.
- International cooperation is essential given the global dimension of spam, and numerous initiatives have already been launched. An impressive set of initiatives have been undertaken in this area by governments, international organizations and industry mobilizing their efforts in concert.

- Regulatory measures should consist of a mix of appropriate national legislations coupled with self-regulation. Now is the time where the public and the private sectors must work closely together and share responsibilities. In the rapidly evolving environment of Internet, codes of conducts supported by governments are vital.

Additionally to publishing general information on issues on our website, ISOC also publishes Policy Primer pages that resume key points of policy actions. Concerning spam, ISOC recognizes that:

ISOC's on-line anti-spam policy primer

Anti-spam policies imply continuous and combined efforts in different fields:

- combining technical, legal and educational resources;
- engaging private and public sectors in a close collaboration process;
- collaborating at international level with intergovernmental and multilateral organizations.

ISOC is particularly thankful to the organizers of the ITU World Telecom 2006 for organizing this event on spam. There is no doubt it will provide all of us the opportunity to gain a clear perspective on the next important steps in the battle against spam.

**Useful links:**

ISOC Spam page: <http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/governance/spam.shtml>

ISOC Spam policy primer: <http://www.isoc.org/pubpolpillar/governance/spam-policy.shtml>

IETF DKIM working group: <http://www.ietf.org/html.charters/dkim-charter.html>