



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Internet governance

Our vision and the core principles that guide us

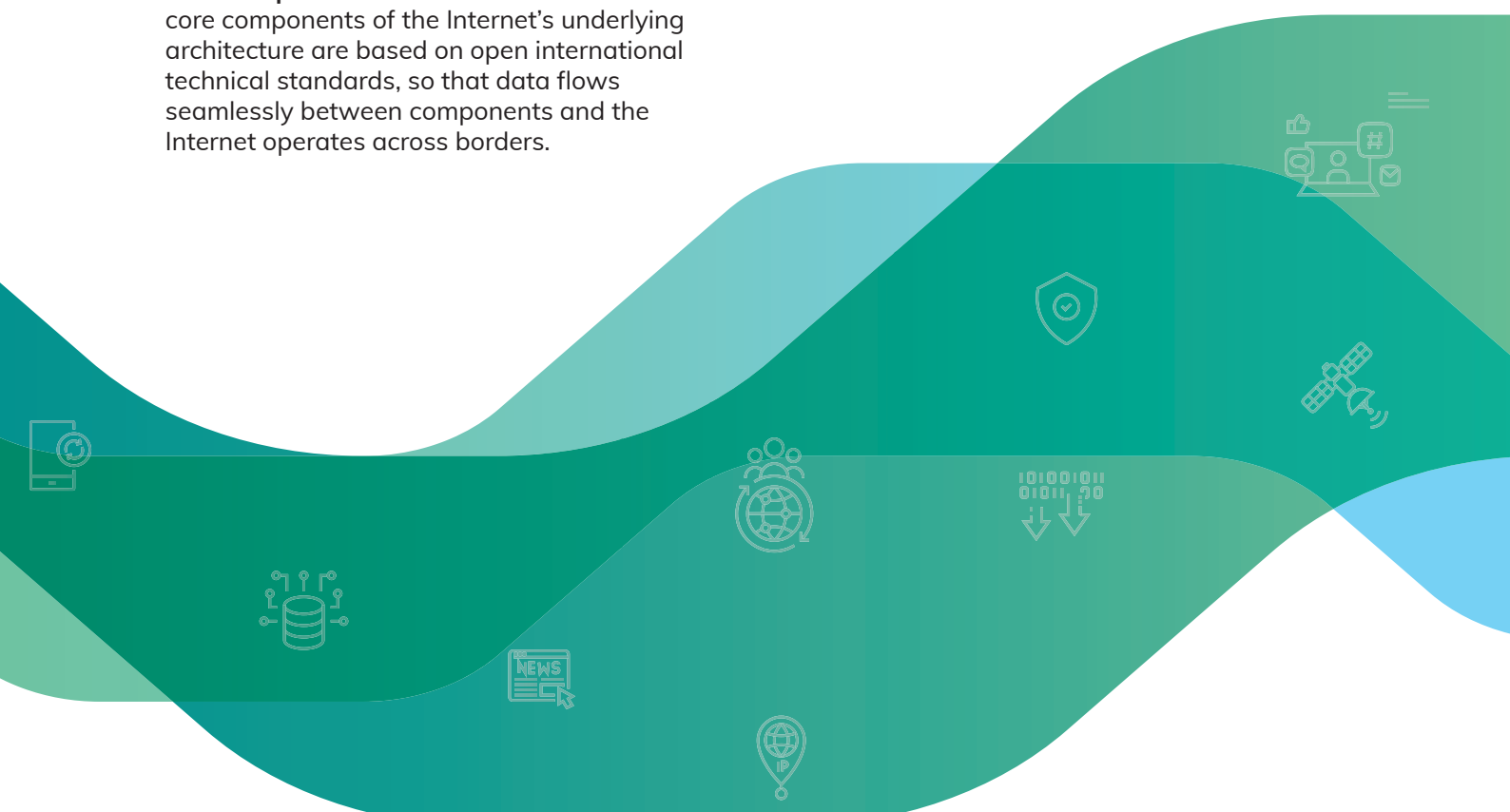
The Australian Government is committed to an open, free, secure and interoperable Internet, and a multistakeholder approach to the governance and technical management of the Internet.

Through our work, we strive for:

- An **open Internet** facilitates the free flow of information, enables permissionless innovation and allows users to participate freely.
- A **free Internet** means users do not face undue restrictions on their access to and use of the Internet, and fundamental freedoms and human rights are protected online as they are offline.
- A **secure Internet** is stable, reliable and resilient, which fosters trust.
- An **interoperable Internet** means that the core components of the Internet's underlying architecture are based on open international technical standards, so that data flows seamlessly between components and the Internet operates across borders.

We want an Internet that reflects Australia's commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democracy, inclusion and accessibility. Central to our vision is our collective responsibility to protect the Internet's core technical infrastructure and strengthen multistakeholder Internet governance.

To achieve our vision for the Internet, we have developed four key principles that guide our work.



Principle 1 – Protect the Internet’s core technical infrastructure as an essential shared global resource

- Australia’s society and economy relies on an open, secure and resilient global Internet, based on stable and secure core technical infrastructure. It is all of our responsibility to protect the Internet’s core and ensure the Internet is a common asset we can all benefit from.
- The government should actively protect the Internet’s core technical infrastructure from unnecessary actions that undermine its stability, resilience and interoperability.
- Open technical standards are essential to the stability, resilience and interoperability of the Internet and are the foundation of future digital development. Global standards development processes should be transparent, industry-led and represent consensus of technical community members.

Principle 2 – Promote and strengthen multistakeholder Internet governance

- Collaborative, inclusive multistakeholder governance has underpinned the Internet’s development and success so far. This is the best model for achieving our vision and creating the digital future we want, but it needs to evolve to meet contemporary demands and continue to effectively address concerns.
- Policy discussion and decision-making on critical Internet governance issues should remain in multistakeholder fora, where all stakeholders can contribute. Internet governance organisations should be effective, transparent, inclusive and accountable. Global coordination between these organisations should improve to meaningfully address digital issues.
- Australia should play an active role in shaping the next generation of Internet governance leaders.

Principle 3 – Engage and coordinate with the Australian stakeholder community

- Australia’s Internet governance stakeholders play a vital role in shaping how the Internet is governed. Our community is stronger when we work together. Therefore, we need to coordinate on digital policy issues that impact the Internet’s technical operation and how it is managed.
- Our ongoing engagement with the Australian stakeholder community, and their breadth of perspectives and expertise, is essential to the development of robust policy positions that reflect a multistakeholder view on Internet governance issues.
- The government should maintain close working relationships with the custodians of Australia’s country code top-level domains and numbering resources, to ensure these digital assets are managed effectively, transparently and responsibly.

Principle 4 – Promote Asia- Pacific engagement and regional interests in Internet governance

- The Asia-Pacific region is incredibly diverse. This diversity should be well represented in the international fora and processes where digital issues are discussed and our interests reflected in outcomes.
- Our region should be equipped to prosper from the digital economy and resilient to the challenges that emerge. Each of our neighbours faces specific challenges in leveraging the benefits of the Internet for their communities. We should share our expertise and work together to build our collective capacity to engage on digital issues.
- Developing and maintaining constructive and trusted relationships with our regional neighbours is critical. This helps us to better understand each other’s Internet governance priorities, collaborate on shared interests and identify any barriers to participation in multistakeholder processes.

Find out more:



Visit our Internet Governance webpage:

www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/internet/internet-governance



Contact the Internet Governance team at internetgovernance@communications.gov.au