

## Intlnet is 25 years old.

The secret of the "first ICANN" longevity? To stay as lean and innovative as the pioneers it salutes.

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**Versailles.** 25 years ago, on August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1978, JFC Morfin incorporated the SIAT non-profit association. Its purpose was to serve as a common secretariat to the benefit of the international packet switch public operators, private networks and users communities.

From 1978 to 1986, Intlnet pioneered and maintained the authoritative "INTL" file of all the packet switch operators, supporting them and their users, a role now ICANN partly assumes. This made the international system nicknamed "INTLnet", a name SIAT adopted in 1983.

To mark this day the Intlnet Board of Directors has decided to pay a special tribute to **LaRoy Times, Joe Rinde, Robert Tréhin, Jacques Hryb, Jean-Guy Barboteau, Dominique Marchand, Neil Sullivan** and **Vida Stafford** and to all those, starting with **Judge Green** from FCC, **Warren Prince, Bill Combs, Jack McDonnell** (former VP EIA, TNS Chairman and CEO), and **Bob McCormick** on the Tymnet side, **Larry Robert, Barry Westler, Jerry Rozenkranz** and **Paul Silverman** from the Telenet side, and to the many leading French, British, Belgian, Italian, Swiss, Spanish, European, Japanese, Australian, and people from all over the world and at the US IRCs, **Franz Vantongerloo, Bert Boutmy, Cess de Witt** from Philips, **Wayne McGlashan** from DuPont, **Charles Risk** from DataManagement, and the first one: **Saksida** from Esro/Esra, and so many others who pioneered the "Intlnet" from 1976 to 1986.

- **LaRoy Times** conceived the name space as part of the Tymnet technology. **Joe Rinde** made it a key technically and operationally reliable and stable element of the international network development. **Neil Sullivan** who was the first to join, shared in the first non proprietary server connection (NLM) and lead until he himself took over the International services.
- **Robert Tréhin** headed Tymnet European Operations when he created the International Names Space in 1977 with **Joe Rinde**, in proposing root names as the international network name of a foreign name space. He was then the real doer who started the INTL file and carried on his shoulders the international network development for years.
- **Jacques Hryb** installed in the 70s the first international public packet switch nodes for European telecom monopolies and operators, in London, Paris, Brussels, Frankfurt, Bern, Rome, Madrid, Lisbon, Wien, Amsterdam... he, and **Jean-Guy Barboteau** for the software, continued with the sophisticated multiservice and multiprotocol ISIS nodes
- **Dominique Marchand** was the key person from 1983 to 1986 in transferring the international naming system under the OSI X.121 numbering plan in a way that could have avoided the loss of naming services, together with **Vida Stafford**, the indefatigable and dedicated administrator of the Tymnet and of the International name space for so many years.

"On the Intlnet.org site we will progressively add one page per country, operator and private network to list all those who participated in the first decade", says JFC (Jefsey) Morfin. "We will use the 1983/84 version of the INTL file cover part that we retrieved". "Jefsey", who chaired Intlnet during most of its 25 years, adds "you may find that document at <http://intlnet.org/intl.htm>: It now looks interesting to see how the network was already developed when we registered the "arpa" name, 2 years before they created the IETF, when ITU had not yet stabilized OSI."

Asked about the secret of the Intlnet longevity, he does not hesitate: "to stay a lean catalyst organization, listening and servicing the users with imagination and work, in the friendly open consensus of the pioneers we celebrate today, and we really enjoyed to know and to assist".

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**INTLNET** - The SIAT/Intlnet is a non profit organization incorporated in 1978 as a support secretariat for the public international packet switch network services from national telecom monopolies, value added carriers such as Tymnet, Telenet and Uninet in the USA and International US or national common carriers. Its main initial tasks were to pioneer and maintain the "INTL file", as an authoritative technical and commercial international directory file, and to indistinctly service its listed operators, private networks, such as (later on) ARPA/Internet, and users communities, such as the first ccTLDs starting in the mid-80s.

Intlnet was founded as a convenient common working tool, by J-F C. Morfin, who animated, from 1978 to 1986, the international name space operated by Tymnet. JFC Morfin worked first with Robert Tréhin who introduced the "root" concept in 1977. He was then a Manager, European Relations for Tymnet International. A Director, Extended Services he used naming as a full service while pioneering concepts and models, which now found the Intlnet doctrine.

During that period, partly under the presidency of E. Catzefflis, Intlnet played a role comparable to a "lean ICANN". It also carried direct user support, monopoly political relations consulting and new products and services R&D. It attended CCITT (ITU-T) meetings (Group III) and supported the bi-yearly meetings of the public and private Value Added Networks and International Records Carriers (ISIS Club). It teamed with Tymnet, Telenet and the Cupertino based e-mail/telex gateway IEMS, for its support services.

In 1985, SIAT/Eurolab (its R&D space) tested the first international Minitel Gateway between France and USA. It assisted Tymnet and the international operators and private network community from 1984 to 1986 to transfer the naming system to the OSI X.121 addressing scheme. It proposed the Extended Network System model in 1985 and still keeps working on it, as a powerful tool to understand the network technical, societal and political architecture. This model shows the emergence of the brainware, the structural evolution of the user service continuity demands, and the necessary ways of the integration of the electronic relations systems to address the evolution of our today society.

From 1986, the OSI architecture, and a single namespace under ICANN did not provide until now a favorable network environment for extended services and community networks. So, Intlnet focussed on job assistance to international network professionals, network consulting to service operators and on several research experimental projects in line with his user community network and services interests? They were a telematic city (Télépole de Bretagne Nord with the CNET, the Brittany Region, BT, etc.), a multi-cpu/multi-technology real time operating system (MTX) an Anvar project (French R&D Agency), a proximity internet experience (Webs de France), the dot-root DNS test bed in cooperation with other European efforts.

Today, Intlnet thinks that time has come to capitalize on its experience, on the maturity of the market, on the result of IETF OPES and International Domain Names working groups. It wants to focus again, in the technical, societal and political areas, on the development, the support, and the representation of user community networks. It also wants to catalyze the development of the extended services architecture they require.

To that end it calls them ULDs (User Level Domains) and supports them as Specialized and Community SLDs (scSLD). They are name, trust and service spaces for communities such as associations, cities, schools and college, trades, cultural themes, etc. They are initially built as second level name spaces, but they are candidates to become global or local TLDs.

Intlnet understands the current internet as a transition towards a smart network architecture, which will be capable to support the intelligent continuity expected by the users. It believes that this evolution may be supported by an encapsulation of the current unchanged solutions into upper service or management layers. It is engaged into the support of architectural and governance initiatives of interest to the ULDs. It intends to become a member of the ITU and to progressively enter into MoUs with different organizations of the Governance.