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# Emerging Trends for the Millennium: Communications Technology

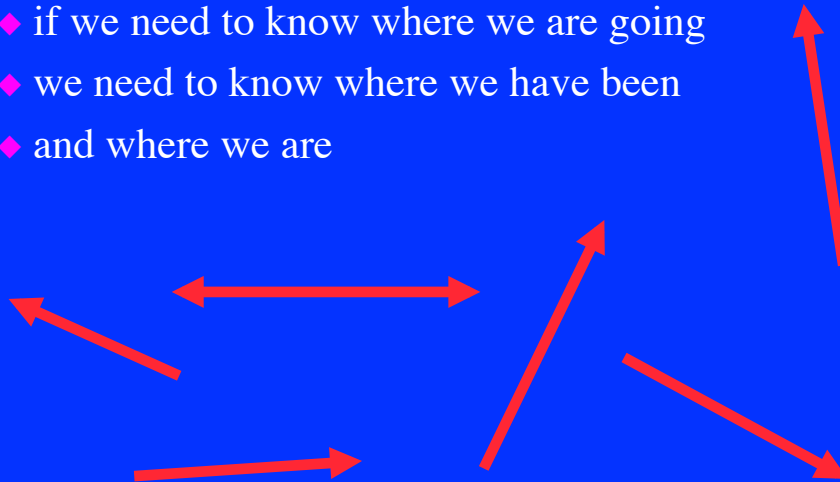
Scott Bradner  
Harvard University  
sob@harvard.edu

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## Vectors

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- ◆ if we need to know where we are going
- ◆ we need to know where we have been
- ◆ and where we are



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## In the Beginning

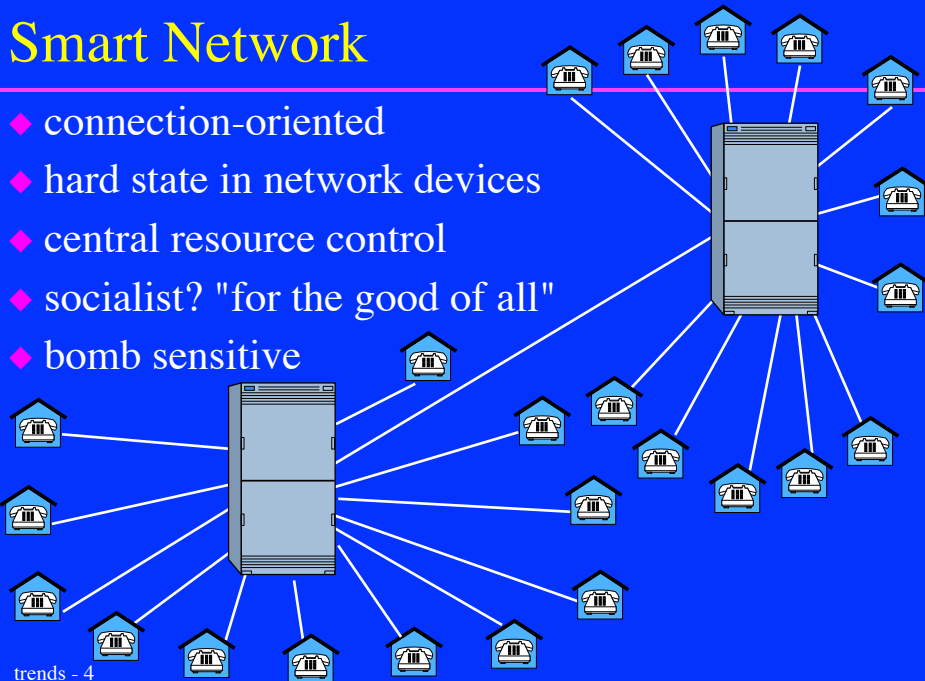
- ◆ in the beginning (and now)
- ◆ there was (is) philosophy  
or is that religion?
- ◆ smart network vs. smart edges
- ◆ centralized vs. distributed



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## Smart Network

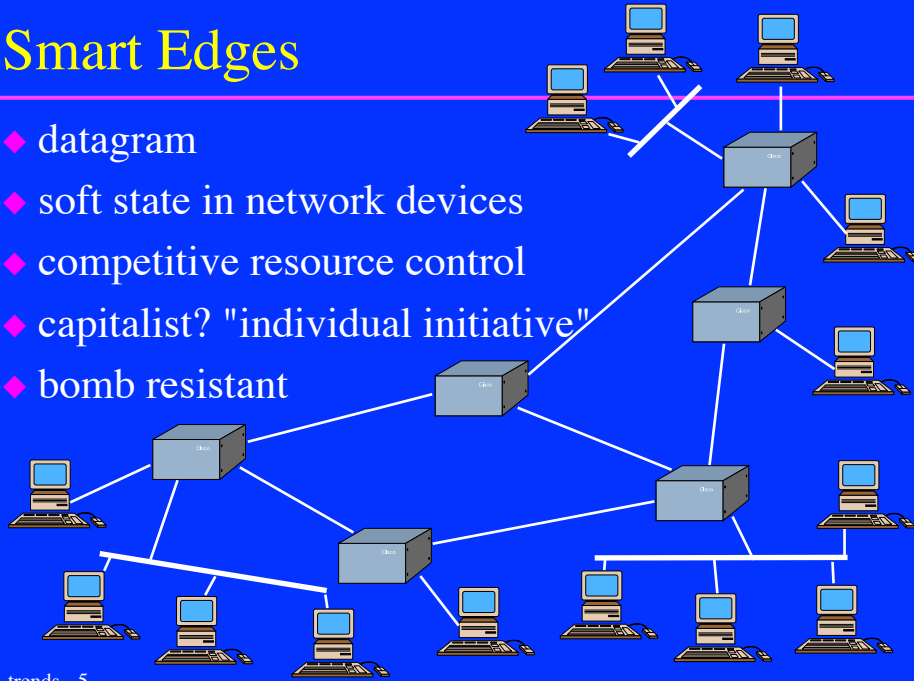
- ◆ connection-oriented
- ◆ hard state in network devices
- ◆ central resource control
- ◆ socialist? "for the good of all"
- ◆ bomb sensitive



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# Smart Edges

- ◆ datagram
- ◆ soft state in network devices
- ◆ competitive resource control
- ◆ capitalist? "individual initiative"
- ◆ bomb resistant



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# Survivability - Baran, 1964

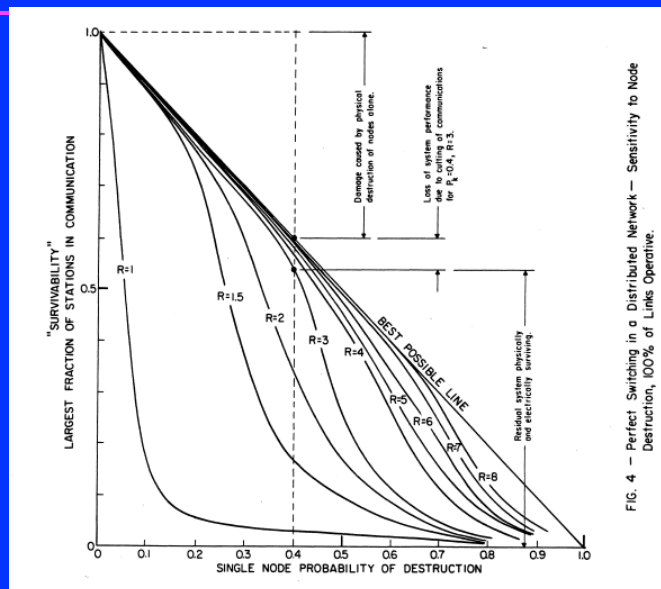


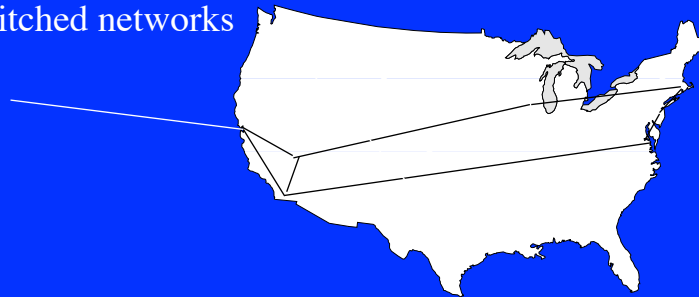
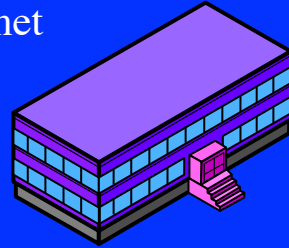
FIG. 4 - Perfect Switching in a Distributed Network - Sensitivity to Node Destruction, 100% of Links Operative.

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## The Safe Path

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- ◆ traditional technologists: smart net
  - e.g., telephone system
  - circuit switched networks
- ◆ radicals: smart edges
  - e.g., ARPANET
  - packet switched networks

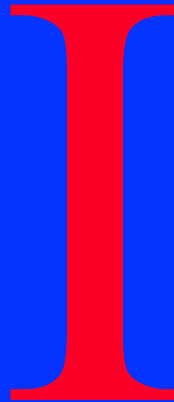


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## What is the Internet?

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- ◆ separately identifiable data network
  - distinction changing
- ◆ hype topic
- ◆ Wall Street crack
- ◆ security worry
- ◆ reliability worry
- ◆ TCP/IP

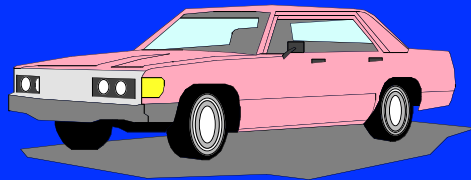
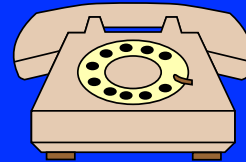


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## Clue Check

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- ◆ if you are asking "what is the application" you have already lost
- ◆ many looking for "the killer app"
- ◆ what was killer app for telephone
- ◆ what was killer app for auto?
- ◆ if you must have one: connectivity

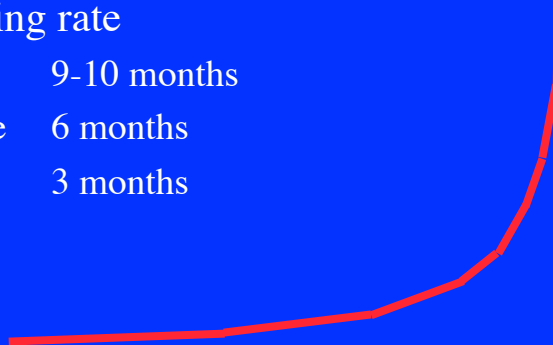


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## History

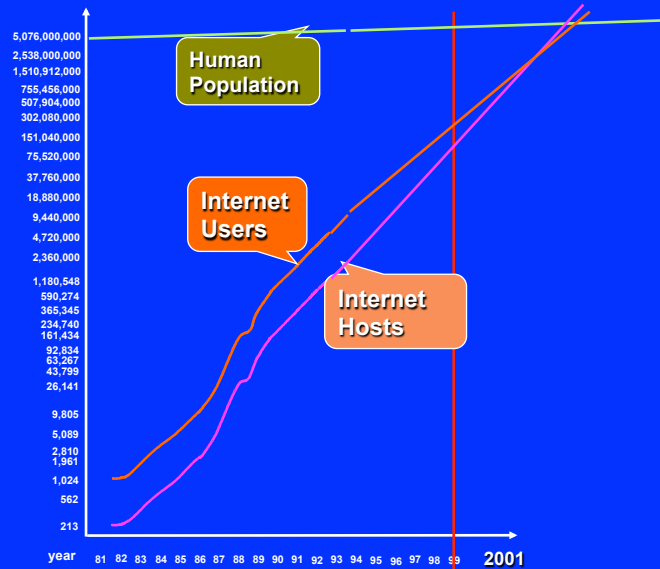
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- ◆ ramp approaching vertical
- ◆ doubling rate
  - hosts 9-10 months
  - people 6 months
  - traffic 3 months



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## Future?



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Source: MIDS, Austin TX, based on historical data

## People vs. Silicon

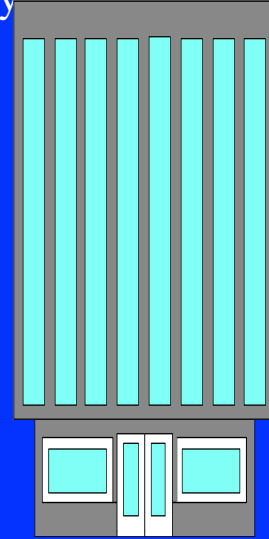
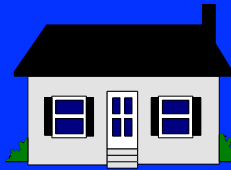
- ◆ why the Internet is not like the phone system
- ◆ phone system is scaled up as people do mostly
- ◆ Internet will scale up as computers multiply power controls toaster net **silicon cockroaches**
- ◆ phone net growth rate will reduce as services move to web



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## Apparent Scale

- ◆ on the 'Net no one knows your puny'
- ◆ low cost of entry
- ◆ how can you tell if legit?  
how can you tell if mail-order is legit?
- ◆ empower small company
- ◆ large company can lose big



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## Collapse of Net, GIF at 11

- ◆ Bob Metcalfe was making hay predicting doom  
or was he?
- ◆ Bob was seen as predicting systemic collapse  
but actually was predicting large scale outages  
like with other technologies
- ◆ problem with trade & popular press  
do not understand technology  
over hype developments  
over hype problems



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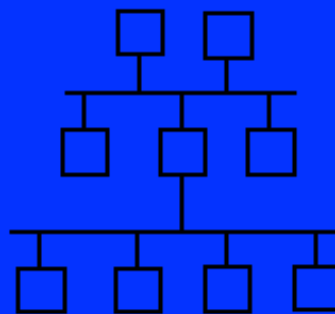
## How Reporters Start Their Day



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## Systemic Collapse

- ◆ the net is not a thing
  - it is a collection of things
- ◆ a network of networks
- ◆ very hard to bring down
  - too many nets
  - too many operators
  - too many operating procedures



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## Other Reasons Given for Collapse

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- ◆ spam
- ◆ porn
- ◆ monopoly
- ◆ Microsoft (IBM, Netscape ...)
- ◆ traffic
- ◆ S/N ratio



**Microsoft**



**IBM**

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## What's Next?

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- ◆ computers
- ◆ protocols
- ◆ applications
- ◆ structure
- ◆ security

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## Computers

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- ◆ smaller
- ◆ cheaper
- ◆ faster
- ◆ more complicated == more support
- ◆ regulate types?
- ◆ incoming students know more about computers than senior faculty

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## Protocols

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- ◆ pretenders have failed  
X.25, OSI, SNA/APPN, IPX, ATM
- ◆ "common bearer service" important
- ◆ most common protocol in 2010?  
will be called IP
- ◆ convergence  
**everything** over IP

email, ftp  
telnet, www



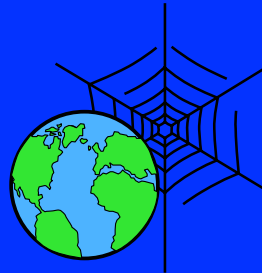
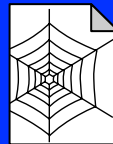
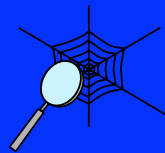
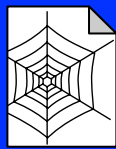
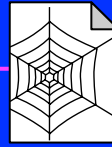
Ethernet  
token ring  
FDDI, ATM

# IP

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## Applications

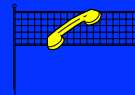
- ◆ the web filled an unseen hole  
what other holes are there?
- ◆ lowered Internet entry requirements  
mom can surf  
dad can be a vendor
- ◆ now web is all too-ubiquitous client - intranet  
the world is not all nails



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## Applications

- ◆ only know a few of the apps of 2005
  - email
  - www
  - ftp
  - remote access
  - "buy" button
- ◆ but will these be in the top 10?

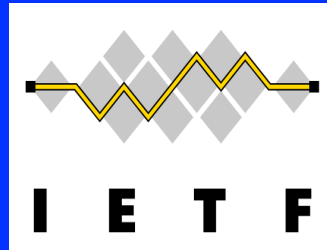


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## Differentiated Services

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- ◆ is the Internet a one trick pony?
  - only 'best-effort' service
  - QoS to ISP means 'I will accept your packets'
- ◆ the Internet needs multiple "products"
  - better reliability for better money
- ◆ IETF (standards group) working on QoS technology
  - coming to your network soon



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## IP

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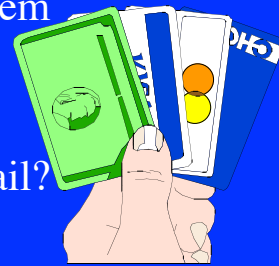
- ◆ one of IP's strengths is that it can run over anything
  - barbed wire at 2,400 bps to glass at 2.4Gb
  - including wireless
- ◆ the world is not homogeneous
  - in any aspect, clearly not in networking
- ◆ IP can hide some of the differences

IP  
anything    IP -- necessary and sufficient

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## Security

- ◆ today the security of the core of the net is quite good
- ◆ the edges are a problem
  - shared networks
- ◆ **very** good technology exists
- ◆ export control of encryption a problem
- ◆ complexity is a problem
- ◆ secure web very good
- ◆ but who can look at a student's email?  
and if its encrypted?



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## Will the Technology Structure Hold?

- ◆ traffic (both bits & routing info) are stressing current environment
- ◆ don't know what the glass will tie to
  - WDM & DWDM
- ◆ fog in the way of predicting
  - technology - who predicted the web?
  - regulations - son of CDA
  - prices - ISDN model

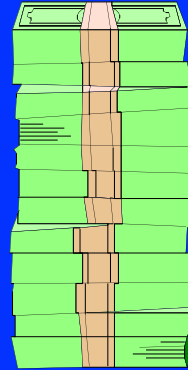


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## Money Funnies

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- ◆ how do you regulate Internet money?
- ◆ how do you track Internet money?
- ◆ what is taxing jurisdiction?
- ◆ what is regulatory jurisdiction?
- ◆ anonymous cash
  - only disclose if spent twice



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## Will the Social Structure Hold?

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- ◆ the Internet is aggressively non-national
  - the 1st amendment is a local ordinance
- ◆ threat to "order"
  - as information sometimes is
- ◆ governments feel they must "protect" citizens
- ◆ Internet routes around censorship
- ◆ what authority does the FCC have?



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## Dumb Network

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- ◆ smarts at edges not in network
  - i.e. in the PCs and servers not the network switches
  - reverse of telephone network
- ◆ means that it is easy to experiment
  - only end-systems need to be upgraded - e.g. web
- ◆ telephone net requires switch upgrade for new features
  - need to wait until the telco thinks it is worth it
- ◆ “the power of the Internet is chaos”

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## Impact on Education

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- ◆ same potential for change that the research library created
- ◆ ubiquitous on-campus connectivity
  - dorms, wireless in classrooms ...
- ◆ distance learning
  - issues with faculty incentives
  - dilute brand name
  - impact on mid-sized colleges?
- ◆ content control?
  - what can be on a student web page?

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## Impact on Service Organizations

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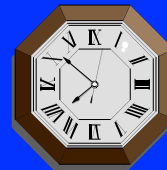
- ◆ like any other business
  - interacting with suppliers etc.
- ◆ equipment control
- ◆ visibility to customer
- ◆ customer input

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## Businesses and the Internet

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- ◆ shift in basic commerce interaction
  - to real-time over the 'Net
- ◆ “just in time” ordering
- ◆ electronic ordering based on menus & history
- ◆ pure electronic billing & funds exchange
- ◆ but note no central management of application deployment
  - end users will deploy whatever applications they want to
  - this also means businesses do not need “approval” for their own applications

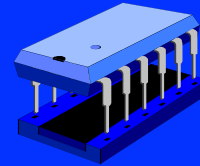


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## Equipment Control

- ◆ the Internet (or actually IP) is getting into everything
  - “toaster net”
- ◆ “embed the ‘Net” - consortium
  - Internet on a chip
  - IP software in most significant equipment
    - pumps to ovens
    - monitor & control
- ◆ cheaper than individual connections to equipment
  - “every electrical device”



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## Visibility to Customer

- ◆ customers will expect to obtain all information they need via the ‘Net
  - next week’s menu
- ◆ may need to be part of a larger picture
  - e.g. Harvard “portal pages”
  - integrate data from many sources into unified view

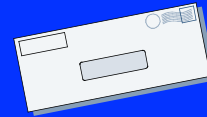


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## Customer Input

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- ◆ customers will expect to do all interactions over the 'Net
  - pay bills, report problems, order catering, etc
  - work out details of events (timing, services to be offered)
  - menu requests?
- ◆ report on quality of services
- ◆ note - reports can be anonymous

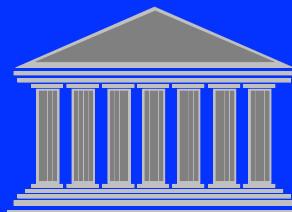


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## Fundamental Issues

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- ◆ on campus & global
- ◆ who says who makes the rules?
  - all kinds of rules
  - rule makers are problem-specific
- ◆ who pays for what?
  - e.g., universal access
  - browsers in libraries



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## Impact on Society

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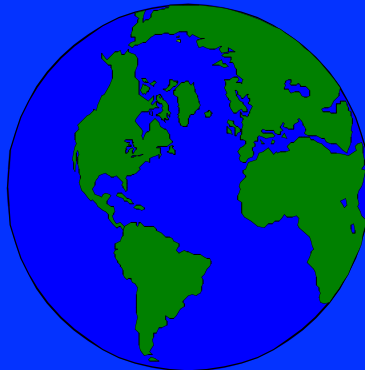
- ◆ not the end of the nation state
  - but can change balance of power between government & citizen
- ◆ content, content, content
  - the dirty pictures are not the “real” problem
  - but an easy target - “protect the kids”
  - do not want to confuse citizens
- ◆ a “parent revolution”?

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## Complication

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- ◆ remember the Internet is international



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## Futures

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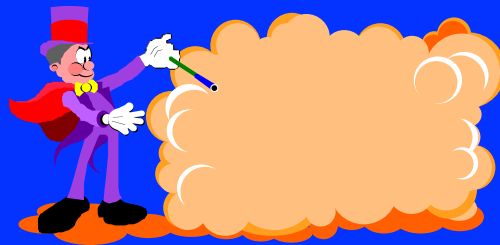
- ◆ it will be called IP
- ◆ it will be called the Internet
- ◆ convergence will have an impact
- ◆ it will always be “about to collapse”
- ◆ it will have differentiated services
- ◆ commerce will be normal
- ◆ continuous content control attempts
- ◆ continuous government attempts to “help”  
“too important” to left alone

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## Where Are We?

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- ◆ not at end, end of beginning? or just starting?
- ◆ standing in '64 - today would be magic
- ◆ what will 2020 look like?  
hint - magic

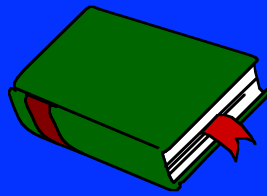


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## Dreams

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- ◆ can strengthen communities as well as threaten
- ◆ can empower individual entrepreneurs  
Nova Scotia books & Maine puppets
- ◆ broadcast TV vs. Internet



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## Worries

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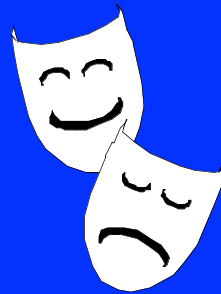
- ◆ can empower individual demagogues
- ◆ can enable big brother
- ◆ can destroy privacy
- ◆ can create information have-nots
- ◆ can exacerbate rich/poor split
- ◆ on the Net no one knows you are a nut
- ◆ on the Net no one knows you are a twit  
until you speak (too much)

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## Threat vs. Promise

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- ◆ this data network can be both a threat & a promise
  - just like the auto
  - just like the telephone
- ◆ it will succeed at being both



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we will see it together

Thank you

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