

Welcome!

Thank you to everyone who is joining us today – we have almost 750 registered participants, spanning five continents, and almost every time zone.

This is the second *International Telecommunications Society* (ITS) webinar of 2022 and our 13th webinar since the onset of the pandemic, covering topics such as 5G technology, smart cities, remote work, patent policy, artificial intelligence, and more.

ITS is a leading international forum where academic, government and business communities come together to share and discuss new research, to publish ground breaking work, and to develop new approaches to the most complex and pressing issues in ICT today. Today's event is a vivid illustration of inclusive, global dialogue.

For making this webinar possible, I would like to thank:

- **Our speaker**, Dr. Vint Cerf
- **Our academic host**, the Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, who have been exceptional partners, driving very high awareness and attendance for this event
- **Our corporate host** for this event, TELUS Communications and my TELUS colleagues Joe Rowsell and John Gannon, as well as all our ITS corporate members who make events like this possible;
- **Dr. Sandy Levin**, Professor Emeritus at SIUE and an ITS Board member, for making the connection with Dr. Cerf for this event, with whom he worked on the issue of the 'baby bells' back in a very different telecommunications world;
- **And all of you who have joined today, from around the world.** We are very grateful that you have chosen to invest your time and attention with us.

Today's webinar:

It is not hyperbole to say that today's talk is about *the future of humanity* given how pervasive and impactful the Internet is shaping our health, the environment, the economy, and society overall. The Internet presents us with wonderful opportunities as well as with difficult, new problems in search of answers: fake news, cybersecurity, digital disruption of traditional industries and livelihoods, and more.

Today's online world is, in many ways, unrecognizable from its quiet beginnings, but a line can nonetheless be traced from some fundamental design choices taken at the inception of the Internet, to the present state of our increasingly digital lives.

And we are most fortunate to have a guide with us, today, who was there at the beginning.

Our speaker:

There is perhaps nobody better suited to take us through this journey and help us grapple with the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow, than Dr. Vint Cerf.

Dr. Cerf is widely known as a “Father of the Internet”.

Notably:

He is the co-designer of the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the Internet;

He has been awarded the:

- U.S. National Medal of Technology by President Bill Clinton;
- The Presidential Medal of Freedom by President George Bush;
- As well as the ACM Alan M. Turing award (sometimes called the “Nobel Prize of Computer Science”).

Since 2005, he has served as vice president and chief Internet evangelist for Google.

Thank you, Dr. Cerf, the floor is yours!

Stephen Schmidt
ITS Chair