

Desperately Seeking Default

Internet Policy Update

A Perspective from the Pacific

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Introduction

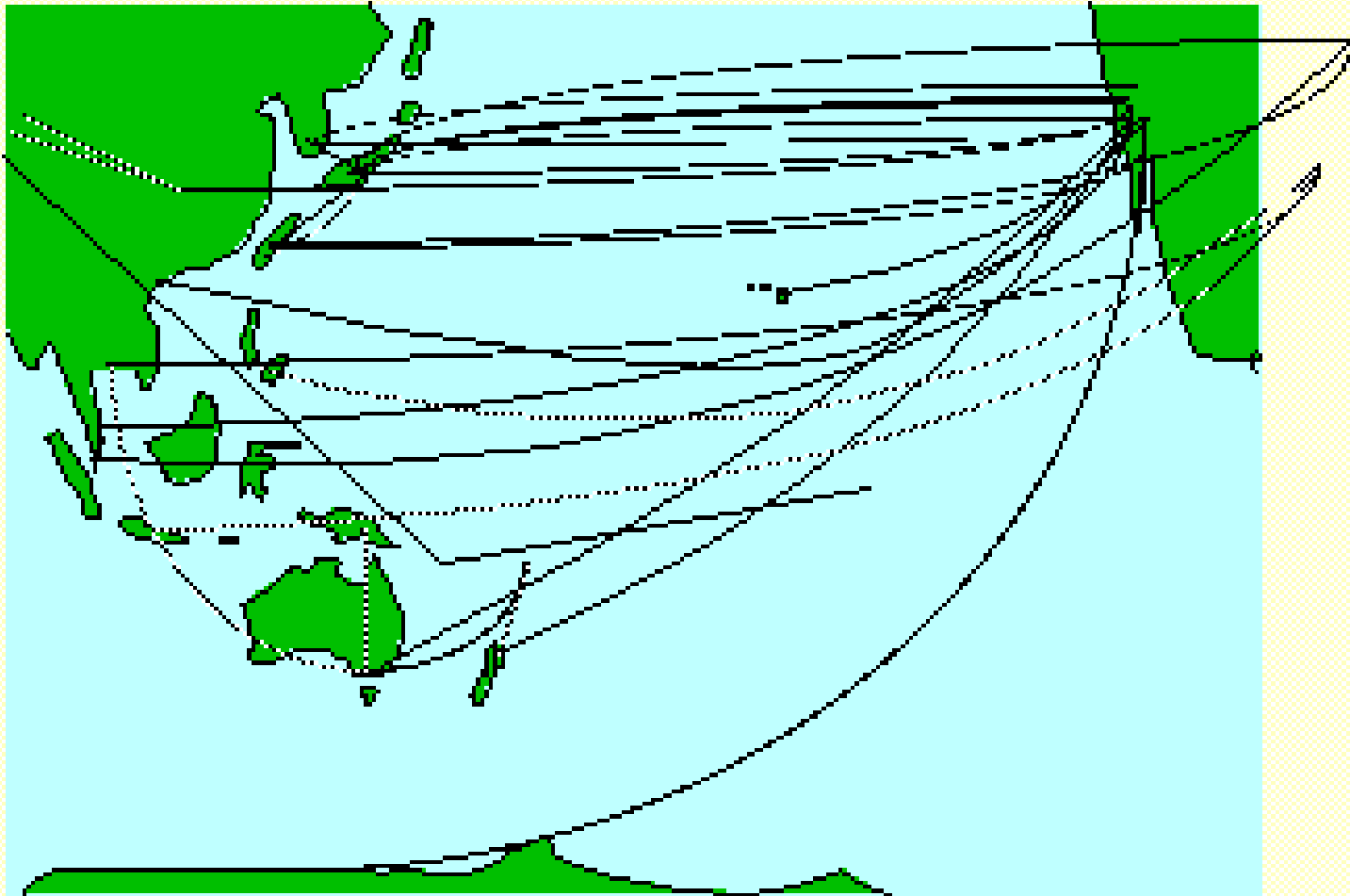
- This presentation will not attempt to paint a detailed picture of the Internet within the Asia Pacific region
- Attempt to highlight major Internet policy issues from the perspective of a player from this region



The Pacific Perspective

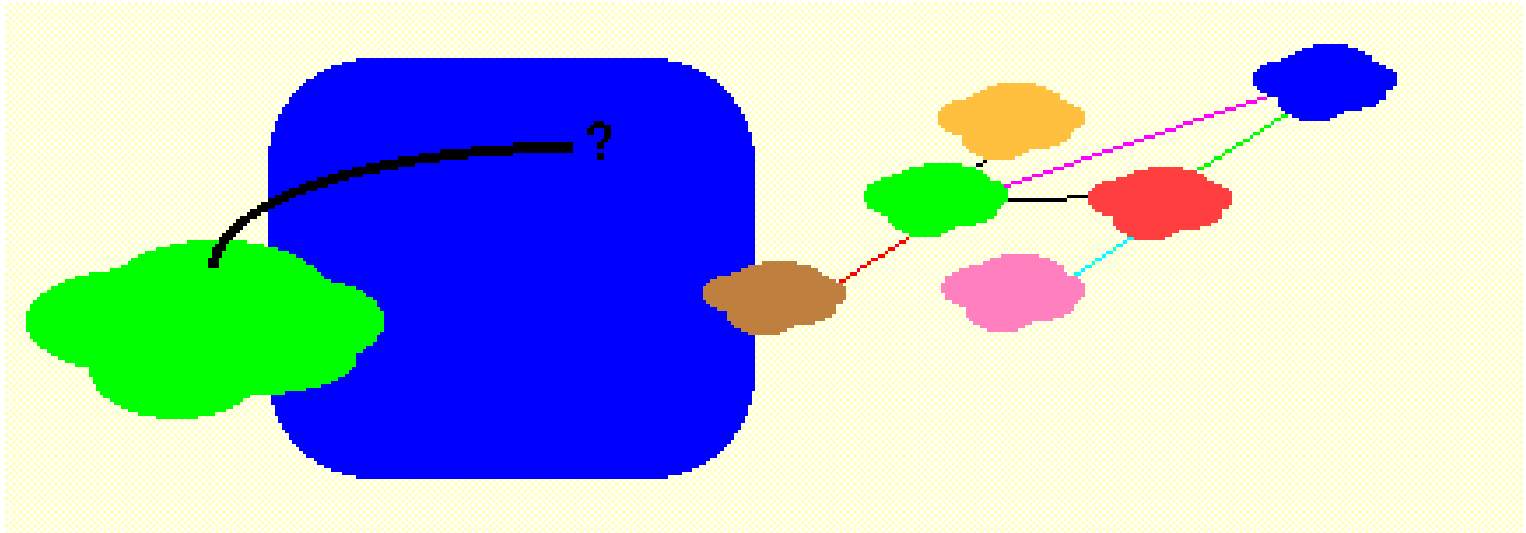
- National Network Structure
- Sparse International Connections:
 - Leased Links - no mesh services
 - Poor satellite and cable infrastructure
 - International circuit costs dominate

The Resultant Pacific Picture



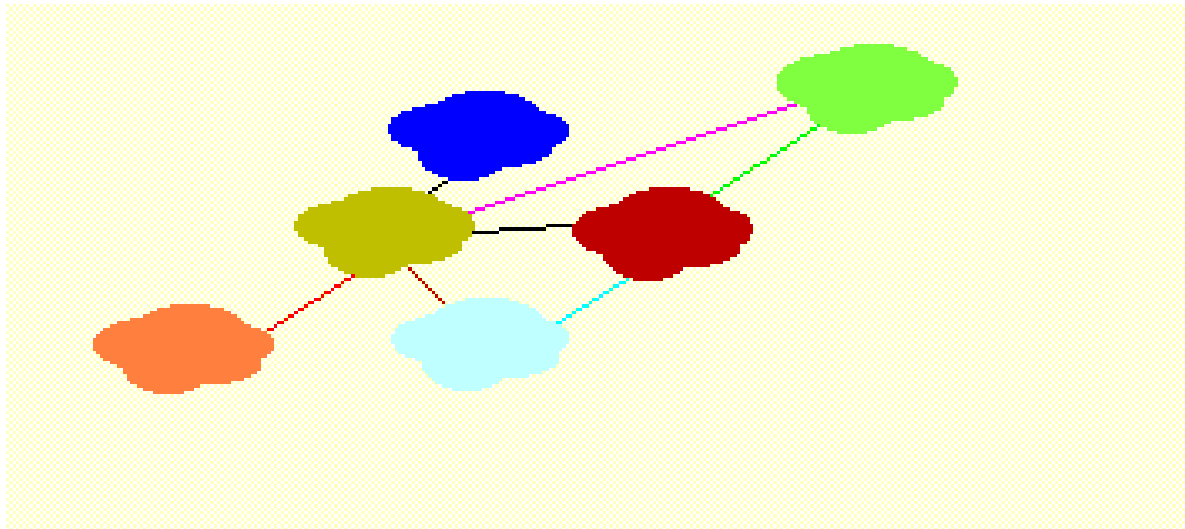
The Pacific View of the Internet

- Providers operating a single international link
 - Minimize tariff
 - Maximize utility
 - Maximize connectivity



The Other End of the Link

- Working together
 - the transit problem
 - the routing problem
 - the policy problem



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Policies and the Internet

- Policies must be effective within the context of the Internet itself
- To understand the changing requirements for policy determination it is first necessary to observe the changing characterisation of the Internet



The 1980's

- Predominate characteristic of an academic and research community activity
- Collaborative community characterisation of the Internet
 - Policies derived through processes of consensus decision making
 - Collaborative determination of policy agenda
 - Homogenous community of usage



The Environment of the 1980's

- Outcomes of the Internet as a collaborative community:
 - no formal regulation
 - self moderated facility
 - high level of adaptability within constraints of collaborative community expectation



The 1990's

- Growth within the collaborative community
 - increasing role of the Internet within the world wide academic and research community
 - more A&R programs using the Internet as a key communications resource
 - consequent higher level of investment in the Internet by the community



The 1990's

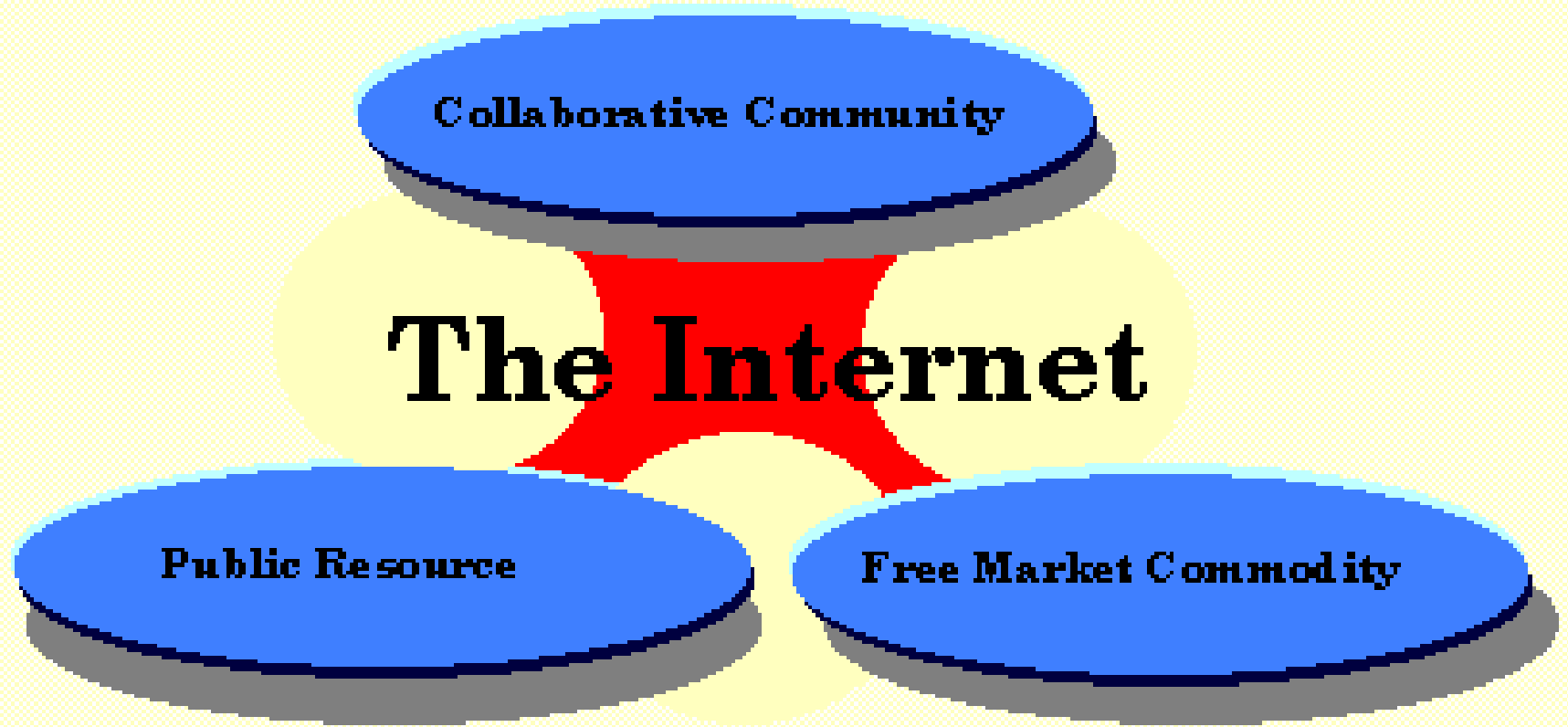
- Outcome of A & R Internet community growth
 - decreasing levels of policy adaptability within the Internet
 - increasing reliance on policy outcomes to create a stable service environment (rather than continuous refinement of the service within a small collaborative community)



Policies and the Internet

- Outgrowth of the collaborative community
- Increasing:
 - use of the Internet by other sectors
 - number and diversity of Internet Service Providers

The Current Policy Environment





The Collaborative Community

- The community of research and academia with fellow travellers
- Implicit (and explicit) "appropriate use" policies
- Decision making through consensus seeking
- Motivation for common solution through cooperation



The Free Market Commodity

- Deregulation of the Value Added Reseller role within the communications industry
- The Internet viewed as a value added service
 - as distinct from a basic carriage service
- Implicit decision making process through market forces
- Service and infrastructure roles through competitive pricing environment



The Public Resource

- Acknowledged public benefit through access to service
- Public Resource management structures to ensure
 - equity of access
 - sanity of infrastructure services
 - non-monopoly position over information flow



Internet Policy Issues

- Address Space Management
- Routing Table Management
- Connectivity Management
- Administrative Infrastructure (NICs)
- Transit policies
- Inter-Provider Settlement
- End-to-End service level management



Policy Directions

- Cooperative / Collaborative Community?
 - Unlikely to scale within the context of growth of the Internet:
 - diversity of community
 - differing scale of growth
 - competitive pressures for access to finite resources
 - BUT - Highly effective in responding to technical evolutionary pressures



Policy Directions

- Public Resource Management
 - Public role
 - Regulation of Service Providers?
 - License conditions for ISPs
 - Service Definition / Limitation
 - Market access regulation
 - Service Provider Interaction conditions
 - Regulation of Network Infrastructure?
 - Address Allocation / Registration Services
 - Routing Registry Services
 - Name Registry Services



Policy Directions

- Public Resource Management
 - Potentially valuable role
 - BUT
 - Quality of public resource management is questionable
 - Limited resultant technical flexibility - static definition of Internet role and services



Policy Directions

- Free Market Commodity
 - Risks of market domination
 - Opportunities of new information markets
 - Regulation only through national trading practice regulations



Likely Direction

- Continued sense of cooperative community for some years yet
- But increasing skew between market driven expansion and current community objectives
- Minimal levels of introduced Public Regulation to preserve integrity of the Internet as exploitable resource is a possibility
- Greater levels of public regulation is unlikely



For the Pacific

- The learning curve for new players gets steeper
- The entry price for Internet service provision rises
- Issues of national management vs foreign investment programs in national Internet Service Provision
- National public regulation may be a mechanism to ensure national management and national determination of key domestic information infrastructures