

Australia and New Zealand 2009 Internet Best Practice Awards

a collaboration between .au Domain Administration (auDA) and Internet NZ

Purpose

The awards recognise and celebrate organisations, groups or individuals in Australia and New Zealand that have embraced the challenge of making the Internet a secure, accessible, open or diverse experience for all.

The Australia and New Zealand Awards are based upon Nominet's successful "Best Practice Challenge" model which has been running since 2007. It is expected the local awards will deliver the same benefits as those experienced in the UK:

- improved collaboration between government, industry, academia and civil society;
- engagement of new stakeholders in internet governance-related fora;
- raise the profile of Internet-related issues (and auDA and Internet NZ); and
- contribute to the development of national and regional Internet Fora

The 2009 Australia and NZ Internet Best Practice Awards provide a platform for regional engagement on Internet-related issues – a proof-of-concept that could be expanded into the Pacific in 2010. The initiative (and award winners) will be promoted at the 2009 United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt.

Themes

The Awards will be based around the main themes of the United Nation's Internet Governance Forum – Security, Access, Diversity and Openness.

Security – initiatives that are at the forefront of developing solutions to security threats and building trust and confidence in the online environment.

Access – initiatives that aim to combat the digital divide, facilitating access for groups such as the elderly, disabled or socially disadvantaged.

Diversity – initiatives that encourage expressions of cultural diversity and identity, including the promotion of multilingualism and indigenous cultures online.

Openness – initiatives that enable internet users to benefit from increased access to online materials, knowledge or information.

Categories

Best Security Initiative– initiatives that are involved in:

- online authentication and identification
- educating users about online personal safety
- protecting vulnerable users (such as children)
- educating users about keeping themselves and avoiding online fraud
- enhancing the security of networks
- protecting the integrity of users' privacy
- protecting users against identity theft
- creating innovative responses to security threats
- reducing threats such as spam and viruses
- developing solutions to security threats and building trust and confidence in the online environment.

Best Development project – initiatives that are involved in:

- enabling access in rural or disadvantaged regions
- reducing the cost of access, providing hardware or connectivity
- bringing socially disadvantaged groups online
- introducing new users to the benefits of the Internet
- promoting interoperability or adaptability to give access for all
- bringing the benefits of the Internet to developing countries

Internet for all – initiatives that are involved in:

- providing tools that assist in the translation of web content into other languages
- developing methods to facilitate access for those challenged by disability or lack of literacy in English
- promoting or serving diversity of cultures
- delivering multilingual content to relevant communities
- assisting expressions of culture and identity through multilingual or local language content

Open Internet – initiatives that are involved in:

- enabling users to benefit from increased access to online materials or information
- bringing citizens closer to parliamentarians or Government
- offering public or community services online
- educating Internet users of all ages and experience levels.

A fifth award will be presented to an initiative that is eligible under any one of the four categories and is undertaken (or led) by an Australian or New Zealander under the age of 21.

Timetable

June 2009 – Launch at ICANN Sydney

31 August 2009 – Applications close.

October 2009 – Winners announced.

November 2009 – Promotion of Awards and winners at UN IGF.