



# The Internet Association

## The Internet Association FAQ September 2012

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### **1. What is The Internet Association?**

The Internet Association is the unified voice of the Internet economy, representing the interests of America's leading Internet companies and their global community of users. The Internet Association is dedicated to advancing public policy solutions to strengthen and protect Internet freedom, foster innovation and job creation and empower users. The Internet Association is headquartered in Washington, D.C.

### **2. Who are the members of The Internet Association?**

The Internet Association is comprised of a diverse group of 14 global Internet companies, including Amazon.com, AOL, eBay, Expedia, Facebook, Google, IAC, LinkedIn, Monster Worldwide, Rackspace, salesforce.com, TripAdvisor, Yahoo!, and Zynga.

### **3. What is The Internet Association's Mission?**

The Internet Association's mission is to protect and preserve the free, open, innovative and decentralized architecture of the Internet that has enabled it to evolve into one of the greatest engines for economic growth, freedom and prosperity in the world.

These leading companies, who form the backbone of the Internet economy, recognize that the Internet needs a unified voice in Washington. By working together on common concerns and partnering with tens of millions of Internet users, The Internet Association will ensure that legislators, regulators, and the media understand the profound positive impacts of the Internet and Internet companies on jobs, economic growth, freedom, creativity, communication, commerce, productivity, education, prosperity and the global economy.

### **4. What public policy issues will the Internet Association focus on?**

The Internet Association will concentrate on three broad public policy areas: protecting Internet freedom; fostering innovation and economic growth; and empowering users.

The unique nature of the Internet – free from government control and governed by multiple stakeholders – has unleashed unprecedented entrepreneurialism, creativity and innovation, far

beyond imagination. The Internet Association, its member companies, their employees and millions of Internet users, stand on guard together against attempts to censor or handcuff this incredible engine.

At the same time, we recognize that the Internet isn't just Silicon Valley anymore; the Internet has moved to Main Street. The Internet Association was formed to protect the jobs and economic growth that the Internet economy enables - not only jobs directly tied to the web, but also bricks-and-mortar businesses throughout this nation.

The Internet Association will ensure that elected leaders in Washington understand the profound positive impacts of the Internet and Internet companies on jobs, innovation and growth.

Lastly, we want to empower users – the tens of millions of individuals who make the Internet what it is today. The Internet Association will relentlessly represent this critical economic sector, and its vast community of users, to ensure that the Internet will always have a voice in Washington.

#### **5. Why does the Internet need its own Washington, D.C. trade association?**

The Internet is the fastest growing sector of the U.S. economy with an unparalleled record of job creation and innovation. Other tech trade associations represent hardware, software, chip makers, network operators and online companies. The Internet Association is the first and only unified voice of the Internet economy.

Our message is simple: The Internet is one of the greatest engines for economic growth, freedom and prosperity the world has ever known, and Internet freedom is worth fighting to protect.

#### **6. What is your message for policymakers?**

The Internet provides incredible benefits to our economy and to our society at large. But what is in store for tomorrow? No one can predict what innovations will happen next. But we do know that the Internet's decentralized and open model has been the catalyst for its unprecedented economic growth and innovation.

Policymakers need to realize that our country, and the world for that matter, runs on the Internet. The success of small, medium, and large businesses, education, and all economic sectors in our country are directly tied to the innovation, creativity and freedom of the Internet.