

Internet co-creator Cerf debunks 'myth' that US runs it

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British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee, credited with inventing the world wide web, delivers a speech during "NETmundial 2014 Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance" in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on April 23, 2014

In its place would come a global institution using a "multi-stakeholder" model. But some countries, including China and Russia, prefer oversight of the Internet's technical functions via a group of governments or an intergovernmental organization.

Online pioneer Tim Berners Lee, one of the inventors of the World Wide Web, told participants mutual understanding and peace "depends on an open Internet."

Participants also want to establish how to close a digital divide with almost two-thirds of the world's population still not online.

Globally, the United Nations estimates 2.7 billion people are connected to the Internet. While that is up on 2.3 billion in 2012 and only 1.15 billion in 2007, it still means some five billion people are not connected.

"This meeting is an important contribution, but it's not the end of the story," Cerf said.

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