

Deep Space Network Design Disruption Tolerant Networking (DTN)

An Architecture for Evolving Communications

History and Use in Space Missions

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ISOC Interplanetary Networking Special Interest Group

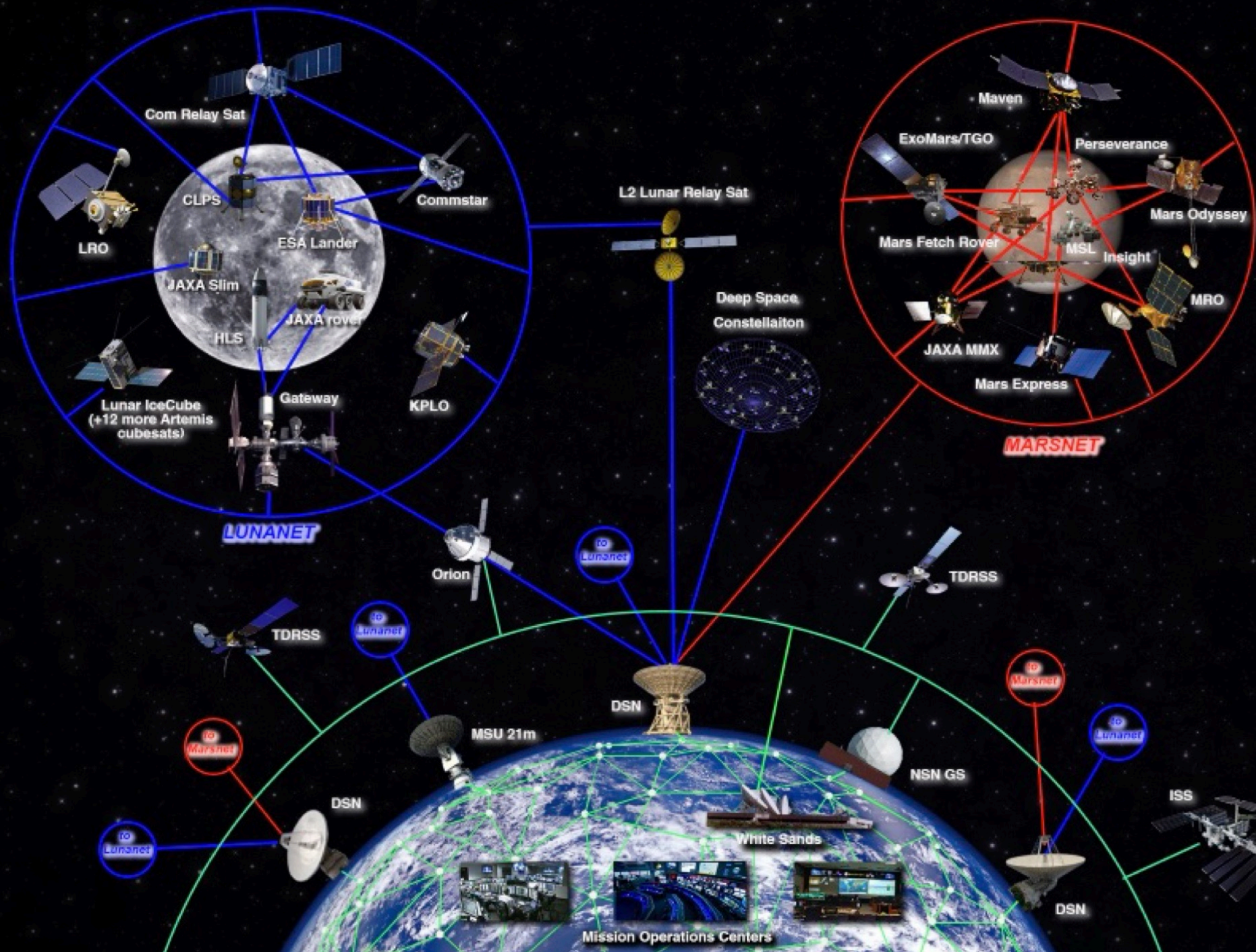


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Presentation Topics:

- Why a Space Networking Architecture?
- DTN History and Technical Overview
- Standardization
- Questions

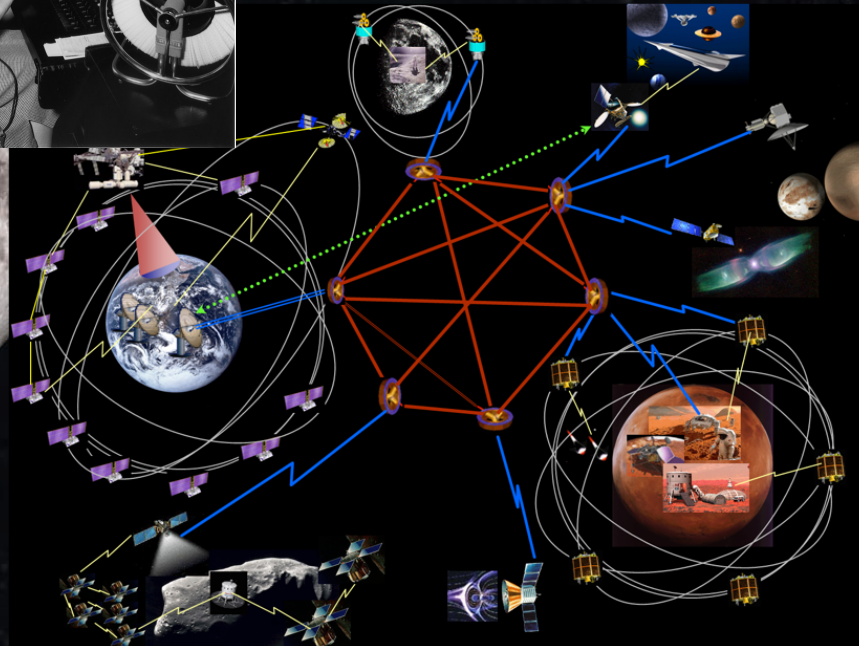




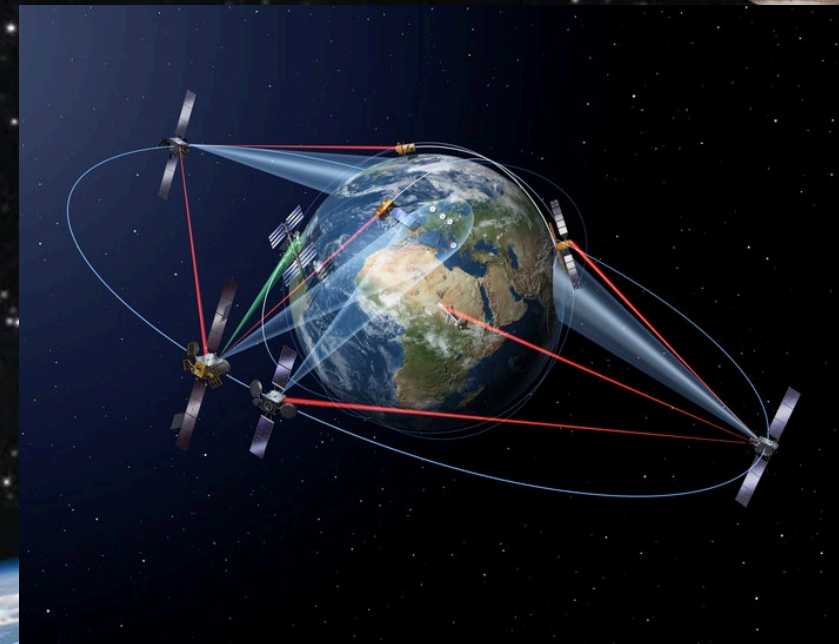
Why Networking?



- Primarily because ops team management of point-to-point links doesn't scale to the future Solar System Internetworking envisioned by NASA / CCSDS!



REF: "Operations Concept for a Solar System Internetwork",
Interagency Operations Advisory Group (IOAG), 15 Oct, 2010.



https://www.esa.int/Our_Activities/Preparing_for_the_Future/Discovery_and_Preparation/Space_internet_to_enhance_Earth_observation
(15 Jan 2019)

Why Not Just Use Terrestrial Internet Protocols?

Six Key Assumptions Internet Protocol Design:

- ***Networks are Richly Connected***
- ***Networks have Short Delay***
- ***Data Links are Symmetric and Bidirectional***
- ***Links have Low Error Rates, and that loss is due to Congestion***
- ***Network Nodes are Trustworthy***
- ***Connections are END-TO-END***

Network Characteristics We Face

- *Sparse network*
- *Asymmetric; half-duplex or unidirectional links*
- *Loss due to corruption, not congestion*
- *Loss due to orbital geometry, antenna pointing errors, etc.*
- *Inordinately long propagation times between nodes*
- *Insecure – the threat: you don't need a 34m dish to hack lunar comm links for instance*

Quick DTN Intro Video

Please see YouTube version

https://youtu.be/c_tcC51PluM



Key DTN Design Elements

- Don't replace terrestrial networking or legacy comm link technology
 - OVERLAY NETWORK!
- Deal with loss and delay since *contiguous end-to-end paths may be rare*
 - Provide a store-and-forward mechanism at each node in the network
- Don't reinvent reliable link technology
 - TCP/IP on land, Prox-1 for orbiter-to-surface
 - Deep Space Links needed a reliable link – so Licklider Transmission Protocol (LTP) was developed
- Fix what the IP design missed 40+ years ago
 - Build in security and integrity
 - Provide for Quality of Service
- Deal with different routing needs of underlying networks
 - Pre-planned contact plans for space networks, opportunistic routing for ad-hoc situations, IP routing on the ground.
- Design in provisions for network management, security key management, reliable multicast, projected data transfer types, etc.
 - Asynchronous Management Protocol (DTN-AMP), Delay-Tolerant Key Administration (DTKA), reliable multicast, special protocols for streaming video and applications that need in-order delivery

ION DTN Software Design Philosophy

- **Hard Memory Allocation Limits:**

- ION operates within a host-specified memory allocation, managing dynamic allocation internally via a private memory management system; dynamic system memory allocation could cause critical flight software to fail.

- **Modular and Robust Operation:**

- ION's modular structure is implemented through separate daemons and libraries, enhancing system resilience. In a process crash, data in the process's queues/buffers can be preserved in the non-volatile SDR, preventing data loss.

- **Efficient Resource Utilization:**

- ION is optimized for environments with limited memory, storage, and processing resources. BP and CLA services operate as background daemons to minimize competition with critical spacecraft functions during nominal, high-stress, and off-nominal events.

- **Independence from Native IP Socket Support:**

- ION employs software abstraction to decouple socket-based programming from its core functionalities. This allows ION to interface the Bundle Protocol and CLAs with various underlying communication systems, such as CCSDS space links, radio communications systems, or customized processing chains that are not IP-based.

- **Portability and Minimal Footprint for Static Linking**

- ION prioritizes portability and minimal resource footprint in its function libraries. This approach supports static linking through the ION-core package for a specific set of modules.

<https://ion-dtn.readthedocs.io/>

Brief Historical Outline

- The Beginning:

1998 – A few members of JPL Space Mission Operations Standardization Program met with Dr. Vint Cerf to explain our work on enabling FTP/TCP/IP/IPSEC to adequately perform over geostationary satellites hops.

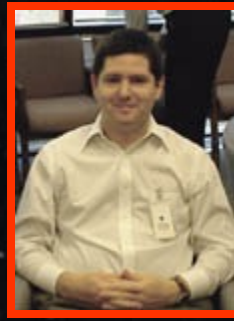
We knew that wouldn't scale to interplanetary distances, and that more research was needed to really expand the internet into space.

Dr. Cerf arranged DARPA funding and became a member of the team to study how to extend the internet into the solar system.

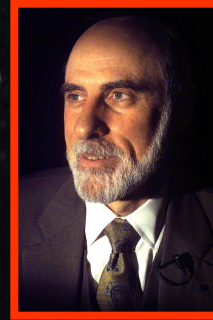
1999: the IPN Architecture Core Team



Bob Durst



Keith Scott



Vint Cerf



Adrian Hooke



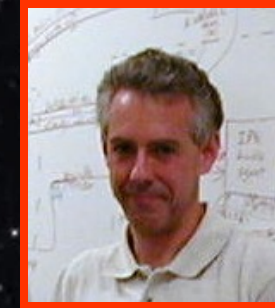
Howie Weiss



Eric Travis



Next Generation Internet (NGI) Initiative



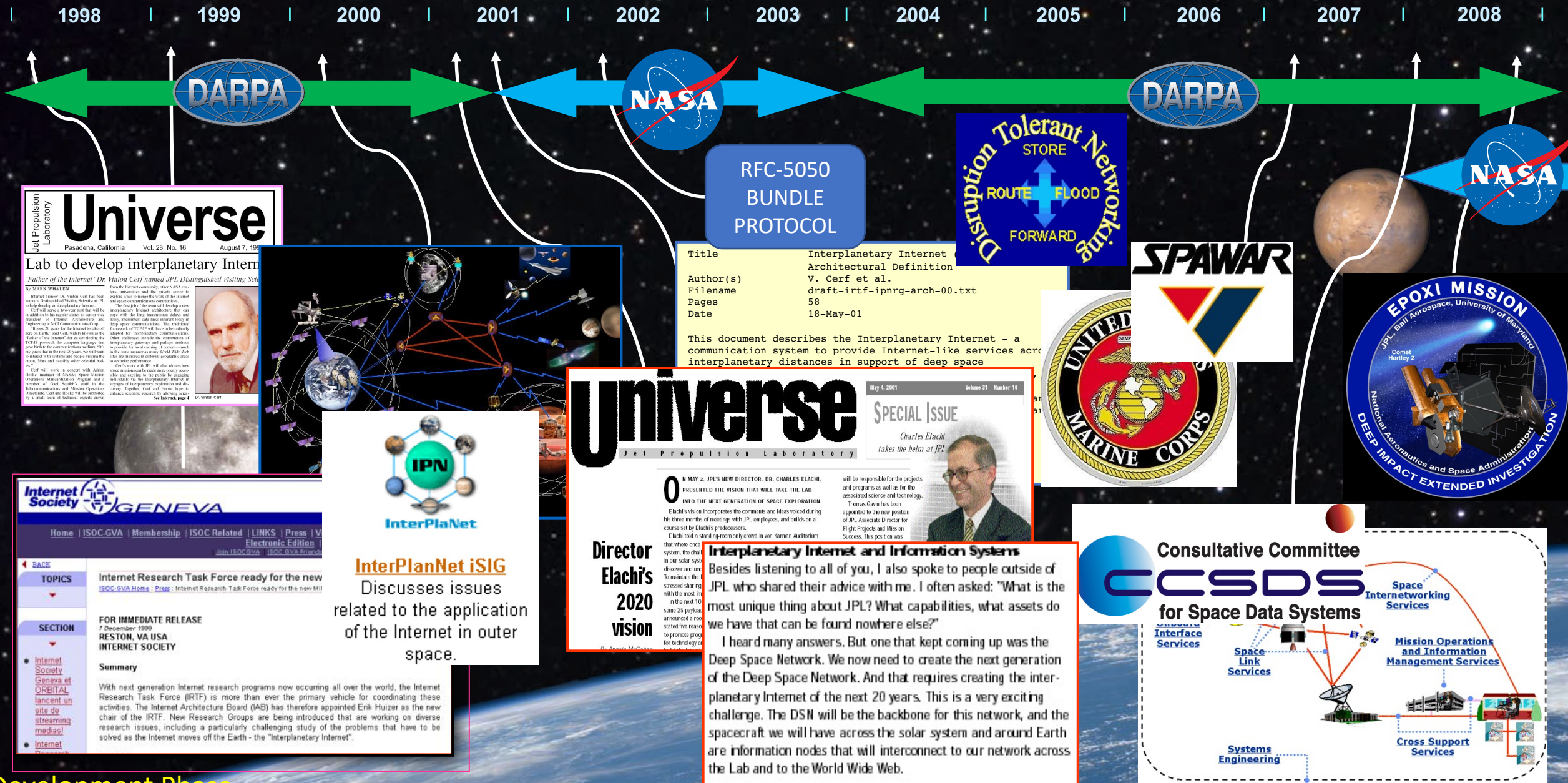
Scott Burleigh



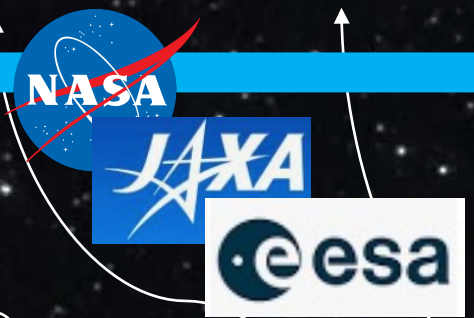
Leigh Torgerson

- **JPL:**
 - Vint Cerf, Sr. Vice President of Internet Architecture, Worldcom Inc. and JPL Distinguished Visiting Scientist
 - Adrian Hooke, Scott Burleigh, Leigh Torgerson
- **MITRE:**
 - Bob Durst, Keith Scott
- **Industry:**
 - Eric Travis, Global Science and Technology
 - Howard Weiss, Sparta
- **Advisors:**
 - Bob Braden (USC); Len Kleinrock (UCLA); Dave Mills (UDEL); Deborah Estrin (UCLA); Joe Touch (USC); John Wroclawski (MIT); Jon Crowcroft (UCL); John Klensin (ATT); and others

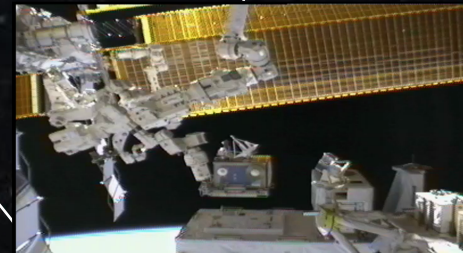
Beginnings: The Interplanetary Internet



Delay/Disruption-Tolerant Networking



ISS Missions
ECOSTRESS
CAL
+ ~38 others



ISS – SCan TESTBED



Infusion Phase

Interagency Operations Advisory Group
Space Internetworking Strategy Group

IOAG

Operations Concept for a
Solar System Internetwork (SSI)

15 October 2010

Cover art background: SELENE HOTV Image provided by JAXA/NoMI

Multi-Control-Center iPAS Overview

Command

Telemetry

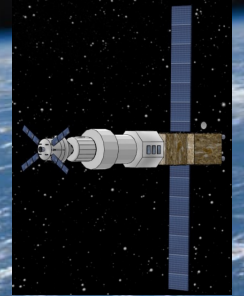
MPCV Hardware / Software
iPAS Lab, JSC Bldg. 29
(Green)

DSN Operations Center
JPL Protocol Test Lab
(Yellow)

JPL OTF, JSC Bldg. 30
HOSC, MSFC

Simulated Mission: Dock with gateway vehicle in halo orbit about the Earth-Moon L2 point; final 2000 meters

CCSDS Fall 2013 Pre-Decisional, For Internal NASA Use Only 5



(planned) DTN on
Lunar Gateway

Delay/Disruption-Tolerant Networking



DTN Standardization

The Primary Standardization Organization



RFC Number	Title / Function	Year
RFC 4838	DTN / Disruption-Tolerant Networking Architecture	2007 /2026
RFC 5050	Bundle Protocol Specification (BPv6)	2007
RFC 6258	BP Metadata Extension Block	2011
RFC 6259	BP Previous-Hop Insertion Block	2011
RFC 7122	Datagram Convergence Layers (UDP, DCCP)	2014
RFC 7242	TCP Convergence-Layer (TCPCL v3)	2014
RFC 9171	Bundle Protocol Version 7 (BPv7)	2022
RFC 9172	Bundle Protocol Security (BPsec)	2022
RFC 9173	Default Security Contexts for BPsec	2022
RFC 9174	TCPCL v4 (for BPv7 with CBOR, security, etc.)	2022
RFC 9675	DTN Management Architecture (DTNMA)	2024
RFC 9713	BPv7 Administrative Record Types Registry	2025



Standardization Organization for Space Applications



CCSDS No.	Title / Purpose	Type & Status
730.1-G-1	SSI Architecture overview / top-level architecture	Green Book (Informational)
734.0-G-1	DTN rationale, scenarios, and requirements in space	Green Book (Informational)
730.2-G-1	Concepts and Rationale for Streaming Services over Bundle Protocol	Green Book (Informational)
734.2-B-1	Bundle Protocol (DTN core protocol) specification (BPv6)	Blue Book (Recommended Standard)
734.2-P-1.1	Bundle Protocol (DTN core protocol) specification (BPv7)	Pink Book (Recommended Standard -- in test to become Blue)
734.20-O-1	Bundle Protocol (DTN core protocol) specification (BPv7)	Orange Book (Experimental)
734.3-B-1	Schedule-Aware Bundle Routing	Blue Book (Recommended Standard)
734.1-B.1	Licklider Transmission Protocol (LTP)	Blue Book (Recommended Standard)
734.5-R-2	Bundle Protocol Security	Red Book (Draft Recommended Standard)
(OTHER)	Several drafts for specs for BIBE, IMC, plus links, coding, modulation, etc.	Drafts or other Bluebook Specs

Questions?

