



## *America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference*

BOSTON GLOBAL FORUM · AI WORLD SOCIETY · LOEB HOUSE, HARVARD UNIVERSITY ·  
MAY 1, 2026

### SPECIAL PROFILE

# Vinton G. Cerf

*A Father of the Internet, Architect of the Connected Age*

Vice President & Chief Internet Evangelist, Google

Co-Designer of TCP/IP · “A Father of the Internet”

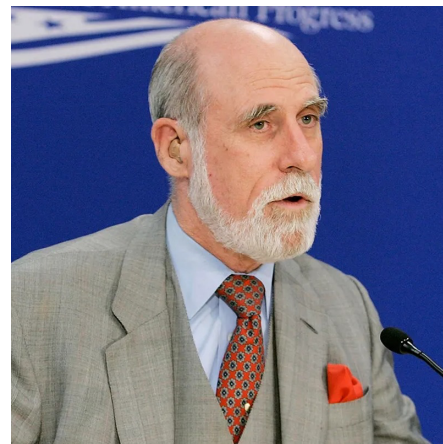
ACM Turing Award · 2004

U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom · National Medal of  
Technology

World Leader in AIWS · Boston Global Forum, 2019

Honored as one of the America 250 · AI Pioneers

*Recipient, American People · World Leader for Peace and Security Award*



## *I* ***An Architect of the Internet***

THE FOUNDATIONAL VISION THAT MADE THE DIGITAL AGE  
POSSIBLE

Vinton G. Cerf is one of the central architects of the modern world. Together with Robert E. Kahn, he co-designed the TCP/IP protocols — the foundational architecture of the Internet — establishing in the early 1970s the design principles that, half a century later, continue to carry every email, every search, every video stream, and every artificial-intelligence model trained or deployed across the global network.

For this work, Cerf is widely recognized as **one of the “Fathers of the Internet,”** a distinction shared with Kahn. The pair received the **ACM A.M. Turing Award** — computing’s highest honor — in 2004, and the **U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom** in 2005, in recognition of work that transformed how human beings communicate, learn, govern, and create. Cerf and Kahn are also recipients of the **U.S. National Medal of Technology**, the Marconi Prize, the Japan Prize, and the Charles Stark Draper Prize, among many other distinctions.

From his early years at UCLA, Stanford and DARPA through the founding of a commercial service Internet at MCI, Cerf has been present at every formative moment in the network’s history. He has chaired or led many

of the institutions that have given the Internet its open, interoperable, and inclusive character — including the Internet Society, which he, Robert Kahn and others co-founded, and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), which he served as Chairman.

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*“The Internet is for everyone.”*

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## **II** ***A Lifetime in Service of an Open World***

FROM DARPA TO GOOGLE: STEWARD OF THE CONNECTED FUTURE

Since 2005, Cerf has served as **Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist at Google**, where he focuses on the long-term evolution of the Internet, the standards and policies that will shape its next decades, and the global reach of digital opportunity. From this position, he has been one of the most consistent voices in the world for an open, secure, and accessible Internet — one designed to serve human flourishing rather than narrow interests.

His advocacy spans the full breadth of digital life: protecting the open architecture of the network; advancing accessibility for people with disabilities; addressing the long-term preservation of digital knowledge across generations; shaping the policy frameworks for the Internet of Things; and — in one of the most ambitious technical programs of his career — leading the development of an Interplanetary Internet that may one day connect human beings on Earth, on the Moon, Mars and beyond.

Across decades of leadership, Cerf has consistently held that the Internet is a public good of global significance, and that those who steward its standards bear an obligation to keep it open, interoperable, and inclusive. That conviction has placed him at the center of nearly every major debate about the future of digital society — from cybersecurity and privacy to net neutrality, from digital literacy to the responsible governance of artificial intelligence.

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*“The values we build into a network at its inception are the values we will live with for generations.”*

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## **III** ***America at 250***

RECOGNIZING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO PEACE, SECURITY, AND THE OPEN WORLD

At the **America at 250: A Beacon for the AI Age Conference** at Loeb House, Harvard University, on **May 1, 2026**, **Governor Michael Dukakis and Nguyen Anh Tuan** honor Vinton G. Cerf as one of the **America 250 · AI Pioneers** — the fifty leaders whose work is shaping America in the Age of Artificial Intelligence — and present him with the **American People · World Leader for Peace and Security Award**, a symbolic

recognition, on behalf of the American people, of a lifetime devoted to building the technical and civic foundations on which a peaceful, secure, and connected world can stand.

The honor builds upon Cerf's earlier recognition by the Boston Global Forum and the AI World Society as **World Leader in AIWS in 2019** — an award reserved for figures whose work has shaped the values, institutions, and infrastructure of the AI Age in the service of humanity. Together, these recognitions affirm a continuity of vision: the same architectural principles that gave the world an open Internet — transparency, interoperability, accountability, and the protection of human dignity — must now guide the design of artificial intelligence.

There are few living figures whose work bridges the founding of the Internet, the rise of the AI Age, and the long arc of American democratic leadership more naturally than Vinton G. Cerf. His presence at the Conference is itself a statement of the Conference's premise: that the technologies which will define America's next 250 years must be built upon enduring values — the values of an open society, of public service, and of a peace secured through trust, transparency, and the responsible stewardship of human knowledge.

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*“The Internet was built to serve humanity. The same must be true of every system we build upon it.”*

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From the design of TCP/IP to the governance of the global Internet, from the founding of the Internet Society to the long horizons of the Interplanetary Internet, Vinton G. Cerf has spent more than half a century building the connective tissue of the modern world — and an even longer commitment to the values that will determine whether that world serves all of humanity. America at 250 honors that lifetime of work, and the future it is helping to make possible.

## CONCLUSION

*From the foundational design of TCP/IP to the long horizons of the Interplanetary Internet, from the founding of the Internet Society to a lifetime of advocacy for an open and inclusive digital world, **Vinton G. Cerf has spent more than fifty years building the architecture on which human connection now depends** — and reminding us, in every decade, that the values we build into our technologies are the values we leave for those who follow.*



**AMERICA AT 250 · AI PIONEERS**  
*Boston Global Forum · AI World Society*  
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