

IGERT ... From the "Front Lines"

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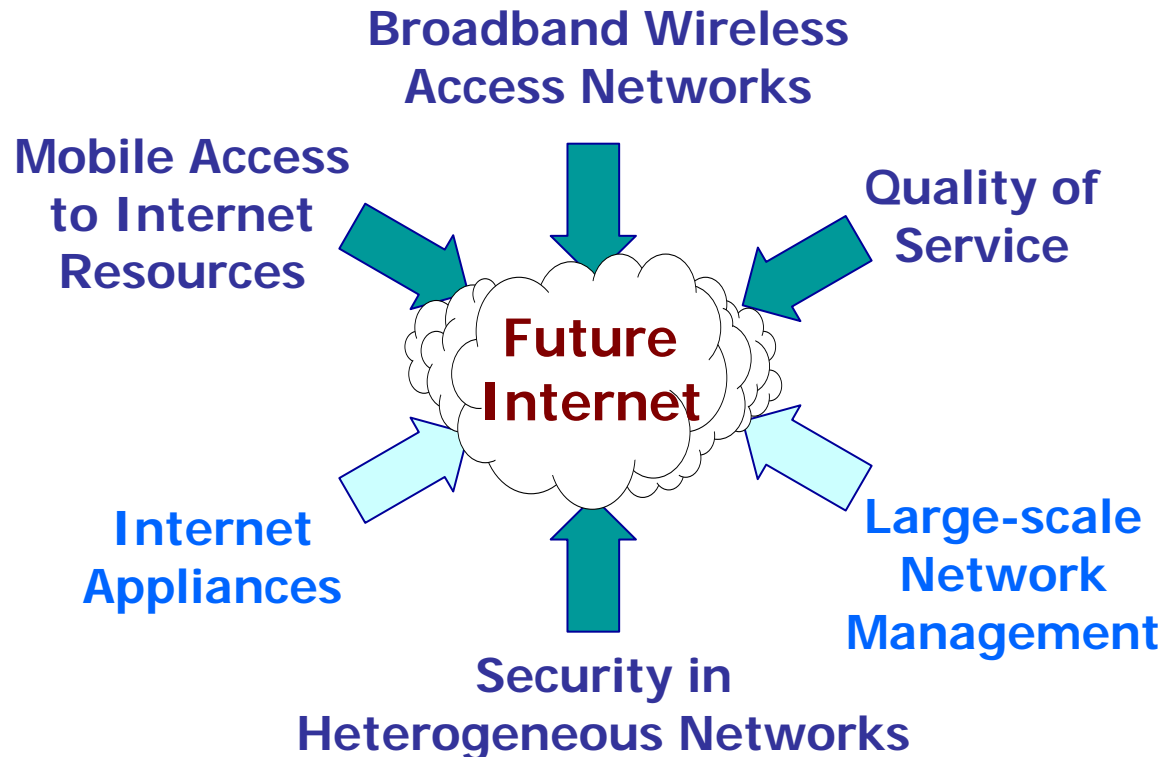


Outline

- Our IGERT in “advanced networking”
- Writing the proposal
- Benefits of an IGERT

Our Theme...

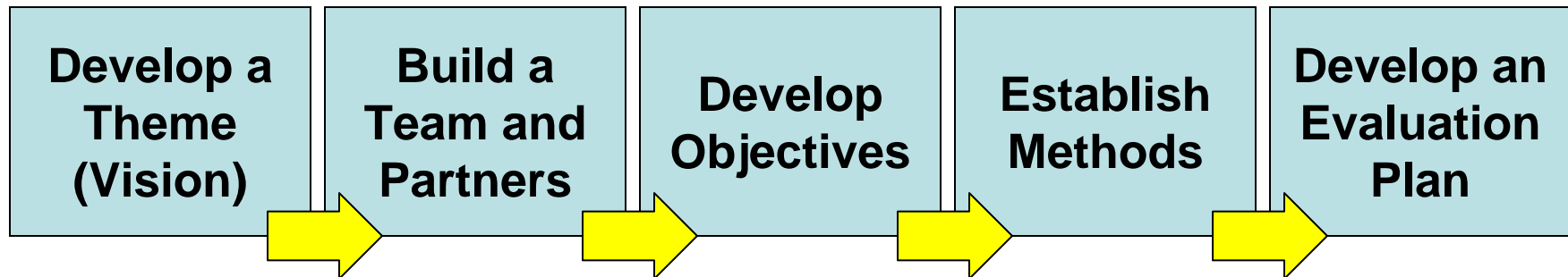
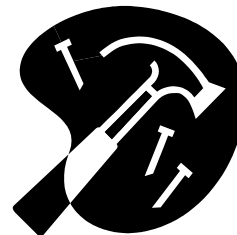
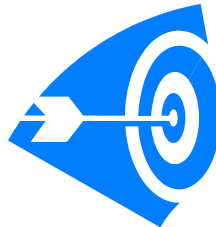
“Realizing a vision of the future Internet as the common, ubiquitous and global communications infrastructure”



Some Properties of Our IGERT

- Students and faculty from three colleges
 - College of Engineering (Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Industrial and Systems Engineering)
 - College of Science (Economics)
 - Pamplin College of Business (Finance)
- Educational experiences
 - State-of-the-art networking research
 - Distributed, multidisciplinary research teams
 - Integration of industrial, global, and regulatory issues
 - Workshops in written and oral communications

Before Writing the Proposal



Develop a Theme

- A successful theme should allow...
 - Quality research
 - An engaging educational experience
- And, of course, the theme should be multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary
- Understand the program announcement



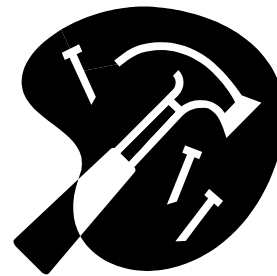
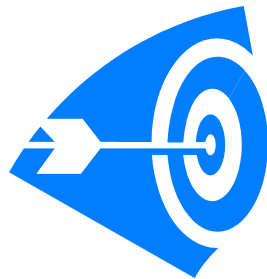
Build a Team and Partners

- Building a strong team is particularly important, and challenging, for an IGERT
 - Crossing traditional discipline boundaries
 - Potentially from multiple universities
- Characteristics
 - Established collaborators (at least a core)
 - Shared vision
 - Shared benefits
 - Shared trust
- Partners are also critical
 - Department, College, and University administration



Develop Objectives and Methods

- Objectives
 - Research objectives
 - Student objectives
 - Program objectives
- Program features and activities needed to achieve the objectives
- Establish a mapping between objectives and methods



Develop Evaluation Plan

■ Evaluation of...

- Individual activities
- An IGERT program
- The NSF's overall IGERT program



■ Look for help

- Evaluation expertise within your academic unit
- Evaluation expertise within your institution
- External evaluators

Why IGERTs are Great! (1)

- Graduate student recruiting
 - Innovative program attractive to students, especially non-traditional students
 - Sustained funding
- Supplemental support for students
 - Travel
 - Notebook computers
 - Laboratory equipment and supplies

Why IGERTs are Great! (2)

- Catalyst for multidisciplinary research and education
 - Research collaborations leading to other funded projects
 - New courses
 - Research workshop
- Tangible differences in IGERT students
 - Nature and quality of their research
 - Breadth of interests
 - Presentation and writing skills

Contacts

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- <http://www.irean.vt.edu/>