



# **Information Infrastructure**

## **Public Policy Issues**

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# Stage Setting

- There are Vulnerabilities, we have a problem, it's not getting better, there are no easy solutions.
- Technology issues: lack of inherent security in legacy and new technologies; flaws in commonly used products; organizational failures to address security; rapid evolution of technology; technology being used in unanticipated ways; systems are now interconnected – and becoming interdependent—in ways that lead to unintended consequences; complexity; failures and attacks; game of leap-frog.
- Costs: Billions to economy; national security at risk; net at risk; viruses and worm incidents increasing; critical infrastructures at risk; etc.
- Issue: what if anything should government do?



# Broad Policy Issues

- Need better factual predicates, scope vulnerabilities and consequences, how does the marketplace work, is there market failure, what is the proper role of government here difference to protect -- economy, national security.
- As in most policy issues, there are three choices, private responses, public responses or a combination.
- Private: contract, insurance, competition, innovation, best practices, voluntary standard setting, corporate leadership...
- Public: regulation, liability rules, mandatory standards, tax credits, bully pulpit, fund R&D, procurement policy ...
- The information infrastructure is largely unregulated, unlike “utilities,” in DC it is religion “Thou shall not regulate the Internet.” What is the proper role of government?
- We are asking, is there competitive advantage in markets, for vendors, corporate users, consumers?
- This panel, and all of us here, can help inform the ongoing debate.

