



CANADIAN STANDARDS
ASSOCIATION

The National Standards System Keeping Pace with Information Technology - An SDO Perspective -

Tom Bartoffy, P. Eng.
Project Manager, Electrical and ICT
Standards
Canadian Standards Association



SDO Perspective

- What are standards
- Who are the players
- How are standards developed
- CSA's role
- ICT standards – Past
- ICT Standards – Present
- ICT Standards – Future
- Strategy going forward



Standards

- **Defined as**
 - “generally recognized set of characteristics”
- **Is it Law ?**
 - Laws – developed by governments
 - Regulations – developed by authorized agencies
 - Standards – developed by SDOs



Who Develops Standards

- **Internationally**

- ISO
- IEC
- W3C
- Proprietary (Microsoft, Sun ...)

- **Nationally**

- CSA
- ULC
- BNQ
- CGSB
- CGA



Canadian National Standards System

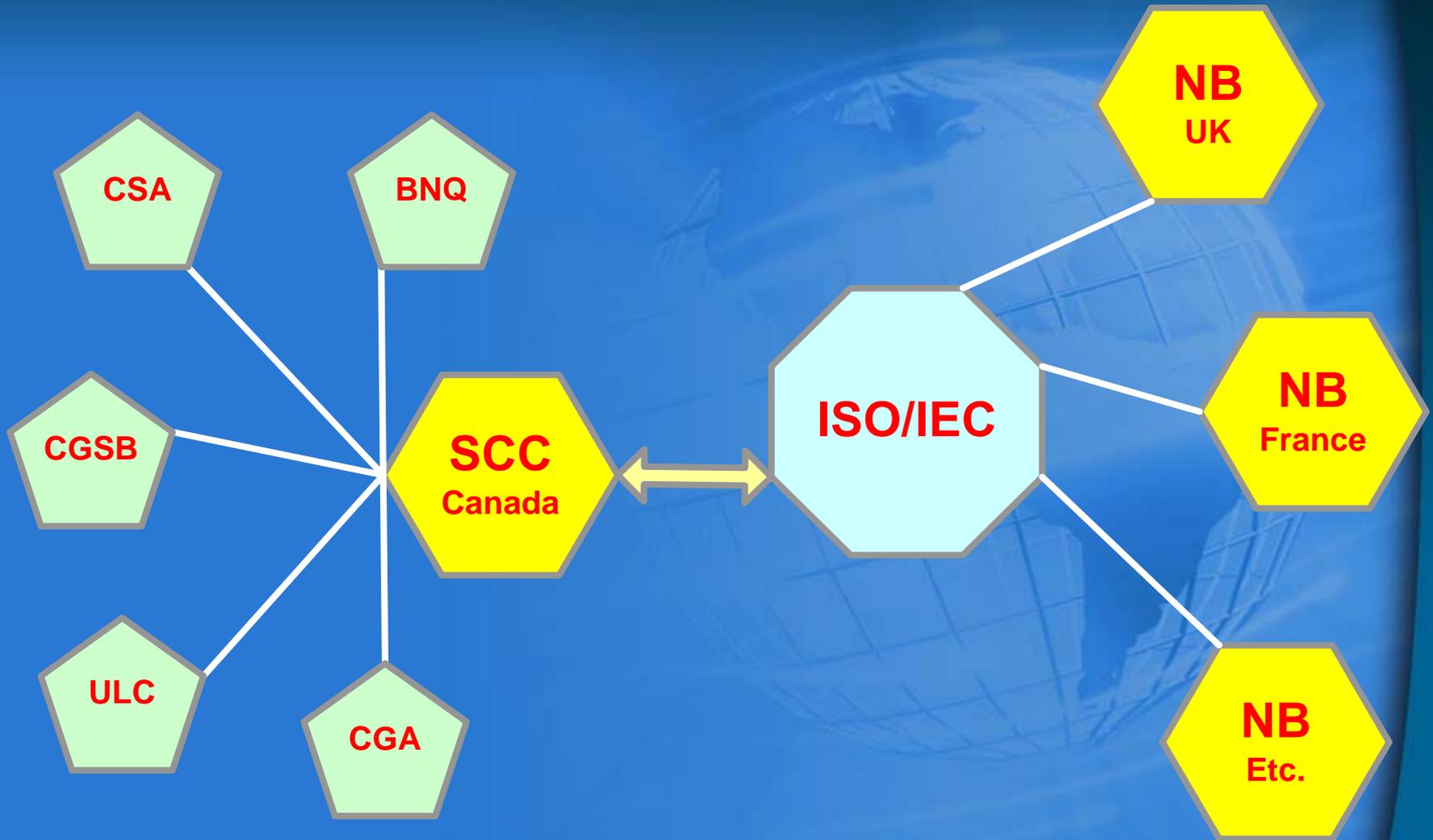
Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is the designated head of Canada's National Standards System (NSS)

The NSS is defined as, "...the coordinated Canadian system of independent, autonomous organizations working towards the development and improvement of voluntary standardization in Canada, as overseen by the SCC."

In other words, SCC co-ordinates the efforts of a number of independent SDOs.



SDO Linkages





Standards Development Process

- **Overview**

- Management Infrastructure
- Expert committees
- Must be Accredited

- **Process**

- Identification of needs
- Seed document
- Consensus development
- Public review
- Ballot and resolution
- Publication





CSA Competency

- **Founded in 1919**
- **Diverse standards in electrical, OH&S, plumbing, environment, gas, energy and ICT**
- **Published more than 2500 standards, including 700+ ICT standards**
- **Over 1300 Committees**
- **Over 8000 volunteer members**
- **More than 350 in ICT alone**
- **Represents ~\$5 million in ICT expertise**



ICT in the early years

- **Standards Strategy:**

- Developed several uniquely Canadian standards
- Major international participation (JTC1)
- Focus on development of fundamental building blocks
- Adopted those relevant for Canadians
- Lack of Regulations, Certifications, Qualifications or any third-party evaluations

- **Industry Strategy:**

- Wild growth and mergers were quite common
- It was an exciting era of experimentation and rapid growth resulting in a dot com revolution
- “Wild West” environment



- More mature industry
- Improved quality
- Commodity vs “geek” interest and use
- Time to “Tame the West” and call in the Sheriff
- Consumers and industry demand regulations / standards
 - Health Care – medical data management / tele-operations
 - Security – borders / financial / e-mail / privacy
 - Software Quality
- Standards are voluntary – Regulations are Not



ICT Tomorrow

- **Regulations are coming – internally or externally**
- **Identify society's sector-specific needs**
 - Security
 - Health
 - Communications
 - Software testing
 - Interoperability
- **Standards to focus on specific Registration / Certification / Evaluation solutions**
- **Business opportunities for third-party Registrars to deliver these solutions**



Strategies for Tomorrow's ICT Needs

- Promote the availability of National standards
- National vs International standards
- Work with industry and consumer groups to identify and develop sector-specific standards needs
- Encourage the development of third-party Registrants
- Industry provides ~ \$5 million in services and expertise
- CSA provides ~ \$100,000 in services
- Government participation required – funding and promotion



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Thank You