

## Werner Zorn Is Member of the Internet Hall of Fame

International Honor for Computer Scientist from Karlsruhe



Professor Werner Zorn. (Photo: Kay Herschelmann)

**The computer scientist Professor Werner Zorn from Karlsruhe has been admitted to the Internet Hall of Fame by the Internet Society. He is one of 32 internet pioneers worldwide, who are honored in 2013 for their extraordinary achievements relating to the development and dissemination of the internet. The Internet Society recognizes Zorn's merits in the introduction of electronic mail and development of the internet in Germany.**

After his studies of electrical engineering at the then Universität Karlsruhe (today's KIT), Zorn first worked as a member of the scientific staff of Karl Steinbuch and did his doctorate in 1971. From 1972, he headed the newly established informatics computer department (IRA) at Universität Karlsruhe, where he paved the way for the introduction of the internet in Germany. A major step was the connection to the US Computer Science Network (CSNET), from which the first electronic mail arrived in Karlsruhe on August 03, 1984. At that time, it was impossible to foresee how quickly electronic mailing would turn into one of the most important communication media. Three years later, the research group established a CSNET connection to China.

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In 1989, Werner Zorn succeeded in establishing the first German direct connection to the American NSF-NET. Via the service provider Xlink, German universities and commercial companies were able to connect to major parts of the global internet at that time. In 1993, Xlink became an autonomous spinoff of the university. In 2001, Zorn moved to the Hasso Plattner Institute, Potsdam, to hold the Chair for Communication Systems. In 2006, he was awarded the Federal Cross of Merit.

The Internet Society is the largest independent organization worldwide, which promotes the open development and evolution of equal access to the internet. The Internet Hall of Fame of the Internet Society is to annually honor outstanding individuals who contributed to the further development of the internet.

**Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) is a public corporation according to the legislation of the state of Baden-Württemberg. It fulfills the mission of a university and the mission of a national research center of the Helmholtz Association. Research activities focus on energy, the natural and built environment as well as on society and technology and cover the whole range extending from fundamental aspects to application. With about 9000 employees, including nearly 6000 staff members in the science and education sector, and 24000 students, KIT is one of the biggest research and education institutions in Europe. Work of KIT is based on the knowledge triangle of research, teaching, and innovation.**

This press release is available on the internet at [www.kit.edu](http://www.kit.edu).