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CAIDA's KC Claffy Inducted Into Internet Hall of Fame

Claffy recognized for her pioneering work in internet analysis and measurement

KC Claffy, director of the Center for Applied Data Analysis (CAIDA) at the University of California's San Diego Supercomputer Center, has been inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame for her pioneering work in the area of internet measurement and analysis.

Claffy, who is also an adjunct professor in UC San Diego's Computer Science and Engineering Department, was among 11 inductees from six countries around the world, including Peru, Japan, Brazil, Netherlands, Togo and the U.S. They were honored at a special ceremony September 27 in San José, Costa Rica.

KC Claffy
Image: Stonehouse Photographic / Internet Society

"The internet's design has always enabled people to see a problem, and get to work on solving it," said Andrew Sullivan, Internet Society President and CEO. "This year's inductees have given us all great gifts of their creative approaches to issues they saw on the internet. We can take inspiration from them to tackle the next round of challenges."

In pioneering the field of internet measurement and analysis, Claffy has helped the global scientific research community better understand the internet and how it is used, according to an announcement by the Internet Hall of Fame. In addition to conducting her own research, Claffy and her team have developed infrastructure and methodologies for large-scale internet data collection, analysis, and distribution around the world.

In her acceptance remarks, Claffy recognized the roles that SDSC, its Founding Director Sid Karin, SDSC Research Scientist Hans-Werner Braun, and then-UC San Diego Professor George Polyzos played early in her career.

She also observed two historical inflection points: one at the beginning of her career, the commercialization and privatization of the Internet infrastructure, and the second emerging now, amidst recognition that "society is increasingly exposed to a range of harms serious enough to create a public interest in mitigating them." Claffy also noted that this inflection point toward regulation is "scarier…, because mistakes by governments are more dangerous and take longer to undo than mistakes by the private sector."

Claffy published the first of many papers on internet traffic measurement and analysis in 1992, and in 1997 founded CAIDA. The center initially focused on data that informed the technical community, but now also examines the economic and policy context that defines the internet ecosystem, including analysis related to infrastructure security and stability, the mutual interdependence of architecture and policy, and the ethics of information technology research.

A series of brief videos by Claffy explaining the issue of net neutrality and why we need to measure the internet can be found here.