Web Research

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)   https://www.w3.org/

W3C is an international consortium of groups who work together to maintain and develop standards for the World Wide Web. W3C was started by Tim Berners-Lee in 1994, while at MIT, with support from the European Commission and DARPA. Development work was done by Mr. Berners-Lee while at CERN. Adherence to W3C standards is voluntary, much like that of IEEE. W3C is a self-governed organization, administered by MIT in the United States.

Who can join? They say anyone can join, but their membership list as of June 22, 2016 (https://www.w3.org/Consortium/Member/List#xM) seems to consist of technology companies, universities and other government and industry related groups. Their website lists 432 current members, including all the technology companies and universities I've ever heard of.

Membership cost? Fees vary, but this is clearly not for the recreational web-surfer. The following excerpt is taken from the W3C website (https://www.w3.org/Consortium/fees):

> "In order to promote a diverse Membership that represents the interests of organizations around the world, W3C fees vary depending on the annual revenues, type, and location of headquarters of an organization. For instance, as of 2016-06-01, a small company in India would pay 1,905 USD annually, a non- profit in the United States would pay 7,900 USD, and a large company in France would pay 59,500 EUR."

The Web of Things

The opening statement in the W3C Web of Things page states: "The Internet of Things (IoT) suffers from a lack of interoperability across platforms." This is a subject that has long caught my fancy. With IPv6 address space, it is conceivable for every tree or car part to have its own IP address, and (why not?) its own website. Whether a tree needs its own webpage is not being debated here, but if it did, the W3C discussion of avatars becomes interesting. Traditionally, an *avatar* is an earthly aspect of Vishnu. In digispeak, it is a virtual representation of a thing. To quote from W3C.org,

> "Avatars have identities, rich descriptions, services, access control and data handling policies. Avatars have URIs and are accessible via web technologies."

It may make sense for a city to have a website devoted to trees, where citizens could report pestilence or, say, too many carvings of "Tony loves Maria".

The Internet Society (ISOC)   http://www.internetsociety.org/

The Internet Society appears to be the worldwide advocate for "Internet for the Masses." The reason for their creation can be summarized by their mission statement

> To promote the open development, evolution, and use of the
> Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world.

It appears that anyone can join, at no cost. (At least I think so, because I am apparently already a member, and I don't remember joining or paying anything. That's how democratic they are!) ISOC advocates Internet access for everyone the world over, and it has a definitely international flavor, with chapters all over the world. They don't appear to have a large presence in Southern California, however. The nearest chapter appears to be in the SF bay area. Their website (http://www.sfbayisoc.org/) lists a monthly meeting and a leadership workshop for interested members. Would I recommend membership? Not sure – the most compelling reason might be the presence of several blog/discussion group activities, if one is into that sort of thing.

World Organization of Webmasters (WOW)   http://webprofessionals.org/

WOW is a non-profit organization of Web development professionals, teachers and students. They are somewhere in between the previous two organizations, in terms of scope of activities, influence and cost of membership. The following is their mission statement:

Mission statement
- Foster professional standards
- Advocate on behalf of Web Professionals
- Provide for communication among all web professionals, including corporate webmasters, developers and designers in government, business, and education, independent web professionals, and the aspiring such as students
- Provide for education through the development of curriculum standards, publishing of articles and books, professional papers, and the sponsoring of seminars and conferences
- Stimulate the continued growth of the Web by providing a forum for the raising of new ideas and an effective mechanism for dialog on these issues
- Provide security, legal and marketing white papers as well as an area on the latest trends in the Internet on each of those

Regarding membership:

Membership pricing is annual. Membership classes are as follows:

- **Student – $29 USD**
- **Government/Educational – $49 USD**
- **Individual – $69 USD**
- **Small Business – $250 USD**
- **Education Alliance – $299 USD**
- **Corporate – contact us for additional information for details**

They are hosting their15th Annual Web Design Contest, slated for Louisville in June. I can see myself attending such an event, once my skills are such that I could compete. Benefits for joining WOW might be: association with other web professional, discounts on software, and keeping abreast of the Next Big Thing in Web design.

MIT   Massachusetts Institute of Technology

DARPA Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

CERN   European Organization for Nuclear Research

IEEE   Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers