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—Chris Woodford

CeBIT

CeBIT is the world's largest computer fair. It has been held every spring since 1986 in Hannover, Germany. In 1999, there were 7412 companies represented at the fair, which 700,000 people visited. For the March 2000 CeBIT, those numbers rose to 7892 exhibits and 782,010 visitors. CeBIT caters to both western and eastern European markets.

CeBIT began in 1986 as an offshoot of the Hannover Industrial Fair. Until then, computer companies had represented only the third- or second-largest industrial sector present at the fair. As a reaction to the explosive growth of the computer industry in the 1980s, CeBIT was split out of the Hannover Fair. More than 2000 companies and 334,000 people were present at the first CeBIT.

CeBIT is comparable to COMDEX, the American computing fair, in terms of the scope and the lines of products exhibited. However, COMDEX is held during the spring and fall of every year, so each individual show is therefore smaller than CeBIT.

—Raúl Rojas

Center for Democracy and Technology

The Center for Democracy and Technology (CDT) is a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization based in Washington, D.C. Founded by Jerry Berman in 1994, the year in which the U.S. government passed the Information Infrastructure Act, the CDT dedicates itself to promoting democratic values in use of the Internet.

The CDT operates through work groups consisting of representatives of both public and commercial interests. Its main mission, to promote a democratic, decentralized, and global Internet, is based on six principles: (1) the Internet is an open medium, ideal as a democratic platform; (2) information should flow freely (i.e., without state censorship); (3) people should have control over

their own privacy spheres; (4) privacy should be protected; (5) access to the Internet should be ubiquitous; and (6) *netizens* should have an active voice in governmental issues via the Internet. Through its development and advocacy of public policies, the CDT seeks to preserve the Internet's democracy. Freedom of speech and expression is a major CDT issue, and governmental censorship is strongly opposed. CDT supports the belief that individuals, families, and firms should be able to decide for themselves which information they both wish to receive from the new media, or to disclose.

The CDT does not merely weave public policies; it actively opposes those governmental initiatives that do not coincide with the Fourth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which ensures a U.S. citizen's protection against unlawful surveillance. CDT also promotes the development of technological tools that enable Internet users to preserve their personal privacy. The CDT's report on cryptography in 1998 proved to play an influential role at both the national and international levels for politicians discussing cryptography issues. CDT was also active in opposition to the **Communications Decency Act** (CDA) of 1996: A coalition was formed, the Citizens Internet Empowerment Coalition (CIEC), which acted as a co-plaintiff in the court case against the CDA.

Funding for the CDT's work groups is obtained from many different firms and foundations. The work groups, in turn, act as a forum for Internet service providers, manufacturers of hardware and software, online companies, content providers, and consumer interest groups. Some examples of notable sponsors of CDT work groups are Time-Warner, the Association of American Publishers, Ford, **America Online**, Disney, Mindspring, and AT&T.

FURTHER READING

Global Internet Liberty Campaign. "Regardless of Frontiers.

Protecting the Human Right to Freedom of Expression on the Global Internet."

<http://www.cdt.org/gilc/report.html>

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Tsagarousianou, Roza, Damian Tambini, and Cathy Bryan. *Cyberdemocracy: Technology, Cities, and Civic Networks*. London and New York: Routledge, 1998.

—Jenna L. Brinning