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Craig, as a representative of Microsoft who may be able to speak on behalf of major global Internet companies, who do you think should play the key role? Should it be governments? Should it be companies or civil society players? You hear a lot about multiple stakeholders. Who should play the leading role among all of society's stakeholders to establish a code or Internet governance – the private sector, governments, civil society?

Craig MUNDIE

We should break it down into two general classes of problems. The first is to look at where these mechanisms are truly an extension of things that we have a legal regime for or an international way of controlling. For example, today, we have a well-established mechanism to deal with the movement of goods on a global basis. We put them in shipping containers; we move them around. When it reaches the end, we then apply the rules of taxation and other things to the goods that were there.

Today, you can think of an Internet Protocol (IP) package on the Internet as a little shipping container for bit. We do not have any rules that define when that container gets taxed as it passes from country to country and through a network. Is it just like moving a container full of goods on a boat across the ocean and onto a truck or a train? In some of these things, we can apply the lessons that we have learned and even perhaps the regulations and treaties we have for some of these mechanisms. They need to be at least reinterpreted in this cyber environment.

Then there is a class of problems that are completely new, that come from the fact that this is a trans-national environment. Particularly as we deal with what I call the weaponisation and warfare aspects of the network, we have to look, as we have, at other weapons systems. We need to ask what the nation states are going to do in this regard. Particularly in a world where we see asymmetric threats, as opposed to just the nation states as principal actors, we have to think very carefully about that. There are many challenges that we have had in weapons proliferation in different domains. There are questions that still exist about outer space, the control of space, the regulation of space. We are going to have to think like that in many ways around the environment and the Internet.