

William Francis Stucke

Brief Curriculum Vitae

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I spent my career divided between the mining industry, where I led a number of successful construction, automation and research projects, and the telecommunications industry, where I gained a reputation as a hardworking, hard talking guy prepared to learn everything that I can, and then put it into practice. My five years at the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) have been a continual challenge and have taught me a great deal. I am now using that knowledge, skill and experience for the benefit of the industry as a whole.

WSA **2015 to date**

Consulting in the ICT industries to a variety of clients.

Achievements:

Co-author on two significant papers: Draft Rapid Deployment Policy for the Minister of DTPS, via Analysys Mason; and Dynamic Spectrum Management Discussion Paper for ICASA, via Wits LINK centre. Leading (PM) a team awarded the contract to conduct a Market Study of DNS in Africa for ICANN. Consulted to Cell C in the recent Wi-Fi Calling case and ICASA's High Demand ITA. Chairman of the Internet Governance WG under the National ICT Forum. Member of the Boards of the Wi-Fi Forum SA and ISOC-GP. Non-Executive Director of TENET.

ICASA **2009 - 2014**

I was a Councillor (Executive Board Member) at ICASA which has responsibility for regulating the telecommunications, broadcasting and postal sectors. I spent a period directly responsible for the Markets & Competition Division and all its issues, during which I addressed a number of economic modelling challenges, including Call Termination, Sentech and the Post Office. I also dealt with another major challenge, LLU, as well as the introduction of spectrum fees, spectrum for the Digital TV migration process, TV White Spaces and dynamic spectrum assignment.

Achievements:

While at ICASA, I made my mark in changing attitudes towards accountability and in fostering a culture of delivery. I led three groups that made significant progress: JSAG in preparing for DTT, including persuading the SADC to adopt the "7 Mux Plan"; SHAR RATT in persuading recalcitrant mobile operators (and their regulators and governments) to reduce international roaming charges within the SADC; and local operators to draft an SABS standard for GSM QoS monitoring. I also played a significant role (through JSAG) in guiding and approving TVWS trials in the Cape and Limpopo. I have spoken on the subject at several local and international fora.

ISPA **2000 - 2009**

I served on the Management Committee of the SA Internet Service Providers' Association (ISPA) for nine years in various roles, including Treasurer. I played an active role in many of the working groups, chairing some, and edited the monthly newsletter.

Achievements:

ISPA is the only Industry Representative Body recognised by the DoC under the ECT Act. As the owner of a small ISP, I was able to play an impartial role, without vested interests, in addressing ISP's concerns. I helped significantly in building ISPA from less than 40 members to over 160, in training new ISPs and in writing, reviewing and presenting numerous regulatory and policy submissions to Parliament, to Government and to the Regulator. I received an award for outstanding service to the industry.

AfrISPA **2001 - 2010**

I was a founding member and Chairman of the African Association of ISPs. I trained ISPs, regulators, business and government representatives in a number of countries around Africa on BGP Routing for IXPs (even in French!), on how and why to set up an Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and how to form an industry association.

Achievements:

AfrISPA, under my Board's direction, helped to increase the number of operating IXPs in Africa from 5 to 22, in 20 countries, with a similar increase in the number of ISPs and conducted a Regulatory Review of over twenty African countries. Was co-leader of *CATIA Component 1b – ISPs and IXPs: Robust African Internet backbone with exchange points (IXPs) at the core and strong African ISP Associations*.

OceanCAST **2007 – 2008**

I was a partner in a speculative venture to launch a new national operator – prior to the Altech Decision of 29th August 2008, which fully – and suddenly - liberalised the telecommunications sector in South Africa.

Achievements:

Designed a national fibre backbone network of 19,000 km with PoPs in all 150 towns in RSA with a population > 10,000 as per the 2001 Census. We built viable business plans for urban and rural coverage providing VoIP and Internet access to the home or business, using a judicious mixture of fibre, xDSL and wireless technologies. Detailed planning completed for some areas, including remote areas such as Capricorn Municipality in Limpopo.

QuickStep / ZAnet / Simply Connect: 1996 - 2009

A serial entrepreneur, I founded and managed three small but innovative ISPs in SA.

Achievements:

ZAnet, an early ISP, achieved a dozen "firsts" in the Internet field in SA.

De Beers / Anglo Group 1984 - 1996

After completing my training and Certification as an Engineer, I played various roles, from commissioning a Gold Plant (Project Engineer) to automating two underground Diamond Mines (Project Leader). Implemented a completely paperless procurement and authorisation system as well as a computerised Maintenance Management System. Was 2 i/c of De Beers' biggest research project to date, that developed a completely automated diamond sorting house ("FISH"), using a number of in-house developed new technologies.

Achievements:

I designed, built, commissioned and operated the first fibre optic Ethernet network in an underground mine in RSA – and even carried out an emergency (mechanical) splice of a broken fibre. I completed several multi-million Rand projects on time, on budget, with better ROI than budgeted. I also acted as the internal multi-discipline consultant to the FISH programme, responsible for reviewing and approving all designs and was Phase Manager and Deputy Programme Manager. I was also the Deputy Head of the Control & Instrumentation Department.

National Telephone Systems (UK) 1983 (and worked as a technician during degree studies)

Responsible for hardware design, documentation and BABT and SA P&T approval for digital PABXs.

Achievements:

I successfully obtained BABT approval for a range of non-blocking digital PABXs and improved the design to increase switching efficiency by a factor of 12 in a 4 E1 x 4 E1 digital space-time switch.

Education:

BSc. (Hons) Engineering from Thames Polytechnic (now University of Greenwich), London. Completed 1983.

Government Certificate of Competency as an Electrical Engineer (Mines & Works Act, 1957) #3045, 1985.

MDP (UNISA) completed 1988.

Achievements:

Designed, built and tested a bit-slice microprocessor emulator using AMD 2900 family components. With a 128-bit wide microcode word, code for the 8-bit Z80 was tested as my degree thesis.

General: Technical

I have programmed in over 20 languages on a dozen operating systems, starting with machine code in 1972, and have configured a wide variety of routers and PLCs. I have consulted to Eskom, Deloitte & Touche, DataPro, World Bank, IDRC, DFID, Analysys Mason and others. Senior member of the SAIEE and SABS Committee Chair.

General: Regulatory

I represented both ISPA and ISOC-ZA (past Chairman) at the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Communications on a couple of Bills. I also presented at several hearings before ICASA. I have sat on the other side of the table and presided over ICASA Hearings. I have a good understanding of telecommunications legislation (ICASA, EC and ECT Acts) and regulations, as well as the PFMA, PAJA and other relevant legislation.

General: Presentations and Papers

I have presented papers on a wide range of Internet, VoIP, TVWS, customer service, spectrum, and telecommunications liberalisation subjects, at conferences in Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, UK and elsewhere.

General: Training

I have written and conducted courses on BGP, IXP configuration and economics, wireless networks, bandwidth management, network design, web site design and SEO, ISPA formation, project management, spectrum, spectrum fees, LLU and DNS. I have also trained two groups of HDI entrepreneurs on how to become ISPs. I have trained people in Benin, Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda and Zambia.

General: Af*

Have participated at various levels in most pan-African Internet related NPOs, including AfriNIC, AfNOG, SAFNOG, AfPIF and CRASA. Have attended many ICANN meetings, including as a GAC member while at ICASA.

Strengths: Unusually broad and in-depth understanding of technical and regulatory issues relating to ICTs in SA
Ability to take a project from concept through to finished product
Ability to keep the "big picture" in mind while concentrating on the details
Ability to lead and motivate a team to perform above and beyond the call of duty
Ability to simplify complex concepts in order to successfully explain to and train others
Well-known figure in SA and African Internet and telecommunications industries
Frequent public speaker, both locally and abroad
Multilingual.