

# Internet in Saudi Arabia -- Country Update

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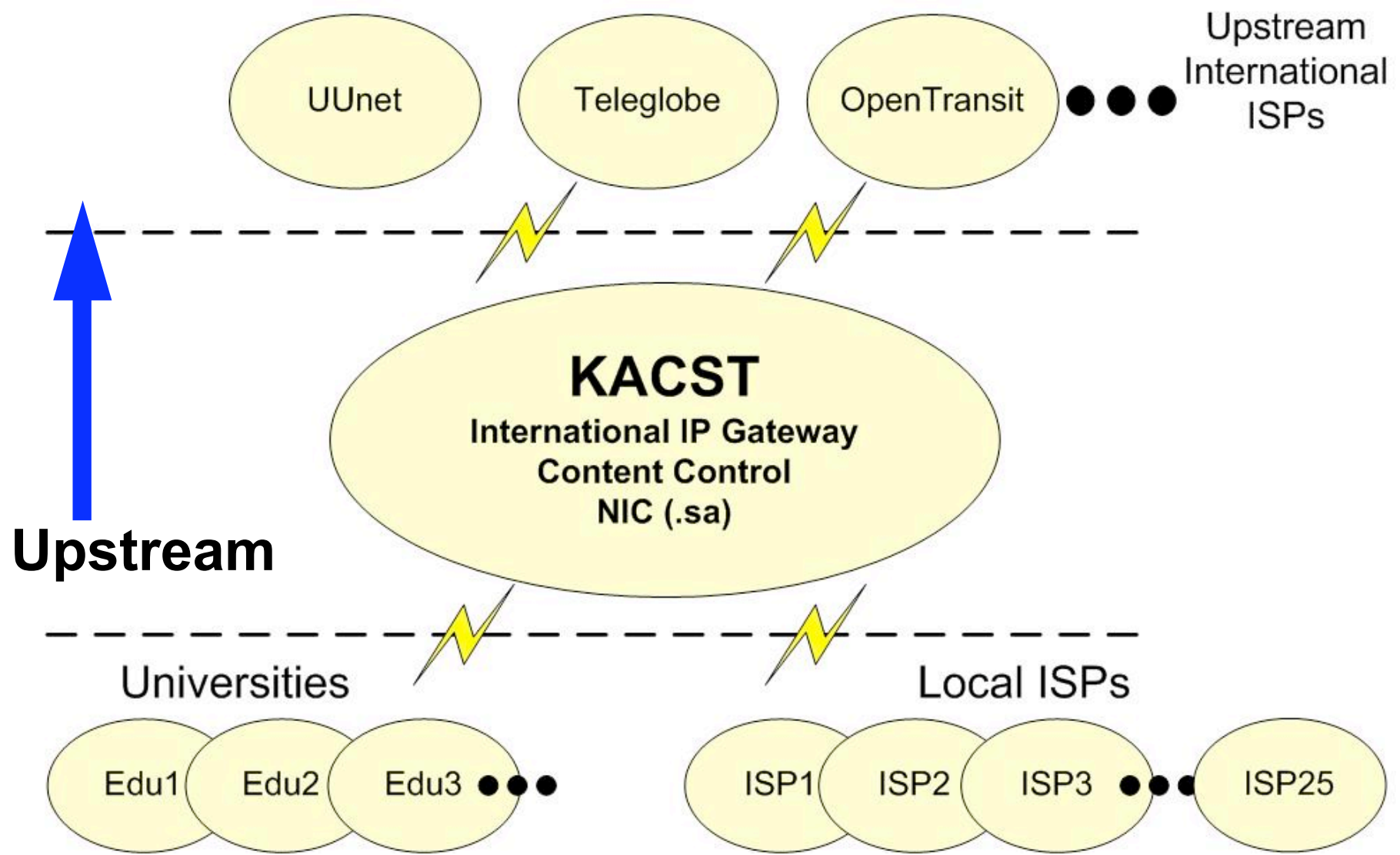
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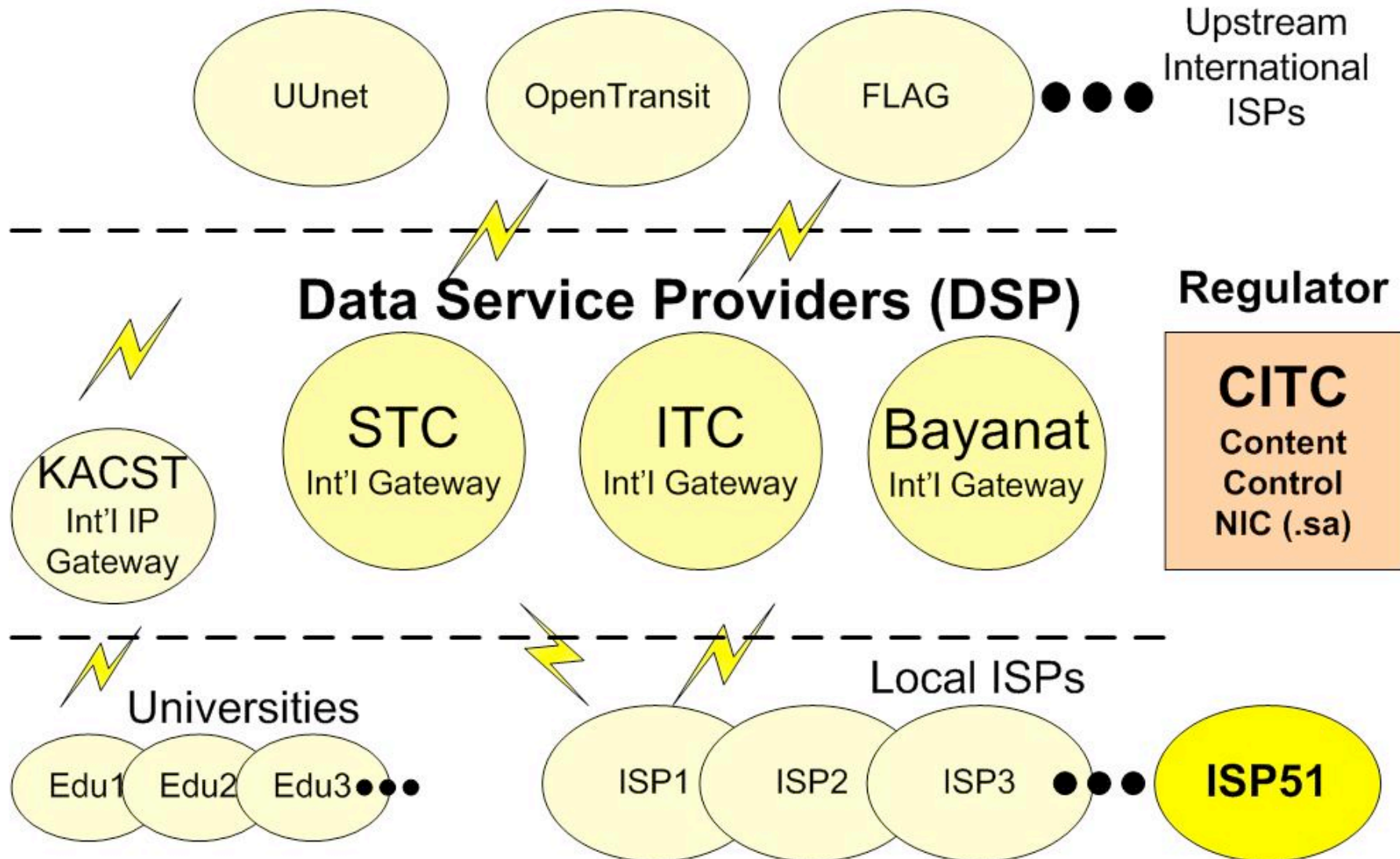
# Agenda

- Start of Internet Saudi
- Snapshot of its Metamorphosis
- Internet Restructuring
  - Data Service Providers (DSP)
  - ISPs
  - Content Control
- Residential Internet Service
- Internet Exchange in Saudi Arabia
- Future

# Internet In Saudi, Then ~1998



# Internet In Saudi, Now



# Internet Restructuring/Deregulation

- (~2003) CITC became the regulatory body, and is also responsible for the content control and domain registration (SaudiNIC)
- (~2004), CITC issued 2 new DSP (Data Service Providers) licenses
- DSP License also allowed International IP Connectivity and redistribution

# Data Service Providers

- STC (Saudi Telecom Company) – Incumbent
- ITC (Integrated Telecom Company)
  - IGW Operational with about 15% of Int'l Transit traffic
- Bayanat
  - IGW not operational yet
- L1/L2/L3 national and international service
- Bayanat and ITC have limited National Wired Service ... Wireless

# Internet Service Providers

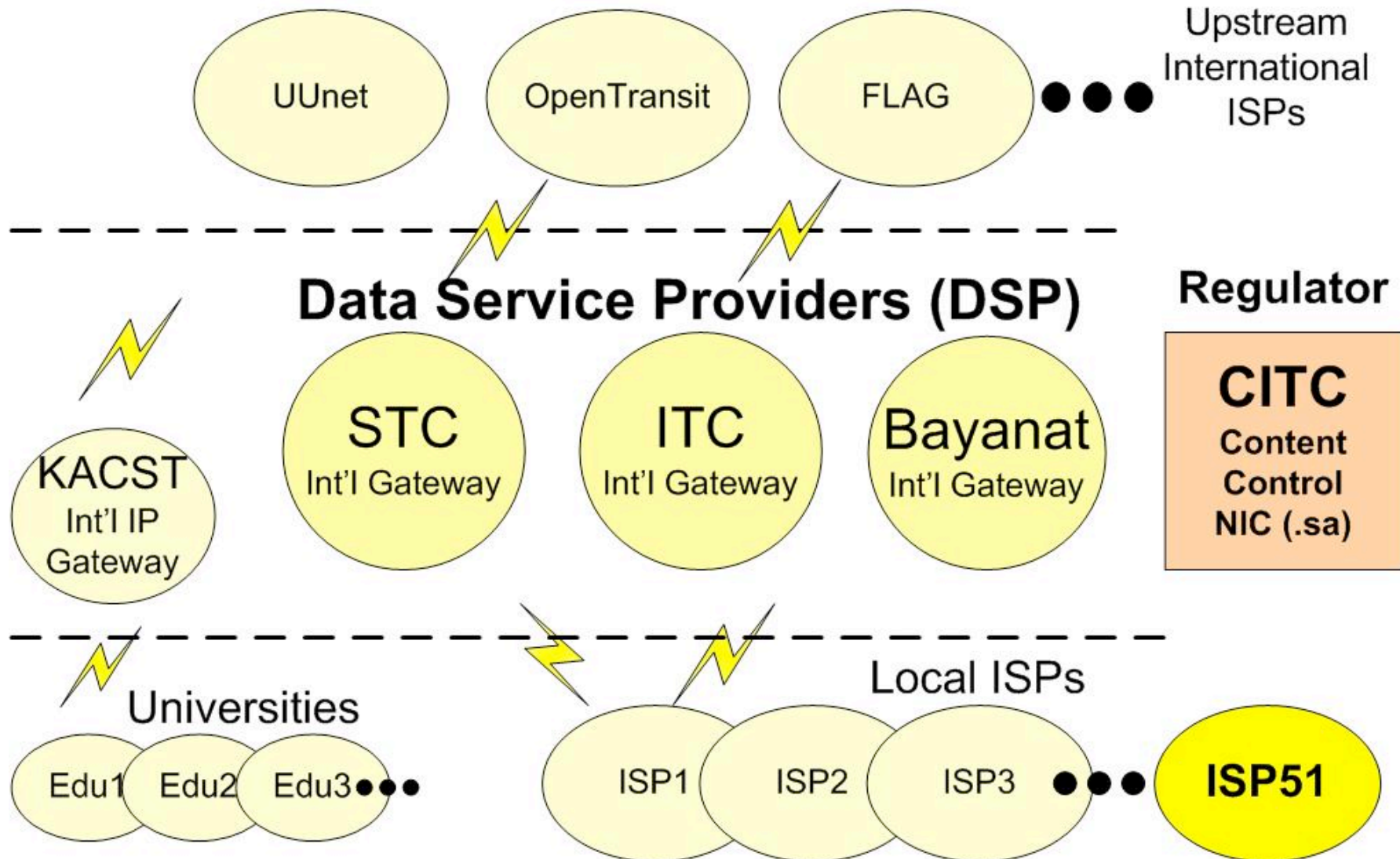
- 51 Licensed ISPs
- 16 Functioning as real ISPs
- Not Changed
  - Top 3 ISPs have 75% of ISP market
  - Not involved in Content Control/Filtering

# Content Control/Filtering

- After deregulation, content control function has split into two phases
- CITC provides the blocked URLs to the DSP
- DSP apply these blocked URLs to their proxy farms



# Internet In Saudi, Now



# Residential Internet Service

# DSL/Broadband

- Ports
  - Active: 250k
  - Availability: 400k
  - Plan: 800k by end of 2007
- Speeds
  - 64kbps and 128kbps are being phased out
  - 256kbps, 512kbps, and 1024k
  - 2, 4Mbps by end of 2007

# Dialup, still #1

- Easynet 3SAR/hr
  - Available: 150k
  - Recent Max.: 90k
- Subscription based dialup almost gone  
2.5SAR/hr + ISP charges

# Internet Exchange (IX) in Saudi Arabia

# Saudi Internet Exchange

- Don't really have one
- DNOOC ... kind of an IX ... peer with STC router
- One commercial Saudi International “Internet Exchange” (Sudan, Yemen, Kuwait, Qatar, Jordan, India, but **NOT Saudi Arabia!**)
- CITC is moving to create a local IX and mandating connectivity

# What's next

- Bayanat, ITC and Mobily Joint Optical Network
- Competition for corporate and ISP customers => more price reduction
- Fixed Telephony Service Licenses  
=> (IP) Voice service
- Better Broadband Availability and Speeds

