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## *“Fathers of the Internet” Speak at 2006 STC Annual Conference*

*By Jeff Cox*

The Annual STC Conference got off to a wonderful start on Monday May 8, 2006 with 2006 STC Honorary Fellows Vinton G. Cerf and Robert E. Khan. The duo is known as two of the “fathers of the Internet” and designers of the TCP/IP protocol that many of us know and have mentioned in at least one of our documents.

Cerf and Khan discussed a number of issues during their presentation, which resembled a casual discussion among

old friends, and at a following question and answer session.

Among their topics were the need for a central repository of data such as email, the issues involved with accessing legacy data, and the importance of sharing knowledge. Khan said that, in particular, the areas of collaboration and expression are not explored as thoroughly as they should be using the Internet. Both men have an appreciation for technical communicators and told of how editing gained impor-

tance, over time, in relation to their research documents.

The organizers of the conference should be commended for attaining two speakers of such legendary stature.

One member even told the duo that she was so inspired by their accomplishments that she was going to change her email signature from Picasso’s statement that a picture took him five minutes and a lifetime to paint to, “This email took nanoseconds and 30 years of innovation to create.”



*Robert E. Khan and Vinton G. Cerf speaking with STC members.*