

## Who We Are

### How it Started

In 1998, governments across the world were busy debating issues like the Y2K crisis, antitrust in the new economy, encryption exports, and broadband. But when debate turned to serious discussions about how government needed to “fix” the tech industry, even executives of smaller firms started to take notice.

While these executives were finally awake to the direct and immediate threat of heavy-handed government regulation, none of them had their own lobbyists or government affairs staff. Yet, with so much at stake, they realized that small tech firms could no longer remain in the silent majority of international business.

Later that year, several executives of small technology firms came together to create the Association for Competitive Technology (ACT). Since its founding, ACT has been the leading voice for the entrepreneurial tech firms that are so critical to our world’s economy.

**T**he Association for Competitive Technology (ACT) is a international education and advocacy group for the technology industry. Focusing on the interests of small and mid-size entrepreneurial technology companies, ACT advocates for a “Healthy Tech Environment” that promotes innovation, competition and investment. ACT has been active on issues such as intellectual property, international trade, e-commerce, privacy, tax policy and competition.

ACT represents nearly 3000 software developers, systems integrators, IT consulting and training firms, and e-businesses from across the world. While ACT enjoys some support from larger “platform” firms such as eBay, Oracle, Verisign and Microsoft, our members are smaller, entrepreneurial tech firms that use these platforms, like Sax Software, ComponentSource and EnsuredMail. These smaller firms have always been the driving force for innovation and job creation in the IT industry. Additionally, their software and services have fueled much of the productivity improvements in financial services, manufacturing and information services.

