

The logo for gov3 features the word "gov" in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font. To its right is a red "3" with a small "TM" trademark symbol to its upper right.

government for
the third millennium™

Building a National ICT Roadmap for Bangladesh > Presentation to BTRC

June 2008

www.gov3.net

What I will cover

- Who we are, and what we are doing
- Our findings so far
- Emerging recommendations
- What we would like from you

Who we are



- Gov3 is the specialist in e-transformation.
- Launched in 2004 by the civil servants who reported directly to Tony Blair on the UK's national ICT strategy, Gov3 has expanded in 4 years to build a global business with offices on London, India, Hong Kong, Dubai. Gov3 has supported over 30 governments around the world, as well as the World Bank, the European Commission, the UN, the OECD and NATO
- A Bangladeshi ICT Solutions & Services Company, which provides value-added consulting solutions and ICT services to Bangladeshi organisations and leading global players, and has specific expertise in ICT for Development.
- A not-for-profit development research organization envisaging mainstreaming Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in poverty alleviation and economic development of Bangladesh.

What we are doing:

"A short, medium and long term National ICT Action Plan or Roadmap for Bangladesh on the basis of the National ICT Policy 2002, that provides detailed action plans for the (i) use of ICT in Bangladesh's development efforts and (ii) development of Bangladesh's ICT sector"

Our findings > Bangladesh is falling behind

- Bangladesh is falling behind or stalling compared with other countries in the region on key Information Society indicators
- The only notable exception is mobile phone use, which has exploded following the 2001 liberalisation

This slow progress is not because Bangladesh lacks major strengths to build on

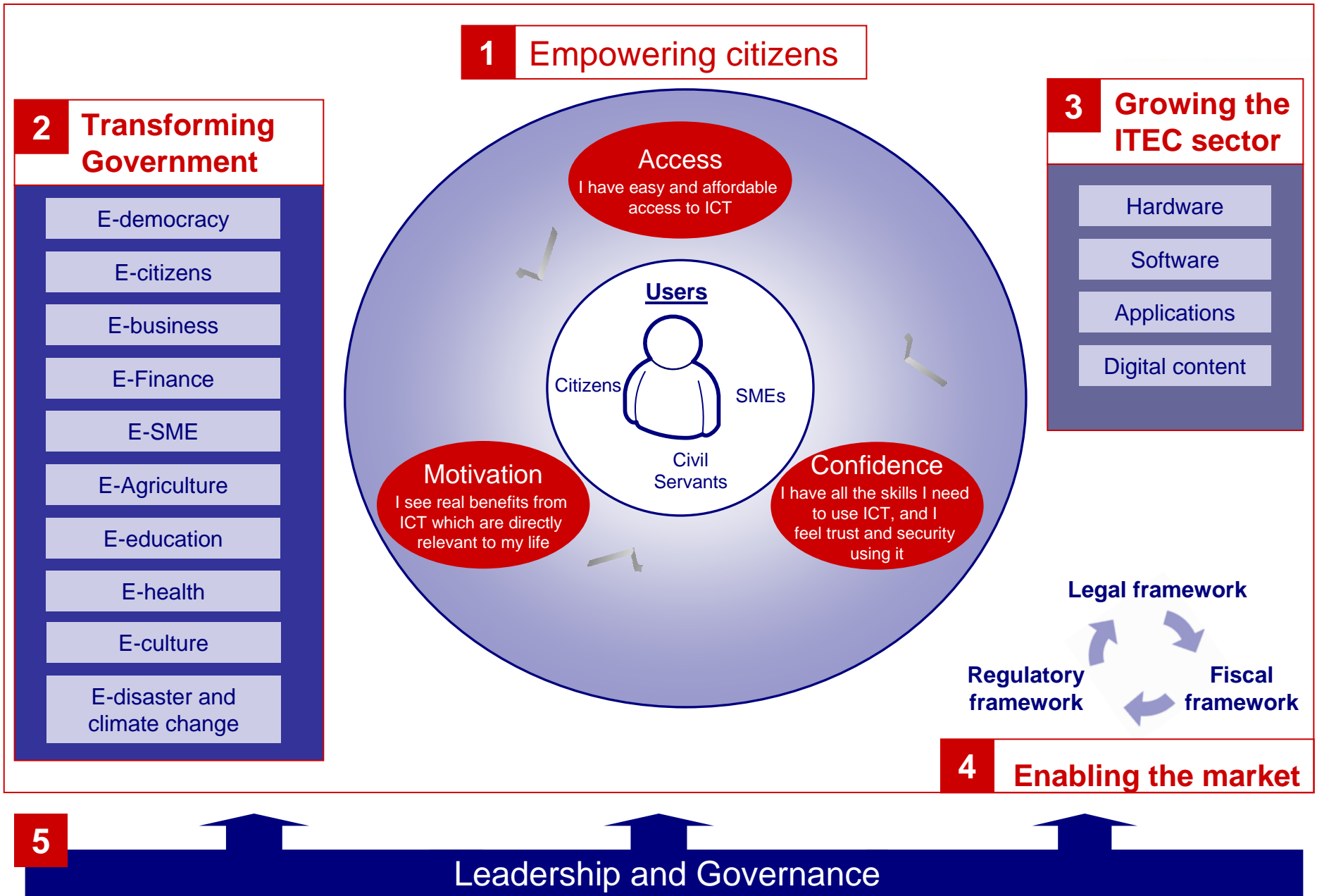
..... nor is it due to a lack of attention

Rather, the problem lies in the ability to transform policy into action, specifically:

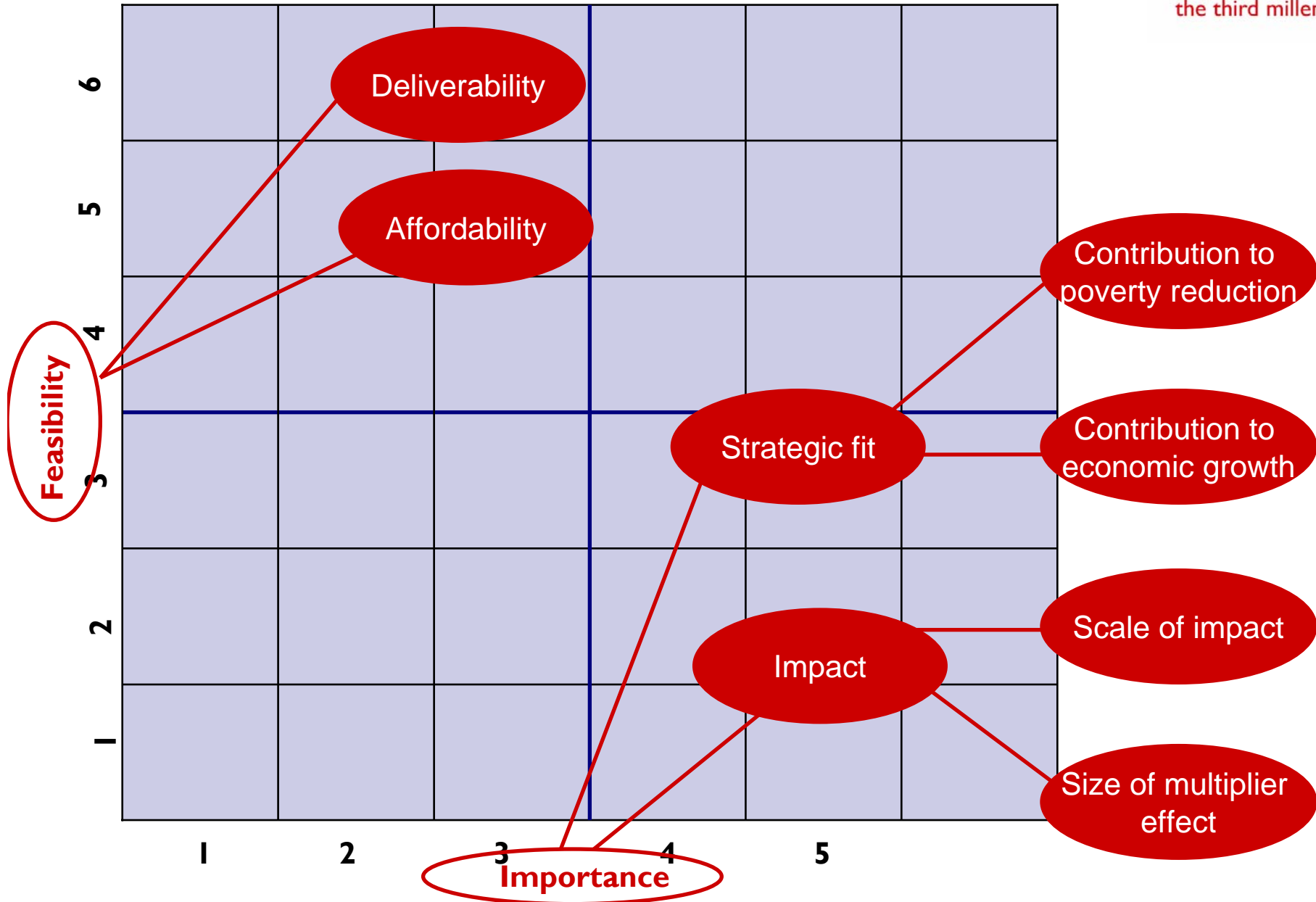
1. A change agenda in Bangladesh which historically has been too broad to be effectively managed, with insufficient prioritisation on where to focus budgets and management attention
2. Unclear and uncoordinated governance structures and processes
3. Lack of effective cross-government programme management
4. Lack of skills and capability
5. An implementation approach which has tended to be focused on government delivery, rather than facilitation and enablement of private and voluntary sector solutions

To redress this, we have developed a framework for the ICT Roadmap which puts significant stress on “Leadership and Governance”, and which has been widely welcomed by stakeholders

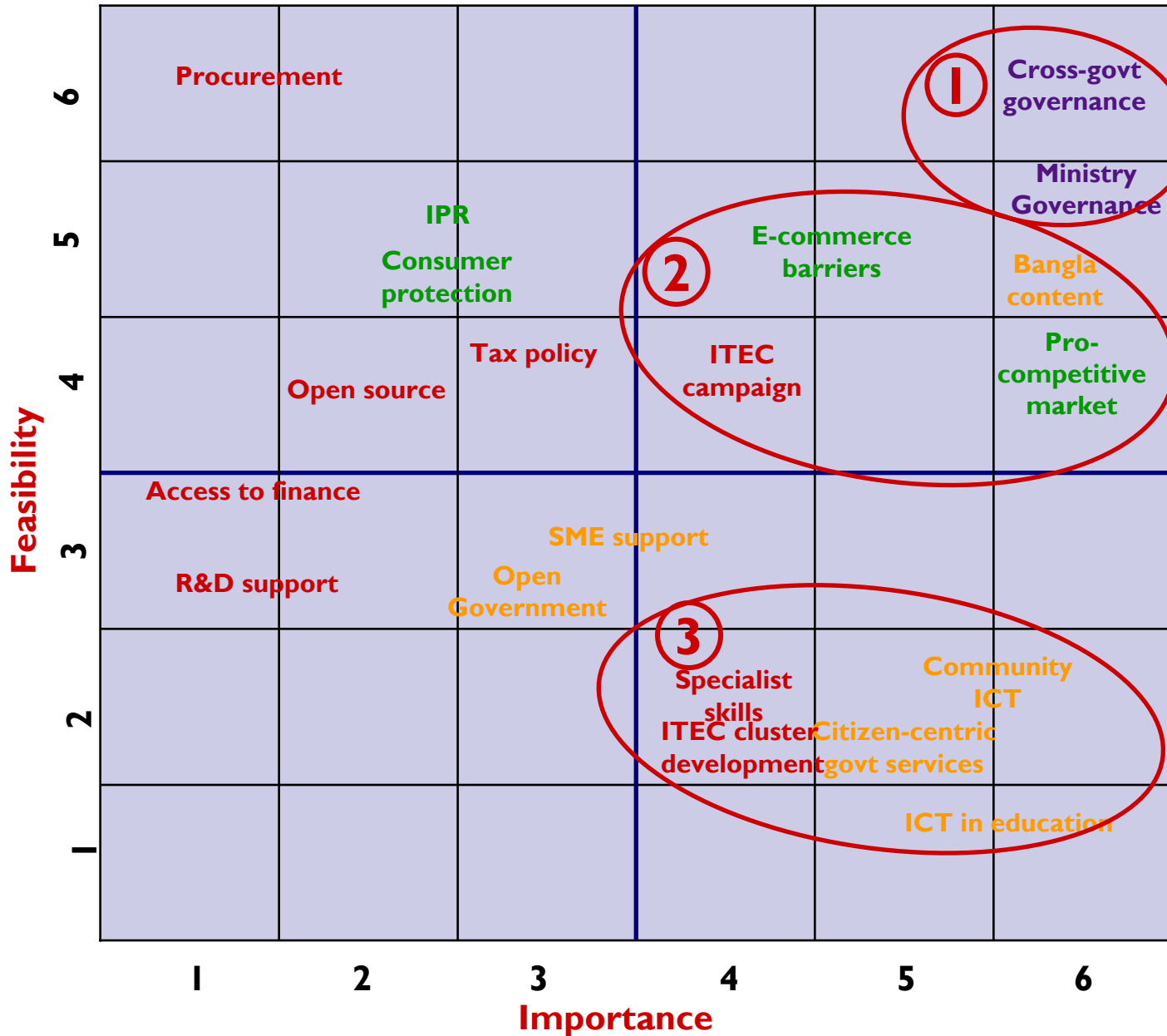
ICT Roadmap for Bangladesh > recommended work streams



Options appraisal > assessment framework



Options appraisal > summary results



Three main groups of policy initiative have emerged as recommended priorities for Bangladesh:

- ① **Vital enablers:** the Leadership and Governance changes needed to ensure successful implementation
- ② **Firm priorities:** Mission critical “Thrust” areas combine both high levels of impact and strategic fit with relatively high levels of feasibility
- ③ **Potential priorities:** candidates for “Thrust” areas, but where further work is needed to ensure that affordability and deliverability risks can be effectively overcome

We would particularly like now your views on our emerging thinking on “Leadership and governance”

The Government of Bangladesh should:

- Appoint a “Chief Digital Advisor” reporting directly to Chief Advisor
- Establish an ICT Roadmap Delivery Group, chaired by the Chief Digital Advisor, bringing together all the key ICT policy making organisations in GoB
- Clarify the roles of the key organisations involved in ICT policy, to reduce overlap and confusion in both the actual activities and the formal remits of a number of the key bodies.
- Underpin the ICT Roadmap with strong programme management capability
- Re-launch the ICT Task Force as an industry partnership for action
- Strengthening internal governance arrangements within ministries and agencies, including by:
 - Defining the role, specification, and privileges of ICT Focal Points , giving them budgetary power over ICT expenditure in their ministries, and increasing training and support for them
 - Developing an ICT Centre of Excellence in each ministry, reporting to the ICT Focal Point
 - Addressing internal skills shortages by pro-actively developing an ICT professional cadre within government.

.... And on “a pro-competitive regulatory framework”

- We believe that this is an area where there is scope for Bangladesh to move more rapidly and aggressively. Areas we would like to explore in more detail include:
 - **Strengthening BTRC:** more professional economists and telecoms experts are likely to be needed to drive forward an aggressive programme and to respond in a rapid way to market and technological developments.
 - **Increasing competition on the international gateway**, ideally by licensing two competitors to BTTB in this space and by requiring these to operate as wholesalers of bandwidth without their own retail businesses
 - **Moving to class licensing** for ISPs and mobile operators, to reduce costs of entry
 - **Driving forward a transparent and cost-based interconnection regime**, coupled with very aggressive regulatory action to ensure a level playing field between BTTB’s retail business and its competitors
 - **Reviewing the case for full privatization of BTTB**, including the case for separate privatization of its wholesale and retail businesses.

gov³TM

government for
the third millenniumTM

End

chris.parker@gov3.net

elizabeth.muller@gov3.net

nurul.kabir@spinnovation.com.bd

www.gov3.net