ICANN and IANA Reserved Names

Report for RN-WG

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1. Background

This report provides an overview and assesses the current status of the category of reserved names related to ICANN and IANA. As such, the reserved names are not available for registration by members of the public.

More specifically, the Registry Agreements negotiated by ICANN state that "the following names shall be reserved at the second level and at all other levels within the TLD at which Registry Operator makes registrations".

The two tables below present the set of reserved names for two organizations: ICANN and IANA. In the case of ICANN, there are five reserved names for each registry. In the case of the IANA, they are seventeen (17) for each registry.

Table 1: ICANN-related names,
in order of year of ICANN-Registry agreement

GTLD	Reserved Names					Date of Agreement
.aero	aso	dnso	icann	internic	pso	2001
.coop	aso	dnso	icann	internic	pso	2001
.museum	aso	dnso	icann	internic	pso	2001
.name	aso	dnso	icann	internic	pso	2001
.pro	aso	dnso	icann	internic	pso	2002
.jobs	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2005
.mobi	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2005
.net	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2005
.travel	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2005
.cat	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2005
.tel	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2006
.asia	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2006
.biz	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2006
.com	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2006

.info	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2006
.org	aso	gnso	icann	internic	ccnso	2006

Table 2: IANA-Related Names

TLD		Reserved Names
.aero .asia .biz .cat .com .coop .info .jobs .mobi .museum .name .net .org .pro .tel .travel	All names in Reserved Names column at right are reserved in each TLD at left.	afrinic apnic arin example gtld-servers iab iana iana-servers iesg ietf irtf istf lacnic latnic rfc-editor ripe root-servers

In addition, in the course of the work on reserved names in this category, the question has arisen whether the following names should also be reserved:

http
https
html

These names are not currently the subject of reservations.

A check of the Verisign *whois* service found no registrations of these three names. A check of the Internic *whois* showed no registrations of these names. The PIR *whois* showed that *http.org* was registered. Further checks on the PIR were blocked.

Justification for ICANN reserved names

The words reserved by ICANN are mostly acronyms that basically relate to the organization structures (bodies) and functions, as it has evolved, and the justification for reservation is equally obvious.

The "schedule of reserved names" was born with the new TLD registry agreements in early 2001. A consultation with ICANN officials yielded the same result: no one recalls any record of any public or private document that describes the rationale for having a scheduled names list, or that describes the reasons why particular strings were included (or excluded).

Some members of the Working Group on Reserved Names believe that ICANN and IANA should not be able to reserve if other entities must register names in order to keep them from public use.

Justification for IANA's reserved names

There has been little need in the past to justify decisions about some reserved names, some of which must date from the days of John Postel. A search has revealed only a few paragraphs here and there of justification.

The IANA-reserved names relate to functions and institutions within the purview of IANA: subordinate nameservers, IANA's regional nodes, the request for comment editor, and so forth.

The standard explanation offered to those seeking to register such names is basically given by IANA along the following lines.

General responses to other reserved domains:

Thank you for your enquiry.

Domain names reserved by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority are not available for sale, registration or transfer. These have been reserved on policy grounds, and include single letter domains, domains with hyphens in the third and fourth positions, and other reserved words.

Should the policies regarding these rules change, they will be released from IANA's registration according to revised policy.

2. Role

The role of the reserved names held by IANA and ICANN has been to maintain for those organizations the exclusive rights to the names of ICANN (icann), its bodies (aso, ccnso, pso, etc.) or essential related functions (internic) of the two organizations.

3. Straw recommendations regarding ICANN and IANA reserved Names

Description of Current Reserved Name Requirement			
ICANN: aso, gnso, icann, internic, ccNSO			
IANA: afrinic, apnic, arin, example, gtld-servers, iab, iana, iana-servers, iesg, ietf, irtf, istf, lacnic, latnic, rfc-editor, ripe, root-servers			
Level	**Type**	**More Work?**	**Recommendations**
Top	ASCII	For some, yes.	1. Further consultations be made in relation to **http, https, and html.** 2. ICANN and IANA reserved names should continue to be reserved pending a decision of the GNSO to vary this status.
Top	IDN	No, except for "example"	1. For all but "example", use these names as integral designators without translation. 2. Assuming that reservations continue for all, in the case of "example", it was suggested that this word alone might benefit from being reserved in ACE-encoding.
2nd	ASCII	As above	Same as for top level
2nd	IDN	As above	Same as for top level
3rd	ASCII	As above	Reserve in the case of dot pro and dot name as appropriate, or as the GNSO directs.
3rd	IDN	As above	Same as for top level, as appropriate to the registry model.

4. Consultation with Experts

Both Dan Halloran and Kurt Pritz have been approached to supply a rationale for the continuing reservation of these names. Kurt Pritz wrote:

> "Regarding the reasoning for making the name reservation on these 17 names: present staff at ICANN were not involved in the decision making process. We have started the documentation search regarding these reservations and will make contact with those involved with making the reservation. We have had discussions regarding this issue but will not be able to generate a formal report in the near-term.
>
> "In the meantime, it is ICANN's position [is] that these names continue to be reserved."

Other members of ICANN have supplied information to this report.

Dan Halloran has pointed out that if IANA's or ICANN's current set of reserved names were ever disputed, the entire UDRP process is under the aegis of ICANN. This would have the effect of making it appear that ICANN was sitting in judgment of its own interests. The better way to avoid this possibility was to keep them reserved.

IDN Implications

As regards the IDN implications of these two categories of names, both Cary Karp and Ram Mohan were consulted in a teleconference of March 1, 2007. The advice received was that these names were "integral designators" to be used "without translation". In other words, there was no need to reserve these strings in other languages. Ram Mohan also agreed that they should not be reserved in foreign languages or scripts. "Find the equivalent and reserve them at that time", he suggested. "Don't try to translate them", referring to the acronyms.

The one possible exception to the general advice was in relation to the single word "example", which was capable of being used in translated form in many languages.

5. Summary of Relevant Information Sources

The [ICANN registry agreements](#) set forth the reserved names in question (http://www.icann.org/registries/agreements.htm).

We have been unable to find directly relevant RFCs or other documents pertaining to this class of reserved name.