2011-07-28-01-Annex-.om

TITLE: Redelegation of the .OM domain representing Oman

IANA REFERENCE: 439217

In accordance with ICANN's obligations for managing the DNS root zone, IANA[1] receives requests to delegate, redelegate and revoke top-level domains. This application has been compiled by IANA for presentation to the ICANN Board of Directors for review and appropriate action.

Sensitive Delegation Materials

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[1] The term IANA is used throughout this document to refer to the department within ICANN that performed the IANA functions.

Sensitive Delegation Materials

Submitted by:	Kim Davies
Position:	Manager, Root Zone Services
Date Noted:	18 July 2011
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2011-07-28-02-Annex-.om-enclosures[1]

Draft Public Report —
Redelegation of the .OM domain representing Oman to the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority

ICANN has received a request to redelegate the .OM domain, a country-code top-level domain representing Oman, to the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. ICANN Staff have assessed the request, and provide this report for the ICANN Board of Directors to consider.

FACTUAL INFORMATION

Country

The "OM" ISO 3166-1 code is designated for use to represent Oman.

Chronology of events

The .OM top-level domain was initially delegated in 1996 to the General Telecommunications Organization of Oman. The organisation, since renamed to Oman Telecommunications Company (Omantel), is the current operator of the .OM top-level domain.

The proposed sponsoring organisation, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), was formed under the Telecommunications Regulatory Act, issued under Royal Decree No. 30/2002. The TRA was created to regulate the establishment, operation and maintenance of telecommunications services in the Sultanate. The mandate of the TRA was extended by Royal Decree No. 64/2007 to "organize, allocate and manage the domain names to access the world wide web."

In September 2008, the TRA published a "Consultation Paper on the Proposed Domain Name Framework for .OM ccTLD". It invited comments on a proposal for the TRA to "take over the function of managing the .om ccTLD". In response, three comments were received from ArabianOman.com, Omantel, and the Ministry of Legal Affairs. These comments, along with commentary in response, were published by the TRA in 2009.

In April 2011, the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Oman presented an application to ICANN for redelegation of the .OM top-level domain.

Proposed Sponsoring Organisation and Contacts

The proposed sponsoring organisation is the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Oman, a governmental entity established by royal decree in Oman.

The proposed administrative contact is Mohammed Al-Raisi, Manager of Domain Names and Numbering Management of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. The administrative contact is understood to be based in Oman.

The proposed technical contact is Zainab Al-Farsi, Specialist, Technical Affairs Unit of the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

EVALUATION OF THE REQUEST

String Eligibility

The top-level domain is eligible for continued delegation under ICANN policy, as it is the assigned ISO 3166-1 two-letter code representing the country Oman.

Public Interest

Support for the application to delegate the domain to the the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority was received from Dr Mohammed Ali al-Wahaibi, Undersecretary for Communications of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. Additional government support was received from the Information Technology Authority of Oman, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Research Council of Oman.

Letters of support for the application have been received on behalf of the Oman Telecommunications Company, the Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhofar University, Sultan Qaboos University, the University of Nizwa and the Omani Qatari Telecommunications Company (Nawras).

The application is consistent with known applicable local laws in Oman.

The proposed sponsoring organisation undertakes to operate the domain in a fair and equitable manner.

Based in country

The proposed sponsoring organisation is constituted in Oman. The proposed administrative contact is understood to be resident in Oman. The registry is to be operated in the country.

Stability

The request is deemed uncontested, with the current sponsoring organisation Omantel consenting to the transfer. An appropriate transfer plan has been tendered with support from the involved parties.

Competency

The application has provided satisfactory details on the technical and operational infrastructure and expertise that will be used to operate the domain. Proposed policies for management of the domain have also been tendered.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is tasked with managing the Domain Name System root zone as part of a set of functions governed by a contract with the U.S. Government. This includes managing the delegations of top-level domains.

A subset of top-level domains are designated for the local Internet communities in countries to operate in a way that best suits their local needs. These are known as country-code top-level domains, and are assigned by ICANN to responsible trustees (known as "Sponsoring Organisations") who meet a number of public-interest criteria for eligibility. These criteria largely relate to the level of support the trustee has from their local Internet community, their capacity to ensure stable operation of the domain, and their applicability under any relevant local laws.

Through an ICANN department known as the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), requests are received for delegating new country-code top-level domains, and redelegating or revoking existing country-code top-level domains. An investigation is performed on the circumstances pertinent to those requests, and, when appropriate, the requests are implemented. Decisions on whether to implement requests are made by the ICANN Board of Directors, taking into account ICANN's core mission of ensuring the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

Purpose of evaluations

The evaluation of eligibility for country-code top-level domains, and of evaluating responsible trustees charged with operating them, is guided by a number of principles. The objective of the assessment is that the action enhances the secure and stable operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. The evolution of the principles has been documented in "Domain Name System Structure and Delegation" (RFC 1591), "Internet Domain Name System Structure and Delegation" (ICP-1), and other informational memoranda.

In considering requests to delegate or redelegate country-code top-level domains, input is sought regarding the proposed new Sponsoring Organisation, as well as from persons and organisations that may be significantly affected by the change, particularly those within the nation or territory to which the ccTLD is designated.

The assessment is focussed on the capacity for the proposed sponsoring organisation to meet the following criteria:

- The domain should be operated within the country, including having its sponsoring organisation and administrative contact based in the country.

- The domain should be operated in a way that is fair and equitable to all groups in the local Internet community.

- Significantly interested parties in the domain should agree that the prospective trustee is the appropriate party to be responsible for the domain, with the desires of the national government taken very seriously.

- The domain must be operated competently, both technically and operationally. Management of the domain should adhere to relevant technical standards and community best practices.

- Risks to the stability of the Internet addressing system must be adequately considered and addressed, particularly with regard to how existing identifiers will continue to function.

Method of evaluation

To assess these criteria, information is requested from the applicant regarding the proposed sponsoring organisation and method of operation. In summary, a request template is sought specifying the exact details of the delegation being sought in the root zone. In addition, various documentation is sought describing: the views of the local internet community on the application; the competencies and skills of the trustee to operate the domain; the legal authenticity, status and character of the proposed trustee; and the nature of government support fort he proposal. The view of any current trustee is obtained, and in the event of a redelegation, the transfer plan from the previous sponsoring organisation to the new sponsoring organisation is also assessed with a view to ensuring ongoing stable operation of the domain.

After receiving this documentation and input, it is analysed in relation to existing root zone management procedures, seeking input from parties both related to as well as independent of the proposed sponsoring organisation should the information provided in the original

application be deficient. The applicant is given the opportunity to cure any deficiencies before a final assessment is made.

Once all the documentation has been received, various technical checks are performed on the proposed sponsoring organisation's DNS infrastructure to ensure name servers are properly configured and are able to respond to queries for the top-level domain being requested. Should any anomalies be detected, IANA staff will work with the applicant to address the issues.

Assuming all issues are resolved, an assessment is compiled providing all relevant details regarding the proposed sponsoring organisation and its suitability to operate the top-level domain being requested. This assessment is submitted to ICANN's Board of Directors for its determination on whether to proceed with the request.

PolicyUpdate-jul11-en

POLICY UPDATE

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

http://www.icann.org/topics/policy/

Volume 11, Issue 7 – July 2011

Across ICANN

ccNSO

GNSO

ASO

Joint Efforts

[Review of ICANN Geographic Regions: Draft Final Report Nears Completion](#)

[Other Issues Active as Joint Efforts](#)

At-Large

[At-Large Singapore Highlights](#)

[Outreach for At-Large Expands in Eastern Europe](#)

SSAC

[Issues Active in the SSAC](#)

Read in Your Preferred Language

ICANN Policy Update is available in all six official languages of the United Nations. *Policy Update* is posted on ICANN's [web site](#) and available via online subscription. To receive the *Update* in your Inbox each month, visit the ICANN [subscriptions page](#), enter your e-mail address, and select "Policy Update" to subscribe. This service is free.
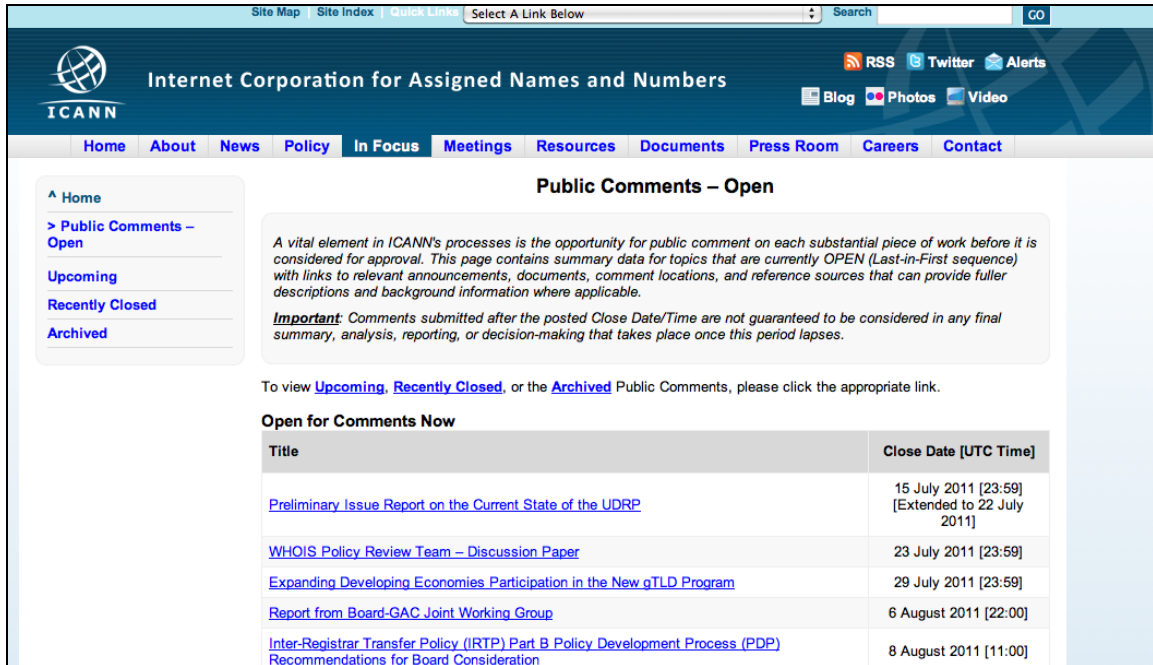
[ICANN Policy Update](#) statement of purpose

Send questions, comments and suggestions to: policy-staff@icann.org.

Policy Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees

Address Supporting Organization	[ASO](#)
Country Code Names Supporting Organization	[ccNSO](#)
Generic Names Supporting Organization	[GNSO](#)
At-Large Advisory Committee	[ALAC](#)
Governmental Advisory Committee	[GAC](#)
Root Server System Advisory Committee	[RSSAC](#)
Security and Stability Advisory Committee	[SSAC](#)

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Screenshot of the redesigned Public Comment web page.

ICANN Public Comment Web Page Gets a New Look

At a Glance

The first phase of improvements to the Public Comment process is underway, with the launch of the redesigned ICANN Public Comment web page on 30 June 2011.

Recent Developments

The ICANN Public Comment landing page has been redesigned and restructured to support the implementation of the Accountability and Transparency Review Team Recommendations relating to how community members provide input on ICANN matters. The Public Participation Committee of the ICANN Board reviewed and approved these changes during its meeting in Singapore.

The new design is intended to standardize and simplify navigation and the presentation of the content. The information elements have not been altered substantially (other than an addition of Upcoming Public Comments list), but the

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page contents have been reorganized for uniformity and consistency. In essence, the aim is to place the predominant focus on topics that are open for Public Comments while links are provided to various other categories such as Upcoming, Recently Closed, and the Archived Public Comments.

The Upcoming page is a new feature (inspired by another ATRT recommendation) intended to provide community members with a preview of potential future topics. The current list was compiled with input from ICANN community leaders and the ICANN staff. Once each year, a formal collection and publishing cycle will be launched; thereafter, the list will be updated regularly.

Next Steps

Please review the new web page design, and provide any comments, suggestions or other feedback to Public Participation staff.

More Information

- Public Comment web page

Staff Contact

Filiz Yamaz, Senior Director, Participation and Engagement

Issues Currently Open for Public Comment

Numerous public comment periods are open on issues of interest to the ICANN community. Act now to share your views on such topics as:

- Preliminary Issue Report on the Current State of the UDRP. ICANN staff has published a preliminary report on how well the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy has addressed cybersquatting, and recommends against commencing a PDP at this time. Comment period extended by one week to 22 July 2011.

- Whois Policy Review Team. Per the Affirmation of Commitments, a review team is assessing existing Whois policy. Areas of focus include clarity of existing policy, applicable laws, privacy issues and proxy/privacy, and ICANN's compliance and enforcement activities. Comment by 23 July 2011.

- Expanding Developing Economies' Participation in the New gTLD Program. The Joint Applicant Support Working Group has published the Second Milestone Report, which deals with a very important issue: *How can ICANN assist applicants from developing economies within the New gTLD Program?* The objective is to develop a sustainable approach in providing support to applicants requiring assistance in applying for and operating new gTLD Registries. Comment by 29 July 2011.

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- Report on GAC's Role within ICANN. A Joint Working Group of ICANN Board and GAC members submitted a report to the Board at the ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore reviewing the role of the GAC within ICANN. Comment by 6 August 2011.

- IRTP Part B PDP Recommendations. The GNSO Council adopted a number of recommendations from the IRTP Part B Working Group Final Report. These will now be submitted to the ICANN Board for consideration, along with any public comment received. Comment by 8 August 2011.

For the full list of issues open for public comment, plus recently closed and archived public comment forums, visit the Public Comment web page.

ccNSO

New Additions Bring ccNSO Membership to 116

At a Glance

Two country code operators from the European region and one from the African region were approved as new ccNSO members in June 2011.

Recent Developments

The Council of the ccNSO have approved Island Networks and Namibian Network Information Center, the ccTLD operators of .gg (Guernsey), .je (Jersey) and .na (Namibia), as new members. Guernsey and Jersey are islands in the English Channel, and Namibia is in southern Africa, bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean.

Background

The ccNSO now counts 116 members. As of June 2011, there have been a total of six applications to the ccNSO this calendar year.

More Information

- June 2011 announcement

- List of ccNSO members

- Membership growth August 2003 – June 2011

Staff Contact

Gabriella Schittek, ccNSO Secretariat

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Highlights of ccNSO Meeting in Singapore

At a Glance

The ccNSO has posted summaries of its numerous sessions held at the ICANN public meeting in Singapore in June.

Recent Developments

Audio files, transcripts, meeting summaries and evaluation surveys are available online from two full days of ccNSO sessions held during the ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore. More than 130 members attended from more than 50 ccTLDs.

More Information

- ccNSO Meeting Report
- Presentations
- Transcripts and recordings
- Meeting day survey evaluation results
- Video of meeting highlights

Staff Contact

Gabriella Schittek, ccNSO Secretariat

ccNSO Rules and Guidelines Now Centralized on Web

At a Glance

The complete ccNSO Rules and Guidelines have been posted online for easy reference.

Recent Developments

On 22 June, the ccNSO Council adopted new guidelines pertaining to how Work Plans are maintained, updated and reviewed as well as how Council responses and statements are prepared and released. These were posted, along with a copy of the rules and additional guidelines, on the ccNSO web page.

Next Steps

Please bookmark and check the page frequently, as it is updated whenever new information is available.

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More Information

- [ccNSO rules and guidelines](#)

Staff Contact

[Gabriella Schittek](#), ccNSO Secretariat

YouTube Videos Spotlight ccNSO Members

At a Glance

Four new videos were posted on the ccNSO YouTube channel, each highlighting different aspects of the Council, its members, and the work they do.

Recent Developments

EURid, Registro .it and NIC Chile uploaded videos in June to the ccNSO channel on YouTube, adding to a collection of nearly 20 videos put on the site since its creation last year. The ccNSO Secretariat contributed a highlight video from the ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore.

EURid's submission offers a humorous look at the ICANN Public Meeting in Brussels. The video uploaded by Registro .it reviews the process the registry underwent to obtain ISO quality certification. NIC Chile's three-minute video highlights its 24-year history.

Next Steps

Subscribe to the ccNSO YouTube channel to be notified whenever new videos are posted. Contributions from all registries are welcome.

Background

The ccNSO YouTube channel was established in February 2010 in order to provide a platform for ccTLDs to learn more about each other in an informal way.

More Information

- [ccNSO YouTube channel](#)

Staff Contact

[Gabriella Schittek](#), ccNSO Secretariat

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Singapore Session Highlights Different Views on UDRP

Debate continues on whether the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy should be reviewed and updated

At a Glance

Reactions to the ICANN Staff recommendation to not commence a Policy Development Process on the UDRP at this time highlight the disparate views among the community on this issue.

Background

The UDRP was created in 1999, with the goal of providing an alternative to costly litigation for resolving disputes concerning cybersquatting in gTLDs. Since the adoption of the UDRP, over 30,000 complaints have been filed with the dispute resolution providers authorized by ICANN. The UDRP has not been reviewed or updated by the GNSO Council since its inception.

As recommended in the Registration Abuse Policy (RAP) Final Report, Staff published a [Preliminary Issue Report](#) on the current state of the UDRP for discussion. Upon review of the final issue report to be published after Singapore, the GNSO Council will consider whether to commence a policy development process (PDP) on the UDRP.

Recent Developments

In Singapore, a session on the current state of the UDRP elicited the opinions of a broad cross-section of stakeholders with expertise in the UDRP and its processes. The speakers shared their views on the effectiveness of the UDRP, and whether the GNSO Council should embark on a comprehensive review of the UDRP.

The Singapore panelists also reacted to the staff recommendations regarding a possible review of the UDRP as described in the [Preliminary Issue Report](#). The Report describes staff's view that the UDRP is an effective alternative to costly litigation for cybersquatting disputes, and that the processes associated with the UDRP are generally fair to the affected registrants. Several panelists concurred with the staff perspective that although the UDRP is not perfect, it may not be advisable to conduct a comprehensive review of the UDRP at this time. Others disagreed with ICANN staff's recommendation against commencing a PDP on

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the UDRP, and suggested that a limited process that focuses specifically on the procedures, rather than the policy itself, may be warranted.

More Information

- [RAP WG Final Report](#) (June 2010)
- [Details of and transcripts of the Singapore Meeting Session on the Current State of the UDRP](#)
- [Mailing list](#) for the UDRP Drafting Team
- [Webinar on the Current State of the UDRP](#) (archived)
- [Public comment on the Preliminary Issue Report](#)

Staff Contact

[Margie Milam](#), Senior Policy Counselor

Carnegie Mellon Begins Whois Misuse Study; Other Studies Move Forward

At a Glance

Whois is the data repository containing registered domain names, registrant contacts and other critical information. The GNSO Council is proceeding with four studies to provide current, reliable information for community discussions about Whois.

Recent Developments

Whois Misuse Study. The Carnegie Mellon University Cylab in Pittsburgh, PA, USA expects to have initial results in late 2012 from this study intended to discover to what extent public Whois information is used maliciously.

Whois Registrant Identification Study. The GNSO Council authorized staff to proceed in contracting with an RFP respondent to examine the extent to which domain names registered by legal persons or for commercial purposes are not clearly represented in Whois data.

Whois Proxy and Privacy Services Abuse Study. Staff is finalizing details of this study, slated to begin later this year. It will focus on the extent to which domain names used to conduct illegal or harmful Internet activities are registered via privacy or proxy services to obscure the perpetrator's identity.

Whois Proxy and Privacy Services Reveal Study. A feasibility study is underway as of July 2011 to determine whether enough willing participants could be found to conduct a larger study measuring proxy and privacy service responsiveness to registrant "identity reveal" requests. Expect to see initial findings later this year.

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Whois Service Requirements Study. The Drafting Team formed by the GNSO Council will survey community members to estimate the level of agreement with the conclusions and assumptions in the [Inventory of Whois Service Requirements – Final Report](#) [PDF, 636 KB]).

More Information

- [GNSO Whois policy development page](#)
- [Background on Whois Studies](#)
- [Inventory of Whois Service Requirements – Final Report](#) [PDF, 636 KB]
- [28 April Resolution on Whois Studies](#)

Staff Contact

[Liz Gasster](#), Senior Policy Counselor

GNSO Council Adopts Most of IRTP Part B Recommendations

At a Glance

The aim of the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP) is to provide a straightforward procedure for domain name holders to transfer their names from one ICANN-accredited registrar to another. The GNSO Council is reviewing and considering revisions to this policy and has established a series of Working Groups to conduct these efforts.

Recent Developments and Next Steps

Following submission of the IRTP Part B [Final Report](#) to the GNSO Council, the GNSO Council considered the report and its recommendations at its public meeting in Singapore. The GNSO Council decided as follows.

It adopted the following recommendations:

- Requiring Registrars to provide a Transfer Emergency Action Contact. To this end proposed language to modify section four (Registrar Coordination) and section six (Registry Requirements) of the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy has been provided (see [GNSO resolution](#) for further details).

- Modifying section three of the IRTP to require that the Registrar of Record/Losing Registrar be required to notify the Registered Name Holder/Registrant of the transfer out. The Registrar of Record has access to the contact information for the Registrant and could modify their

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systems to automatically send out the Standardized Form for Losing Registrars to the Registrant.

- Modifying Reason for Denial #6 as follows: Express objection to the transfer by the authorized Transfer Contact. Objection could take the form of specific request (either by paper or electronic means) by the authorized Transfer Contact to deny a particular transfer request, or a general objection to all transfer requests received by the Registrar, either temporarily or indefinitely. In all cases, the objection must be provided with the express and informed consent of the authorized Transfer Contact on an opt-in basis and upon request by the authorized Transfer Contact, the Registrar must remove the lock or provide a reasonably accessible method for the authorized Transfer Contact to remove the lock within five calendar days.

- Deleting denial reason #7 as a valid reason for denial under section three of the IRTP as it is technically not possible to initiate a transfer for a domain name that is locked, and hence cannot be denied, making this denial reason obsolete.

Subsequent to this approval by the GNSO Council, a public comment forum was opened to obtain input prior to ICANN Board consideration. Comments may be submitted until 8 August 2011 at 11.00 UTC.

In addition, the GNSO Council took the following actions:

- Recommended the promotion by ALAC and other ICANN structures of the measures outlined in the SSAC's recent report on A Registrant's Guide to Protecting Domain Name Registration Accounts (SAC 044);

- Requested an Issue Report on IRTP Part C; deferred consideration of two of the IRTP Part B recommendations (#3 and #7), and;

- Requested staff proposals on the standardizing and clarifying Whois status messages regarding Registrar Lock status as well as a new provision in a different section of the IRTP on when and how domains may be locked or unlocked.

For further information, please consult the IRTP Part B Working Group Workspace.

Background

The GNSO Council established a series of five Working Groups (Parts A through E) to review and consider various revisions to IRTP policy.

The IRTP Part B PDP is the second in a series of five scheduled PDPs addressing areas for improvements in the existing policy. The Part B Working Group has addressed five issues focusing on domain hijacking, the urgent return of an inappropriately transferred name, and lock status. For further details, refer to the group's Charter.

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More Information

- [IRTP Part B Final Report](#)
- [IRTP Part B Proposed Final Report](#) [PDF, 733 KB]
- [Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy](#) web page
- [IRTP Part B Status Report of Ongoing Progress](#) page
- [IRTP Part B Issues Report](#) [PDF, 256 KB]
- [PDP Recommendations](#) [PDF, 124 KB]
- *ICANN Start* podcast: [audio explanation of IRTP Part B](#) [MP3, 18 MB]
- [IRTP Part B Working Group Workspace](#)

Staff Contact

[Marika Konings](#), Policy Director

GNSO Improvements: Major Milestones Reached

ICANN Board and GNSO Council Take Significant Actions in Singapore

At a Glance

Members of the GNSO community are working to implement a comprehensive series of structural and operational changes designed to improve the effectiveness and accessibility of the organization. The effort is reaching an end and below is information on the most recent developments.

Board Approves New Process for Recognition of New GNSO Constituencies

At its 24 June 2011 meeting, the ICANN Board approved a new "Process for Recognition of New GNSO Constituencies" and directed staff to begin implementation effective immediately (see [Resolution 2011.06.24.09](#)).

According to the Board, the promotion of new GNSO Constituencies was one of the fundamental recommendations of the GNSO Review effort and an important strategy to expand participation in GNSO policy development efforts. The Board's Structural Improvements Committee (SIC) found that the original process for evaluating new GNSO Constituency proposals was not effective because of a lack of objective and measurable criteria by which prospective new GNSO Constituencies were formally evaluated and recognized. It also found that

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weaknesses in general process presented potential new Constituency prospects with considerable preparation work, indefinite time frames for Board review and lack of guidance on their prospects for Board approval.

This new process will accomplish four goals:

- Optimize the considerable time and effort required to form, organize, and propose a new GNSO Constituency by providing a streamlined sequence of steps and associated evaluation criteria that are objective, fair, and transparent - with ample opportunity for community input;
- Delegate more authority to each GNSO Stakeholder Group for evaluating new Constituency proposals while maintaining the Board's oversight role;
- Manage the entire process to a flexible, but specific and limited timeframe; and
- Provide a partial set of criteria for use during the periodic review of the GNSO.

The Board said that approval of new GNSO Constituencies will impact the ICANN budget by increasing the overall resources and administrative support necessary to conduct the additional Constituency activities. No substantial additional budget resources, however, will be triggered by the approval of this new recognition process. If anything, this new process will make the evaluation of new GNSO Constituency proposals more efficient budget-wise. The new criteria may also make future independent review efforts of the GNSO more efficient.

The recognition of new GNSO Constituencies has a new process.

Board Formally Recognizes New Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency in the GNSO

The Board approved the proposed charter of a new Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency and formally recognized the organization as an official Constituency within the GNSO's Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) eligible for formal GNSO administrative support and subject to the NCSG Charter previously approved by the Board (see - Resolution 2011.06.24.05). The Board specifically thanked Debra Y. Hughes, appointed by the Board to the GNSO Council, for her leadership in helping to establish the new Constituency.

The Board stated that the promotion of new GNSO Constituencies was one of the fundamental recommendations of the GNSO Review effort and a key strategy to expand participation in GNSO policy development efforts. According to the Board, the approval of the first new GNSO Constituency in a decade will impact the ICANN budget by increasing administrative support of community activities during ICANN Public meetings and throughout the year, but that this increase is within the parameters of the proposed FY12 budget.

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Board Approves Permanent Charters of Commercial and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups

The Commercial and Non-Commercial Stakeholder Groups now have permanent charters following the Board's approval at its 24 June 2011 meeting. (See Resolution 2011.06.24.04 for the CSG and Resolution 2011.06.24.07 for the NCSG.)

Regarding both new charters, the Board noted that its decision "provides a degree of certainty and finality regarding the community debate over the relationship between Constituencies and Stakeholder Groups in the GNSO in that it affirms the ability of individual communities to establish and manage processes and procedures – consistent with existing ICANN Bylaws principles -- that allows them to govern and expand their participation in GNSO policy development efforts in a manner best suited to their individual communities."

The Board indicated that it intends to re-examine the charters, structure and operations of the GNSO's various stakeholder groups "consistent with the timetable for the next independent review of the GNSO."

Staff Summary of PDP Final Report Comments Published

The Public Comment Forum for the New GNSO Policy Development Process closed on 9 July 2011. Staff produced a Report of Public Comments received in the proceeding on 11 July 2011.

The Final Report contains 47 recommendations, an outline of the proposed new Annex A to the ICANN Bylaws and a supporting document that is envisioned to be included in the GNSO Council Operating Procedures as the PDP Manual.

The most substantial of the recommendations include:

- Recommending the use of a standardized "Request for an Issue Report Template"

- The introduction of a "Preliminary Issues Report" which shall be published for public comment prior to the creation of a Final Issues Report to be acted upon by the GNSO Council

- A Requirement that each PDP Working Group operate under a Charter

- Changing the existing Bylaws so that upon initiation of a PDP, public comment periods are optional rather than mandatory, at the discretion of the PDP Working Group

- Changing the timeframes of public comment periods including (i) a required public comment period of no less than 30 days on a PDP Working Group's Initial Report and (ii) a minimum of 21 days for any non-

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required public comment periods the PDP WG might choose to initiate at its discretion

- Maintaining the existing requirement of PDP WG producing both an Initial Report and Final Report, but giving the WG discretion to produce additional outputs

- A recommendation allowing for the termination of a PDP prior to delivery of the Final Report

- New procedures on the delivery of recommendations to the Board including a requirement that all reports presented to the Board are reviewed by either the PDP Working Group or the GNSO Council and made publicly available

- The use of Implementation Review Teams

Further details and background on the different recommendations, the proposed Annex A and PDP Manual can be found in the PDP Work Team (PDP-WT) Final Report.

The GNSO Council will now likely consider this Final Report for adoption at its upcoming teleconference meeting on 21 July 2011. The Council is likely to direct its PDP-WT to review the Staff Report as well as the submitted comments and make any "final" changes to the Final Report as it deems appropriate.

More Information about the GNSO Improvements

- GNSO Improvements Information Web Page
- GNSO Home Page
- PDP Work Team wiki
- Working Group Work Team wiki
- Constituency Operations Work Team wiki
- Commercial SG Charter
- Non-Commercial SG Charter
- New GNSO Constituency Recognition Process

Staff Contact

Robert Hoggarth, Senior Policy Director

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Other Issues Active in the GNSO

- The Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery Final Report will be considered at the GNSO Council meeting on 21 July 2011.

- Staff is incorporating community input into the discussion paper on the creation of non-binding best practices to help registrars and registries address the abusive registration of domain names. The input was received during a workshop on Registration Anti-Abuse Best Practices in Singapore.

ASO

AfriNIC Awaits Launch of Final Call on Policy Proposal for Recovered IPv4 Address Blocks

At a Glance

Now that the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) has allocated all the addresses in IPv4, Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) have discussed a number of proposed global policies for handling IPv4 address space returned from the RIRs to IANA. The RIRs have yet to agree on a new policy.

Recent Developments

After failing to reach consensus on two preceding proposals, a third proposal on allocation of recovered IPv4 address space has been launched and introduced in the five RIRs. APNIC, the registry that originated the proposal, has adopted it, and LACNINC is in the final call stage. AfriNIC now awaits the launch of the final call phase. The proposal is in the discussion stage with the remaining two RIRs.

According to this proposal, IANA would establish and administer a pool of returned address space that would be allocated to all RIRs simultaneously in reduced but equal blocks. Pool size permitting, the allocations would occur every six months.

Next Steps

If and when this policy proposal is adopted by all five RIRs, the Number Resource Organization Executive Committee and the Address Supporting Organization Address Council will review the proposal and forward the policy to the ICANN Board for ratification and implementation by IANA.

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Background

IPv4 is the Internet Protocol addressing system used to allocate unique IP address numbers in 32-bit format. With the massive growth of the Internet user population, the pool of unique numbers (approximately 4.3 billion) has been depleted and a 128-bit numbering system (IPv6) is taking its place.

More Information

- A [Background Report](#) for the new, third proposal is posted on the ICANN web site and includes a comparison between the proposals so far on this theme.

- [Background Report](#) for the second proposal.

Staff Contact

[Olof Nordling](#), Director, Service Relations

Joint Efforts

Review of ICANN Geographic Regions: Draft Final Report Nears Completion

Working Group Conducts Singapore Workshop

At a Glance

The Geographic Regions Review Working Group is identifying the different purposes for which ICANN's Geographic Regions are used, to determine whether the framework continues to meet the requirements of community members and to consider making recommendations relating to the current and future uses and definition of the ICANN Geographic Regions.

Recent Developments

The Working Group held a [community workshop](#) at the ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore to discuss potential recommendations to be included in the Final Report to the Board.

Next Steps

The Working Group has continued its recent Final Report drafting effort and plans to release a draft Final Report for community review and comment in the coming weeks.

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More Information

- ICANN Board Resolution authorizing the Working Group
- Geographic Regions WG Charter
- Initial Report published in July 2009
- Announcement of Interim Report availability
- Interim Report Public Comment Forum conducted in 2010

Staff Contact

Robert Hoggarth, Senior Policy Director

Other Issues Active as Joint Efforts

- Internationalized Registration Data November 2010 Interim Report

At-Large

At-Large Singapore Highlights

At a Glance

At-Large experienced many firsts and successes at the ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore. These included new collaborative efforts with other ICANN communities, significant progress on support for new gTLD applicants from developing economies, and a high-energy APRALO Showcase.

Recent Developments

The ALAC held 17 major meetings in Singapore. The community was strongly represented by 25 members from all five At-Large regions. In addition to community members, officers of the Regional At-Large Organizations and members of numerous At-Large Structures attended.

Among the highlights:

- **ALAC's meeting with ICANN's Board.** The Board again strongly confirmed At-Large's vital role in the new gTLD program – both in helping to resolve outstanding applicant support issues and in outreach to end users.

- **ALAC's meeting with ICANN's CEO.** The ALAC explained the purpose of its new Future Challenges Working Group to the CEO. This WG,

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launched in June, will focus on policy issues that the ALAC would like to proactively introduce to the ICANN community and Board. In addition, the CEO expressed appreciation for the [statement](#) submitted by the ALAC on the Notice of Inquiry from the US National Telecommunications and Information Administration regarding the renewal of the IANA contract.

- **High-energy APRALO Showcase.** [This Showcase](#) highlighted the diversity of the ALSs that make up the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization. The region's newest ALS, [Netmission.ASIA](#), with members as young as 14 years, was represented in full force. Five ALSs gave presentations, as did [Rajnesh Singh](#), APRALO's first chair, and [Dr. Ang Peng Hwa](#), director of the Singapore Internet Research Centre.

- **Progress on applicant support in the new gTLD program.** The ALAC and GAC conducted promising discussions regarding the [Second Milestone Report](#) of the Joint Applicant Support Working Group (JAS WG) in Singapore. Follow-up work is already in progress.

- **ALAC collaboration with the GNSO's CSG, NCUC, and NCSG, as well as with registrars.** The ALAC held productive cross-community meetings with these groups in Singapore, during which work on a number of collaborative projects moved forward. These include the creation of end-user educational materials by the ALAC and registrars. The ALAC meeting with CSG was the first of its kind.

More information

- [ALAC Chair's Report to the ICANN Public Meeting in Singapore](#)

Staff Contact

[Seth Greene](#), Interim At-Large Manager

Outreach for At-Large Expands in Eastern Europe

At a Glance

EURALO has begun publishing its monthly Secretariat's Report in Russian as well as English – a significant step toward increased outreach in Eastern Europe.

Recent Developments

In May, the European Regional At-Large Organization held a successful General Assembly in Belgrade, Serbia. Two highlights were the election of new EURALO officers and the discussion of efforts to conduct even more outreach in Eastern Europe.

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Oksana Prykhodko, a member of the Ukraine's European Media Platform, was elected Secretariat in July, and began a new monthly practice of publishing EURALO's monthly Secretariat's Report in Russian as well as English. This is a first for EURALO.

Bilingual reports are expected to significantly increase the interest shown by Eastern European organizations in EURALO's work. Already they have increased the accessibility that Internet end users in that region have to EURALO, At-Large, and ICANN.

As a small taste of this accomplishment, here is an excerpt of Oksana's just-published June Secretariat's Report – for those who read either Russian or English:

> Одним из основных результатов Генеральной Ассамблеи EURALO в Белграде стало создание ALS для индивидуальных членов.

> One of the main results of EURALO's Belgrade General Assembly was a plan to create an ALS for individual members.

More information

- EURALO Secretariat's June Report, Russian and English.

Staff Contact

Seth Greene, Interim At-Large Manager

SSAC

Issues Active in the SSAC

- SSAC Work Plan for 2011
- SSAC Comments on Orphan Glue Records in Draft Applicant Guidebook

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2011-07-17 News Clip Compilation

A Sampling of ICANN News Media Clips

Date Range:

8 June 2011 – 17 July 2011

Internet body throws open domain names

June 20, 2011
By Raju Gopalakrishnan
SINGAPORE (Reuters)

Good.food, learnto.salsa, glossy.lipstick — people and companies will be able to set up a website with almost any address by the end of next year if they have a legitimate claim to the domain name and can pay a hefty fee.

The Internet body that oversees domain names voted on Monday to end restricting them to suffixes like .com or .gov and will receive applications for new names from January 12 next year with the first approvals likely by the end of 2012.

And they can be in any characters — Cyrillic, Kanji or Devanagari for instance, for users of Russian, Japanese and Hindi.

"It's the biggest change I think we have seen on the Internet," Peter Dengate Thrush, chairman of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), told reporters.
"We have provided a platform for the next generation of creativity and inspiration."

Experts say corporations should be among the first to register, resulting in domain names ending in brands like .toyota, .apple or .coke.

The move is seen as a big opportunity for brands to gain more control over their online presence and send visitors more directly to parts of their sites — and a danger for those who fail to take advantage.

Japanese electronics giant Canon, for instance, has already said it plans to apply for rights to use domain names ending with .canon.
ONE "NO" VOTE

The new gTLD, or generic top-level domain, program was approved by 13 votes to one with two abstentions by the board of ICANN at a meeting in Singapore.

The sole opposition came from a member who felt that more time was needed to hold discussions with government and others parties, ICANN officials said.

The new names could infringe on social and religious sensitivities, for instance if someone wanted to set up a .nazi domain, said Dengate Thrush.

And people who have invested in securing lucrative .com domains will find the value of the holdings diluted by the new rules, he added.

Thrashing out the rules and overcoming objections has taken years, ICANN officials said.

For instance, while the new steep charges of $185,000 to apply for a domain name could deter cyber-squatters, companies with well known trademarks worry that they may have to contend with series of copycat names like coke.paris or google.zambia.
ICANN hopes to weed these out in an intensive approval process that will take months, at the least, and also involve governments and other agencies.

"I think we've crossed the Rubicon," said Antony van Couvering, CEO of Top Level Domain Holdings Ltd.

"We were expecting it to happen some time in 2009," he said, adding that the change was also delayed by governments wanting to handle trademark issues in their own countries. "The process has been so lengthy that some people who wanted to do it are now either broke or disgusted."

Besides the $185,000 to apply, individuals or organizations will have to show a legitimate claim to the names they are buying. ICANN is taking on hundreds of consultants to whom it will outsource the job of adjudicating claims.

Today, just 22 gTLDs exist — .com, .org and .info are a few examples — plus about 250 country-level domains like .uk or .cn. After the change, several hundred new gTLDs are expected to come into existence.

As well as big brands, organizations such as cities or other communities are expected to apply. GTLDs such as .nyc, .london or .food could provide opportunities for many smaller businesses to grab names no longer available at the .com level — like bicycles.london or indian.food.

"It's the next expansion of the Internet, it's the future of the Internet," said Kieren McCarthy, the CEO of .Nxt,Inc, a San Francisco-based company which covers Internet policy and governance issues.

"I think our kids will think that we were crazy to always talk about .coms."

(Additional reporting by Georgina Prodhan in London; Editing by Ron Popeski, Gary Hill)

Vast expansion of domain names

June 21, 2011

SINGAPORE — **Internet** minders voted Monday to allow virtually unlimited new domain names based on themes as varied as company brands, entertainment and political causes, in the system's biggest shake-up since it started 26 years ago.

Groups able to pay the $185,000 application can petition next year for new updates to ".com" and ".net" with website suffixes using nearly any word in any language, including in Arabic, Chinese and other scripts, the **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers** decided at a meeting in Singapore.

"This is the start of a whole new phase for the Internet," said **Peter Dengate Thrush**, chairman of ICANN's board of directors. "Unless there is a good reason to restrain it, innovation should be allowed to run free."

ICANN's decision culminates six years of negotiations and is the biggest change to the system since ".com" made its debut in 1984. The expansion plan had been delayed largely because of concerns that new suffixes could infringe on trademarks and copyrights.

High-profile entertainment, consumer goods and financial services companies will likely be among the first to apply for their own domain name in a bid to protect their brands, experts said.

FINANCIAL TIMES

Domains to take non-Latin script

By Simon Mundy
Published: June 20 2011 20:13

The expected explosion of new domain name registrations will not be limited to the Roman alphabet.

Under the new plans from the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, non-Latin scripts such as Japanese and Cyrillic can also be used in web addresses, allowing addresses to end with "almost any word in any language".

This means that users of sites such as the Russian social networking hub Vkontakte, or the Chinese search engine Baidu, will be able to access them without using the western alphabet. More than half of internet users use other scripts.

"Today's decision respects the rights of groups to create new top-level domains in any language or script," said Rod Beckstrom, Icann's chief executive.

The use of non-Latin web addresses has already been introduced to a limited extent.

On May 6 last year, Icann introduced Arabic-language suffixes for the country codes of Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. "All three ... will enable domain names written fully right-to-left", said Kim Davies of Icann.

Other countries, such as China, have introduced systems allowing addresses to be entered in their respective language and converted into Latin characters. However, these were not internationally approved and often failed to work properly.

The growth of non-Latin web addresses will strengthen concerns, previously mentioned by Icann, about a "split" in the internet between the users of various languages – many users will not be able to view addresses in other languages unless the appropriate language pack is installed on their computers.

The introduction of new characters could also create opportunities for fraudsters. Microsoft, for example, will need to guard against the possibility of criminals looking to trick consumers through a .Mïcrosoft domain.

The Street

Netflix, ICANN, Lincoln: Hot Trends

Brittany Umar
06/20/11 - 09:04 AM EDT

NEW YORK (TheStreet) -- Popular searches on the Internet Monday include **Netflix**(NFLX) after the company's Web site went down and certain services were halted.

The company's online services, which include video streaming and DVD ordering, have been stopped, without explanation from Netflix.

Since Friday, all **Sony**(SNE) movies have stopped streaming, which Netflix addressed in a blog post claiming the glitch was due to a temporary contract issue between Sony and Starz. Netflix has 23.3 million users in the U.S. and Canada.

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"ICANN" is a hot trend Monday after the board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers approved a plan to change the Internet's top-level domains.

Under the plan, the number of generic top-level domains will be dramatically increased allowing for hundreds of new domain name extension applications. Applications open on January 12, 2012, and will close on April 12, 2012.

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Finally, "Lincoln" is a popular search after news that **Ford**(F) plans to pour a billion dollars into revamping its Lincoln brand.
Ford is working on a new generation of Lincolns, with seven all-new or upgraded vehicles expected to roll out over the next four years. Ford is also planning to cut competition within its own company and add exclusivity to its image by reducing the number of existing Lincoln dealers.

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The chatter on Main Street (a.k.a. Google, Yahoo! and other search sites) is always of interest to investors on Wall Street. Thus, each day, TheStreet compiles the stories that are trending on the Web, and highlights the news that could make stocks move.

Written by Brittany Umar.

Internet Governing Body Makes Major Change

by **Tom Gjelten**
June 20, 2011

The world's main Internet governing body Monday approved what may be the biggest change in the online world for many years. Soon, we may see website addresses that end with almost any word. It won't be just dot-com or dot-org or dot-net. We could have dot-NewYork or dot-Toyota. Companies, cities, even individuals, could have Web addresses all to themselves.

ROBERT SIEGEL, host:
From NPR News, this is ALL THINGS CONSIDERED. I'm Robert Siegel.

MICHELE NORRIS, host:
I'm Michele Norris. And it's time now for All Tech Considered.
(Soundbite of music)

NORRIS: There was a potentially big change today in the Internet world. The international body that governs Web addressing approved a virtually unlimited expansion of what are called top-level domain names. These are the words that come after the dot, like dot-com, dot-org or dot-gov.

As NPR's Tom Gjelten reports, we could soon see almost any word at the end of a Web address.

TOM GJELTEN: The Internet, since its creation, has been largely ungoverned. But for practical purposes, the online world does have to agree on a Web addressing system. One global body with real power is the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ICANN for short. And at a meeting in Singapore today, the ICANN board of directors changed website naming rules.

Mr. ROD BECKSTROM (President, ICANN): Today, we made history.

GJELTEN: ICANN President Rod Beckstrom.

Mr. BECKSTROM: The Internet's addressing system has just been opened up to the limitless possibilities of human imagination and creativity.

GJELTEN: Again, what Beckstrom is talking about is the last half of a website address, the words that follow the dot.

Mr. BECKSTROM: So when you think dot-com, dot-net, now think dot-open to new things, to new ideas.

GJELTEN: The possibilities are virtually endless. One big change will be to allow different alphabets: a dot.com expressed in Chinese or Hebrew characters, for example. You could have top-level domain names for promotional purposes, websites that all end in dot.New York. We'll soon see dot.brands, dot-Starbucks, maybe.

Alexa Raad is chairman of Architelos, a consulting firm that advises companies on Internet naming. She sees advantages for a company moving from its old dot-com address to having a top-level domain all its own.

Ms. ALEXA RAAD (Architelos): It is sort of like having an apartment in an apartment community versus owning the apartment community itself, which gives you greater control over the policies that you can enforce, over the security measures that you can enforce.

GJELTEN: One example, the American Banking Association has made it known it would like to own dot-bank; then it could set new Internet security rules for accessing any bank website with that suffix.

Individuals could even buy their own Internet names; imagine www.Donald.Trump. It wouldn't be cheap. Registering your own top-level domain name will cost $185,000 and you'd have to show you have good reason to register it.
Still, this change could fundamentally alter Internet real estate in ways that right now are hard to predict. Applications open next January.

http://www.npr.org/2011/06/20/137304940/internet-governing-body-makes-major-change

The new, privatised web

June 21, 2011

The web is about to change with a range of new, private domains appearing in the near future. While it's being portrayed as an opportunity for businesses, it's part of an underlying trend to lock the net inside corporate empires.

Yesterday ICANN, the International Committee of Assigned Network Names, approved custom global Top Level Domain names - known as gLTDs - which allows big organisations to buy their own domain names. This idea was first announced in 2008.

Now this policy is in place organisations won't have to bother with a .com or .com.au. For example Microsoft could ditch the microsoft.com domain and move the .microsoft address with websites named support.microsoft and shop.microsoft

The cost is not for the faint hearted, the applications fee for one of these addresses is $185,000 with $25,000 annual fees, a cost which will see many business deciding not to bother given the strong provisions against cybersquatting.

An application being cited is using the .music domain and selling space to performers. That's nice but it locks them into the same risks they currently have with Facebook and MySpace that at the first sign of controversy their account will be shut down for allegedly breaching some obscure term of service.

A major problem for ICANN is going to be place names, how do you decide between Melbourne, Victoria or Melbourne, Florida when the .melbourne name comes into play?
The .victoria itself is problematic as it's not just an Australian state but a Canadian city and one of the world's most spectacular waterfalls.

Even more delightful is who owns a place name? Should New South Wales beat Novia Scotia for the .sydney domain the dysfunctional nature of Australian and NSW politics guarantees a brawl between governments and agencies over who actually owns the city's name.

The corporate sector has similar problems with similar trading names being used in different jurisdictions, the two completely unrelated Woolworths retail chains in Australia and the UK is one that immediately comes to mind.

While it's clear many of the domain registrars think these new names are going to be a nice little cash cow, it's not difficult to see they may have misunderstood just how complex and fraught some of the registrations will turn out to be.

Most of the registrations though will be straight forward and far from killing search engines, the further fragmentation of the net into even more domains are going to make services like Google and Yahoo! more important as web surfers will find it harder to guess or remember websites.

Where these domains will work well are for internal networks and secure applications where system administrators can lock out unauthorised devices from their domains.

Excluding search engine robots will provide a certain level of security along with some opportunities for corporate mischief like we're currently seeing between Google and Facebook trying to lock each other out of services.

This is where the real danger lies for Internet users, since 2008 we've seen the rise of social network sites and media paywalls as the major companies seek to mark out their online empires.

Along with being a cash grab by ICANN, the custom domain name is part of this attempt to divide the public Internet into [a cluster of privately controlled fiefdoms](#).

We're seeing with social media sites like Facebook at the moment – and we can be pretty sure *.facebook* will be an early candidate for listing – where part of the business model for many of the online platforms is to lock web surfers into a safe, walled garden.

This business model failed in the late 1990s before the first dot com boom and it's interesting that the model has been resurrected for the second round of online investment mania.

Some larger businesses, and gullible governments, are going to fall for this money grabbing exercise by the Internet registries but most of them, like the rest of us, are going to be spectators in the real battle for hearts, minds and clicks.

Have no doubt though that while watching the big boys fighting over their Internet turf will be fun sport it will be us that will pay for the results.

June 21,2011

ICANN, the governing body for internet domain names announced a piece of news that shook up companies big and small. They approved plans for hundreds of new web addresses.

The new change could give brands a competitive edge over their rivals.

Losing the wwws, urls such as Ipad.Apple could be used instead.

Not just brand names, but geographic names like London or Paris are also available.

Each registration costs around 185-thousand US dollar and there are annual fees involved. So it is unlikely that a rush of small firms will be applying for such names.

Registration for new domains begins from January next year. But before they can do that, the companies must show that they have a legitimate claim to the name they're buying.

Daniel Choy, Arirang News.

ICANN Makes Hundreds of New gTLDs Available as of 2012

06/23/2011 09:20:00 PM EST
by Williams Mullen

ICANN OPENS UP HUNDREDS OF INTERNET DOMAIN NAME ENDINGS WHICH WILL GREATLY EXPAND WEBSITE POSSIBILITIES FOR BOTH BRAND OWNERS AND POTENTIAL INFRINGERS.

The Board of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has just approved a plan to significantly increase the number of Internet domain name endings, or generic top-level domains (gTLDs), from the current 22 (which includes domains such as .com, .org and .net). Applications for the new gTLDs will be accepted from **January 12, 2012 to April 12, 2012.** The first batch of applications is limited to 500, and subsequent batches to 400, to account for Internet capacity limitations, as well as a maximum limit of 1000 new gTLDs per year.

The decision to proceed with the gTLD program follows many years of discussion, debate and deliberation with the Internet community, business groups and governments. ICANN's *Applicant Guidebook*, which explains how to apply for a new gTLD, went through seven revisions to incorporate more than 1,000 comments from the public, including those addressing the security, stability and resiliency of the Internet.

Under the *Applicant Guidebook*, any established public or private organization anywhere in the world can apply to create and operate a new gTLD Registry, if it can demonstrate the operational, technical and financial capability to run a registry and comply with additional specific requirements. Although there is no sunrise period for trademark owners to submit new gTLD applications, all trademark owners may apply during the general application period. However, there is no requirement for an applicant to hold a trademark in order to apply for a new gTLD.

Candidates may apply for new gTLDs via an online application system called TAS - **T**LD **A**pplication **S**ystem. The evaluation process could take as little as 9 months or up to 20 months to complete. Applicants may apply for more than one gTLD, but each gTLD string requires its own application, and ICANN has specific technical rules that apply to all such strings. For example, strings composed entirely of numbers and some reserved gTLD names are unavailable for general use and will be rejected. gTLDs comprising a geographic name must meet additional requirements as set forth in the *Applicant Guidebook*.

There is a US$5,000 deposit fee per application request, which will be credited against an evaluation fee estimated at US$185,000. Other fees may apply depending on the specific application path or, in certain cases, where specialized process steps are applicable.

Once an application has successfully passed all the evaluation steps, the applicant will be required to sign a New gTLD Agreement with ICANN (a "Registry Agreement"), requiring two additional fees: (a) a fixed fee of US$6,250 per calendar quarter; and (b) a transaction fee of US$0.25 per domain name, which does not apply until and unless more than 50,000 domain names are registered in the gTLD.

The applicant is responsible for setting the business model and policy for how it will use the new gTLD, but the policy must comply with the terms of its Registry Agreement. For example, an applicant can register a gTLD solely to promote its own brand and undertake its own marketing plans, and can refuse applications for second level domains from competitors or individuals who appear to be cybersquatters or scammers.

After the application period for the first round of gTLD purchases closes, ICANN will verify all of the applications for completeness and will then release on its website the list of strings, applicant names, and other application data.

After the list of all gTLD applications has been published on ICANN's website, third-parties may file formal objections, based on gTLD string confusion, existing legal rights, community objections, or limited public interest objections, using Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP). Objections will be managed by specialized Dispute Resolution Service Providers (DRSPs), such as the *International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)*, based in Paris, France, *the Arbitration and Mediation Center of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* in Geneva, Switzerland and the *International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR)*, based in New York.

At the time an objection is filed, the objector is required to pay a filing fee in the amount set and published by the relevant DRSP, or the objection may be dismissed. After a hearing has taken place and the panel makes its determination, the DRSP will refund the advance payment of costs to the prevailing party. If a legal rights objection is successful, the respective application will not proceed. The introduction of the new domain name endings will significantly expand the possibilities for brand owners, but could also create more opportunity for cybersquatting and other domain name uses that could impede brand owners' rights. It will be important for all brand owners to actively monitor the new applications and to consider whether to apply for their own extensions to effectively maintain and enforce their trademark rights.

BBC

Icann increases web domain suffixes

20 June 2011
Last updated at 06:08 et

A global internet body has voted to allow the creation of new website domain suffixes, the biggest change for the online world in years.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (Icann) plans to dramatically increase the number of domain endings from the current 22.

Internet address names will end with almost any word and be in any language.

Icann will begin taking applications next year, with corporations and cities expected to be among the first.

"Icann has opened the internet's addressing system to the limitless possibilities of the human imagination," said Rod Beckstrom, president and chief executive officer for Icann.

"No one can predict where this historic decision will take us."
There will be several hundred new generic top-level domain names (gTLDs), which could include such addresses as .google, .coke, or even .BBC.

There are currently 22 gTLDs, as well as about 250 country-level domain names such as .uk or .de.

Costly process

It will cost $185,000 (£114,000) to apply for the suffixes, and companies would need to show they have a legitimate claim to the name they are buying.

Analysts say it is a price that global giants might be willing to pay - in order to maximise their internet presence.

The money will be used to cover costs incurred by Icann in developing the new gTLDs and employing experts to scrutinise the many thousands of expected applications.

A portion will be set-aside to deal with potential legal actions, raised by parties who fail to get the domains they want.

The vote completes a six-year negotiation process and is the biggest change to the system since .com was first introduced 26 years ago.

Icann said it was beginning a global communications programme to raise awareness of the new domain names.

Applications will start on 12 January.

High standards

Companies and organisations seeking one of the new gTLDs will have to meet high technical standards, according to Bruce Tonkin, chief strategy officer at Melbourne IT, a domain registry service.

"You need IT robustness and you need intellectual property protections beyond what is available in the dot com space.

"You have to have 24/7 abuse team. You have to have mechanisms where a trademark holder has first right to get their name," he said.

The higher standards, said Mr Tonkin, meant the application process would be extremely rigorous. "Using a real estate analogy, it would be roughly the equivalent of getting approval to build a sky scraper.

"There's roughly 50 questions, roughly 2-3 pages per question. Icann will then use experts in each field to evaluate them.

"The concern that some people have is that the standards of these buildings will be so high, that they will never get built. It will be too expensive," he said.

Existing Generic TLDs

- **.com** : companies, now broader
- **.edu** : educational institutions
- **.gov** : government institutions
- **.int** : international organisations, e.g. Interpol
- **.mil** : military organisations
- **.net** : networking technologies, now broader
- **.org** : non-profit organisations
- **.arpa** : first ever domain, now technical use
- **.aero** : air travel industry
- **.biz** : business alternative to .com
- **.coop** : co-operatives
- **.info** : information, but open for general use
- **.museum** : museums
- **.name** : personal names - johnsmith.name
- **.pro** : professionals, e.g. doctors
- **.asia**: Asian websites
- **.cat** : Catalan language
- **.jobs** : employment websites
- **.mobi** : mobile phones
- **.post** : postal services
- **.tel** : telecoms
- **.travel** : travel

ICANN approves expansion of top-level domains

by Steven Musil

The Internet's primary governing body today approved the expansion of new top-level domains-- one of the most dramatic changes in the Internet's history.

During a special meeting in Singapore, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) voted to dramatically increase the number of domain endings from the current 22, which includes the well-established .com, .net, and .org. The move will allow domains to end in almost any word, allowing companies to turn their brands into Internet extensions.

"ICANN has opened the Internet's naming system to unleash the global human imagination," Rod Beckstrom, president and chief executive officer of ICANN, said in a statement. "Today's decision respects the rights of groups to create new Top Level Domains in any language or script. We hope this allows the domain name system to better serve all of mankind." Peter Dengate Thrush, chairman of ICANN's board of directors, said the "decision will usher in a new Internet age. We have provided a platform for the next generation of creativity and inspiration."

ICANN said it would soon begin a global campaign to educate people about the changes and opportunities they afford. Applications for new generic top-level domains will be accepted from January 12, 2012, to April 12, 2012, and the estimated evaluation fee is $185,000. (Click here to see ICANN's fact sheet on the new GTLDs (PDF).)

Hundreds of applications for these suffixes are expected, including .car, .love, .movie, .web, and .gay.

The battle over new top-level domains has been long and often contentious. Earlier this year, a rift developed between national governments and the nonprofit organization over how much influence government officials, and to a lesser extent trademark owners, will enjoy over the process of creating new domain suffixes.

Also, a U.S. proposal that would have given it and other governments the power to veto future top-level domain names failed to win approval. A group of nations rejected the proposal, concluding instead that governments can offer nonbinding "advice" about controversial suffixes but would not receive actual veto power. Proposed domain suffixes like .gay are likely to prove contentious among more conservative nations

A Powerful New Weapon for Waging Global-Image Cyberwar

June 21, 2011

Despite endless possibilities, ICANN plans to cap the first round of proposed applications to just a few hundred. However, based on the global pressures faced by organizations around the world to reduce customer acquisition costs, the market can easily absorb thousands of applications. A gTLD platform offers the hope of reaching a larger audience at a fraction of the usual cost.

Why would someone invest US$187,000 for single name application with ICANN plus another few hundred-thousand dollars on related costs to acquire a new gTLD domain root system? Simple, the real motivation will be to declare global-image cyberwarfare and to create global market domination under a name identity.

If this is really all about global-image cyberwarfare, then the art of war dictates preparation and planning. The surprise will hit the fan when a spectacular story breaks and occupies all the available market share space of opportunity in no time. This is how old brands were washed out overnight in the first phase of e-commerce.

In the 90s, the first generation of early domain names provided cutting- edge weaponry that changed the global landscape forever, creating thousands of new brands and crushing old monikers, permanently altering advertising and branding platforms. This gTLD system is the next big phase.

Scrambling for Action

The new system is not about simple, no-questions-asked $10 domains. It's about companies pulling together sophisticated teams with thick proposals for a desired name identity, backed by solid funding -- all in the hope of obtaining approval to own a new gTLD.

The right combination of a great idea with a perfect name identity will create fireworks, while others will produce nothing but smoke. The teams have their work cut out, and ICANN will be under tremendous pressure to be fair and just in determining the outcome of global challenges. The hot spots will be the pure generic names: dot-milk, dot-beer, dot-casino. Next will be destination branding: dot-london, dot-sydney. Last will come new ventures with new name brands, or old ventures with old name brands.

Despite endless possibilities, ICANN plans to cap the first round of proposed applications to just a few hundred. However, based on the global pressures faced by organizations around the world to reduce customer acquisition costs, the market can easily absorb thousands of applications. A gTLD platform offers the hope of reaching a larger audience at a fraction of the usual cost.

Well-Stocked Armory

Bold entrepreneurial teams will attempt to cherry pick as many hot properties as possible and figure out their aftermarket sub-branding issues later. The registrars, registries and domainers all will have something to cheer about.

The professional services -- from those dealing with trademark issues to those dealing with legal questions, corporate nomenclature, branding and marketing -- will all have interesting proposals to consider.

Once ICANN starts the process and creates a global information campaign, the applicant organizations will face very serious challenges. They will need to educate their internal staff, identify a proposed name, assemble a team, apply, and develop a long-term plan for success. On the soft side, they will have to be mentally prepared to lead a global charge and equip themselves with the value proposition necessary to support each tactical maneuver.

On the hard side, they will need the game plan and sub-branding architecture to make the process winnable -- and highly profitable.

E-commerce is entering a new age of sophisticated global cyberbranding. It's all about image warfare and market domination, and gTLD provides the right weaponry.

FORTE

(Estonian News Outlet)

Singapuris kogunev tippkohtumine ICANN võib tuua suurimad muutused Interneti ajaloos (

20. juuni 2011 09:17

Internetimaailma silmad on suunatud Singapuri, kus algaval ICANN 41. tippkohtumisel otsustatakse uute geneeriliste tippdomeenide programmi saatus. Programmi heakskiitmine tähendaks senini suurimaid muudatusi Interneti ajaloos. Singapuris 19-24. juunil toimuva kohtumise peateema on uute geneeriliste tippdomeenide programm (gTLD), mille saatus kohtumisel otsustatakse.

Programmi ICANN direktorite nõukogu poolt heaks kiitmine tähendab senistele .com, .net ning .org ja veel 17 geneerilisele tippdomeenile lisaks võimalust luua misiganes geneerilise tippdomeeni. Ennustuste kohaselt võib otsus tähendada sadade uute tippdomeenide teket, näteks .berlin, .royal, .sports ning ka tuntud kaubamärgikujulise domeeninime nagu .canon, .ibm jne.

„Ehkki geneeriliste tippdomeenide programm on olnud päevakorras juba alates 2008. aastast, jätkuvad aktiivsed arutelud ka täna. Programmiga otsustatakse sisuliselt Interneti aadressiruumi saatus," ütles GAC (ICANN Governmental Advisory Commitee) liige ja Eesti Interneti SA juhatuse esimees Marek-Andres Kauts.

Programmi aktiivsed pooldajad on ärikogukond, kommerts-domeeniregistrite operaatorid ja domeenide vahendajad ehk registripidajad. Intellektuaalomandi valdajad ja kaubamärkide omanikud, samuti valitsuste esindajad on äraootavamal seisukohal.

„Meie positsioon on, et kui uute tippdomeenide jaoks on majanduslik nõudlus, siis tuleb need käiku anda. Samas peavad ICANN multi-stakeholder protsessi osaliste poolt esitatud küsimused saama ammendavad vastused, vastasel juhul võib diskussioon väljuda ICANN protsessi raamest ja asetada löögi alla tänase internetikorralduse riikideülese staatuse," sõnas Kauts. „Selline stsenaarium ei vasta kindlasti meie huvidele ja ootustele." Vastavasisulise kirja on USA Kaubandusministrile saatnud ka Euroopa Komisjoni asepresident ja digitaalarengu volinik Neelie Kroes.

ICANN direktorite nõukogu koosolekud, kus on võimalik otsus vastu võtta planeeritud 20. ja 24. juunile.

Lisaks peateemale on seekordsel kohtumisel luubi all esimese astme IDN (Internationalized Domain Names) domeeninimed, näiteks hieroglüüfid, kirillitsa ja araabia tähed domeeninimedes. Samuti arengumaade toetamine uute gTLD programmi raames.

Internet domain name revolution is coming
ICANN approves additions of new generic Top-Level Domains

By Georgina Enzer
Published June 20, 2011

A plan to make one of the biggest changes yet to the internet's domain name system has been approved by ICANN's Board of Directors.

The Board has approved a plan to increase the number of internet address endings or generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs) from the current 22, which includes such familiar domains as .com, .org and .net.

Domain names could now end with virtually any word in any language, which will allow brands and businesses to market and advertise themselves in new ways.

"ICANN has opened the internet's naming system to unleash the global human imagination. Today's decision respects the rights of groups to create new Top Level Domains in any language or script. We hope this allows the domain name system to better serve all of mankind," said Rod Beckstrom, president and CEO of ICANN.

Every business with an online presence could be affected by the new system, which will change the way people find information on the internet.

"Today's decision will usher in a new internet age," said Peter Dengate Thrush, chairman of ICANN's Board of Directors. "We have provided a platform for the next generation of creativity and inspiration."

The decision to go ahead with the gTLD plan comes after years of discussion and debate within the internet community, and efforts have been made to ensure that the safety and security of the internet is maintained, despite the changes.

ICANN will shortly launch a global communications programme to announce the gTLD name changes and elaborate on the process necessary to apply for a top gTLD name.

New gTLD applications will begin to be accepted on 12th January 2012.

The decision to go ahead with the new gTLD programme was announced at the 41st ICANN public meeting being held in Singapore.

Los Angeles Times

ICANN to let thousands of domain names bloom

The group that governs Internet domain names is opening up the system far beyond the 22 existing suffixes so that companies and organizations can apply to create their own versions of .com, .org or .gov.

June 21, 2011
By David Sarno
Los Angeles Times

Move over, dot-com — get ready for dot-anything.

The group that governs Internet domain names is opening up the system so that companies and organizations can apply to create their own versions of .com, .org or .gov. Under the new rules, instead of a coke.com, Coca-Cola might control the domain .coke and assign Web addresses such as drink.coke or bottle.coke.

The Marina del Rey group known as ICANN called it "one of the biggest changes ever" to the way the Internet's naming system works. With the domain expansion, the group of 22 existing suffixes — many of which were established in the early 1980s — could quickly balloon to hundreds or thousands. ICANN said more recognizable addresses would allow Web users to find what they're looking for more quickly.

Nonprofit groups could reserve the .school domain and hand out addresses to every elementary school. Cities could consolidate their websites to .nyc or .losangeles. And interest groups could stake out their own corner of the Web: .car for auto enthusiasts, .law for attorneys, and .food for restaurants.

"Today's decision will usher in a new Internet age," said Peter Dengate Thrush, chairman of ICANN's board of directors, in a statement following the group's approval of the expansion Monday in Singapore. "We have provided a platform for the next generation of creativity and inspiration."

But with a price tag of $185,000, creating a new domain won't be cheap or easy. ICANN — short for the Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers — will make the final decisions on new domains. The group requires that applicants be "established public or private organizations," with the necessary technical capability to keep a domain running.

ICANN's announcement drew criticism from those who disputed the value of expanding the already complicated Internet naming system, including those that said the move would mostly benefit the nonprofit ICANN and the for-profit companies, like GoDaddy.com and VeriSign Inc., that sell Web addresses. Some also questioned whether the new domain system would make navigating the Web any easier.

"The naming system is not a search engine," said Joe Touch, the director of USC's Postel Center, an Internet research group named after Jon Postel, who co-designed the Internet naming system in the early 1980s. "If you want to find Ford, you should type 'ford' into Google or Bing — trust me, it'll work."

A number of industry associations are also worried that, with a proliferation of new addresses, consumers could be confused about who owns the site they're visiting. If the music industry opened a .records domain name, both Apple Inc., which sells music on iTunes, and Apple

Corps Ltd., the Beatles' music publisher, might vie for the rights to apple.records. How will the music industry decide who gets the address?

Trademark attorneys argue that with each new suffix, companies would be forced to defend their brands against legions of impostors. If names like .search, .phone and .maps were successfully created, Google Inc. might be forced to protect its brand name by paying to register google.search, google.maps and google.phone.

ICANN has "opened the floodgates," said Scott Bain, an attorney at the Software and Information Industry Assn., which lobbied for more limited and deliberate expansion of the name system. "Now the Internet space is going to expand a hundredfold and nobody knows what's going to happen. Intellectual property owners will have to spend a lot of money and time to enforce their rights."

Others see plenty of potential for a more refined naming system.

Constantine Roussos, a Los Angeles entrepreneur, wants to register .music on behalf of the music industry. Under his plan, only legitimate, professional artists could be approved for a .music suffix. If fans typed in ladygaga.music or queen.music, he says, they would know they were getting authentic sites rather than pirates or imitators that are frequently found in .com and .net domains.

"When you buy music, you want it to be a legitimate sale — you want to know the website you're visiting is secure and trusted and it's actually the band," he said, adding that he has spoken to music industry officials but has not yet received their official support.

ICANN has been planning the naming expansion for much of the last decade. The group, which has been the steward of the Internet's naming system since 1998, said it would begin accepting applications in January.

Internet observers expect that the initial expansion might bring 500 new options for site suffixes, which are called generic top-level domain names (or gTLDs). There are only 22 now, including the original eight, (.com, .edu, .gov, .int., .mil, .net, .org and .arpa).

Since 2000, ICANN has added 14 top-level domains, including .biz, .info and .jobs. Few of the new names have caught on, with .com remaining the standard across many industries. Still it can be difficult and expensive to find new .com names, with the most desirable long ago snapped up by companies, individuals and speculators who stockpile names in hopes of selling them to the highest bidder.

But those speculators, known as "domainers," say the new system won't diminish the value of existing Web addresses that they are selling. After all, the recently added domains like .biz and .info never really caught on.

"Domainers, are you worried that your .com beachfront property values will be lost?" Michael H. Berkens, editor of the blog site the Domains, asked his readers recently. "Don't think so."

david.sarno@latimes.com

ICANN's New Domain Policy Resets the Web

The promise of countless new Top Level Domains (TLDs) is sure to set in motion the second Internet gold rush.

By Lance Ulanoff
June 20, 2011

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN) plan to let almost anything be a Top Level Domain (TLD) is about to take the Web back to its Wild West roots. And only those who remember history know what to expect.

Way back in the early days of the Web, I remember the domain name gold rush. It was just like the Gold Rush of 1848, with domain name prospectors racing across a virtual country of possible top-level domain names (TLDs) to try and find the gold hidden among them. What constituted domain gold? Anything that anyone else might want—really, really badly.

Brand names were at a premium. So were simple names. CNET's founder Halsey Minor shrewdly snapped up "TV", "News", "Download" and more. Any domain that described a thing was of high value and any brand name that was a domain was soon contested. You see, in the early days of the World Wide Web, no one thought about how it should really be the intellectual property (IP) owner who registers the matching domains. For example, McDonalds.com was not, initially, owned by the restaurant chain. "Whitehouse.com," is still not owned by the White House. Bill Clinton did not own "WilliamJClinton" and Nike didn't own "JustDoIt.net." This wasn't really surprising, considering how slowly old-world brands (and people) moved online. Some weren't even sure there was value in putting their brands on the Web. No one in 1996 foresaw that the little online bookstore Amazon.com would turn into the global online retail giant it is today.

These legal battles cost companies and celebrities millions and made squatters an equal amount of money. Eventually, most major brands found a way to get their domains. Now, ICANN threatens to start the whole thing over again. They just introduced rules that will add an almost unlimited number of top level domains (these are the .coms, .orgs and .nets of the world). There are currently 22. When ICANN is finished, there could be millions.

Reports I read noted that brands are already lining up for their own TLDs: Coke will have ".coke". I imagine McDonalds will acquire ".McDonalds." I can feel the Internet gold rush starting again already. However, where the mid-'90s rush required little more than a pickaxe and a horse-drawn wagon, this prospecting will require the equivalent of a Lamborghini and a safe-cracker. ICANN wants to charge almost $200,000 for the application and $25,000 in annual fees. To put this in perspective, I pay approximately $35 a year for my LanceUlanoff.com domain.

This will deter private individuals from squatting on valuable TLDs, but it will not stop companies from grabbing up all sorts of TLDs. All they needs is the money and the ability to prove they deserve the right to own ".ketchup". I use this example, because there may be a flaw in this plan. While most individuals cannot afford ICANN's new steep charges, corporations can—in multiples. I bet they'll find a way to snap up as many of them as they can and then the fighting will begin. You see, it's obvious who should own ".capitolone", but not who would get ".money". These battles, which I fully expect to witness, could be great fun to watch, but could also drag the ICANN into a never-ending series of decisions with which it doesn't want to deal.

The other side of this is the equation is why ICANN thinks it can charge so much. Are they saying that no average person should have the right to own a TLD? I really do not want ".ulanoff" because I think www.lanceulanoff.ulanoff looks ridiculous, but maybe I would want www.editing.ulanoff. With this pricing and annual fee plan, there's no way I could have that or www.home.lanceulanoff. ICANN may believe it's heading off lots of confusion and a hoard of greedy squatters, but I think they're starting a fire in the corporate world and handcuffing everyone else.

Leaving aside the common man's access to these new TLDs, the introduction of an unlimited number of them—for everything from people to places, companies, to major organizations—will reignite a more basic gold rush. It won't be as intense as the first one, because every so-called great domain on these new TLDs will be little more than a subset of the parent. You can get "news," but it'll be under a new ".NJ" domain. In other words, the number of prospectors rushing to dig up that nugget will probably be limited to those with interests in New Jersey.

When these new TLDs start going on sale in January 2012, it'll be a new beginning for the Web, with big companies driving their safe-crackers in Lamborghinis to ICANN, and countless small-time prospectors searching for domain nuggets in their own backyards. It makes me kind of nervous, but I'm also looking forward to watching the action.

New web status symbol is expensive

Published on : 20 June 2011 - 6:01pm
By Johan van der Tol

Soon the familiar web extensions like .com, .org, .net and the like will be joined by a host of new ones. From next year on companies will be able to register domain names ending in their own brand name. Mind you, for that privilege they'll have to shell out 130,000 euros plus an annual fee of 17,000 euros on top of that.

Dimitri Reijerman of internet news site *tweakers.net* thinks big changes are on the way:

"The option to use your own name as an extension will primarily be of interest to large companies, since the price is pretty substantial. But cities, for example, will also be able to buy their own extensions. The result is that from January onwards we'll probably see an enormous growth in the number of extensions."

The prices charged by the US domain licensing body ICANN appear to be aimed at limiting the growth of extension names to some degree. Large companies will mainly want to use the new extension for marketing purposes. It makes them more recognisable than a generic extension like .com or .nl. And there are claims that it will be easier for clients to find the company website or helpdesk.

Internet journalist Herbert Blankesteijn is not convinced:

"If it's solving any problem at all, then it's not much of a problem. The big companies it's aimed can be found very easily anyway. Type 'Shell' or 'Philips' or 'Apple' in Google and you're there. So in that sense, it's no improvement."

Status seems to be a major reason to go for a brand name extension.

"A company with an address like dot-Shell rather than Shell-dot-com is obviously an important company, you're at the top of the pile."

Another reason is that the domain name you want has already been allocated. Companies which saw their desired .com name swiped from under their noses will get another chance. Blankesteijn explains:

"Only one company can be called Apple and have the internet address apple.com. There was a serious dispute between the electronics company Apple and the record label Apple for the use of the domain name. Now the record company, like others companies that lost similar battles, has a new opportunity to get itself a memorable and easily accessible internet address."
The new internet registration scheme may also create unnecessary costs for businesses.
"A smaller company that doesn't actually have a use for it and is not really interested may quite possibly decide to get one of these new extensions anyway, just to be on the safe side. In case they live to regret not getting one. And of course it's not cheap."

TheCitizen

(Tanzanian Newspaper)

A Boring But Important Story for Continent

June 22,2011
Opinion by Mr Onyango-Obbo

Okay, this is probably going to bore you to death, but it is important a subject for Africa (and the world for that matter) to ignore. The internet body that governs how the Internet works, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (Icann) voted a few days ago to allow the creation of new website domain suffixes, and to allow for them in other languages other than English.

"Domain suffix", or better still "Uniform Resource Locator (URL)" is the name techies use to bamboozle us ordinary folks, otherwise they mean Internet address or identity.Today, we have 22 domain endings (or what the techies, again, call generic top-level domain names, or gTLDs - e.g. .com for companies, .edu for educational institutions, .gov for government institutions, .org for non-profit organisations, and so forth).

There are also about 250 country-level domain names such as .ke for Kenya, .tz for Tanzania, .ug for Uganda, .rw for Rwanda, .bi for Burundi.From January, Icann will begin taking applications for new Internet addresses, and we shall have thousands of domain names. In the near future they could be in the millions. We can have domain suffixes like .Nairobi, .Kilimanjaro, or .EquityBank, the list will be very long.

So the question is what does this have to do with the ugali on our dinner tables? To begin with, one of the big controversies ahead of the Icann announcement has been over who will manage what is likely to be one of the hottest domain names of the future - .Africa (dotAfrica).

The contest is between two Mauritius-based non-profit organisations, African Top Level Domains (AfTLD), and Dot Connect Africa (DCA). As of now, the understanding is that the African Union will endorse one of these organisations to manage the dotAfrica domain, and that hopefully Icann will accept its bid.

It is no guarantee that what the AU says will prevail, or that once it has given its nod the organisation it has picked will afford to pay the $185,000 (Sh278 million) that it will cost to apply for the suffixes.

Then, even if that were done, other companies from anywhere in the world that want dotAfrica can take legal action to challenge Icann's allocation.

And that is where our first nightmare comes in. It is likely that Africa could face the humiliation of having a non-African organisation owning the dotAfrica domain suffix.At the business level, for companies with Africa operations, like Shell, it will serve them to have Shell.africa. It will also make sense for the African Development Bank (AfDB) to be AfDB.africa, instead of AfDB.org.

Things will be more complex for companies like Nation Media Group (NMG). The website for its flagship Kenya publications (The Nations) is .nation.coke. However, NMG is also the leading East African media house and publishes The East African whose Internet address is .theeastafrican.co.ke. The East African, would be served by a domain suffix that indicates it is regional, so theastafrican.eastafrica.

However, NMG also has a mission to be the "Media of Africa for Africa", and its main vehicle for that as of now is its pan-Africa news website, africareview.com. For AfricaReview a change to africareview.africa next year would be the smart thing.All those look like the right thing to do, until someone begins asking if NMG is a Kenyan, East African, African media company, or just a media company. It will be fun working that problem.

Companies will rush to use their names as domain suffixes to build brand loyalty. So, you can expect that we shall have .Coke or .CocaCola. Now here is where the ugali issues come in. One of the more popular Kenyan bloggers is coldtusker. Coldtusker is also a very interesting chap to follow on the mini-blog site Twitter.

East African Breweries' Tusker is the most popular beer in Kenya, and one of the most known African beers globally. All of a sudden, coldtusker has become a valuable name, because should coldtusker register it is a domain, EABL will lose the catchiest suffix it could use to rally the community of Tusker drinkers.

Hypothetically, I can see a future in which EABL fights coldtusker for the name, or does the right thing and offers coldtusker a deal he can't refuse. Coldtusker will not be the only one with a name that someone with deep pockets desperately wants.

Mr Onyango-Obbo is the Executive Editor of the Nation Media Group's Africa and Digital Media Division.

THE AUSTRALIAN
THE HEART OF THE NATION

New web domain suffixes approved by ICANN

Andrew Colley
June 21, 2011 12:00AM

THE cyber sphere was warned to prepare for a bumpy regulatory ride after the peak naming authority yesterday passed a resolution to allow organisations to run their own generic domain suffixes alongside the likes of .net, .org and .com.

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers board yesterday ratified the protocols for companies and organisations to apply for the generic top-level domains (gTLDs) at its 41st international convention in Singapore.

In a landslide 18-to-one (and two abstentions), the board passed a resolution to accept applications for generic top-level-domains for three months from January 12, next year.

The announcement ends an era of fractious and protracted negotiations among internet stakeholders on how to get the protocols and processes for applying for the domains correct.

Placing his vote in the affirmative, ICANN board member Steve Crocker warned ICANN staff and the internet community to get ready for a period of frenetic activity and some conflict as the application process opens.

"Strap yourself in. There'll be a little bit of turbulence along the way, but it will be an exciting ride," Mr Crocker said.

Former ICANN vice-president Paul Levins said the resolution marked the biggest change in the internet addressing system since its inception.

"This is an enormous change," Mr Levins said.

"We don't know all the innovations this will produce, but what we know is that it will produce a lot of it.

"It's not been some overnight decision. It's been part of ICANN'S remit since its establishment in 1999 -- to introduce competition and increase the number of gTLDs."

The new system is expected to radically change the landscape of the internet naming system as it will vastly expand the range of domain names used on the web beyond the 21 common domain suffixes and 30 or so well-known country code names with which consumers are familiar.

ICANN anticipates that between 300 and 1000 new gTLDs could be created under the application process.

Domain registry services provider Melbourne IT recently surveyed 150 of its largest customers and found that 92 per cent were interested in applying for a gTLD matching their brand.

It would also allow cities, states and provinces to create web name suffixes based on their titles. For instance, New York, Paris and Berlin are among cities expected to apply for the top-level-domains .nyc, .paris and .berlin.

In Australia, Sydney and Melbourne have expressed interest in applying for the names .melbourne and .sydney.

The move is also expected to result in a flurry of activity developing gTLDs in non-Roman characters.

ICANN is expected to begin a market education program before opening the application process next year.

The first gTLD names are not expected to be approved until late next year.

the guardian

Internet domain addresses opened up to wave of new suffixes

Internet naming board approves huge expansion of approved domain extensions with .hotel, .bank, or .sport auctions likely

Charles Arthur, technology editor
Monday 20 June 2011 19.29 BST

Twenty-six years after .com was first unveiled to the world, officials have swept away tight regulations governing website naming, opening up a whole world of personalised web address suffixes.

Icann, the internet naming board, approved one of the biggest changes in the web's history on Monday, allowing the number of web suffixes to expand virtually without limit. Currently there are 22 international "top level domain" suffixes such as ".com", but sites with suffixes such as ".sport" and ".eco" will pop up next year.

Peter Dengate Thrush, chairman of Icann's board of directors, said: "Today's decision will usher in a new internet age. We have provided a platform for the next generation of creativity and inspiration. Unless there is a good reason to restrain it, innovation should be allowed to run free."

Analysts say they expect 500 to 1,000 domain suffixes, mostly for companies and products looking to stamp their mark on web addresses, but also for cities and generic names such as .bank or .hotel.

Websites can now be categorised by subjects such as industry, geography and ethnicity – as well as using Arabic, Chinese and other scripts. There are also 290 country suffixes such as ".uk" and ".fr", which will remain unchanged for now.

Groups have formed to back ".sport" for sporting sites, and two conservationist groups separately are seeking the right to operate an ".eco" suffix.

It will also now be possible to have website names entirely in Mandarin or Cyrillic or any other script, which will ease the problem of reading and writing addresses for the majority of people who do not use the Roman alphabet.

The growth will also come as the internet shifts to the next-generation IPv6 addressing system for its basic systems, which enables far more devices to be attached to the internet.

Icann approved the move after six years of negotiations, in which concerns were repeatedly expressed that the enormous expansion of suffixes could lead to extra costs for businesses of registering a site with their trademark as the number of suffixes explodes.

During the 1990s there were hundreds of cases of "domain squatting" in which people would register sites that used companies' trademarked names, effectively holding them to ransom. Expanding the number of domains could make that far worse.

But it would also ease the pressure on the ".com" domain, created 26 years ago. In May 2009 a study found that 74% of websites were in the .com domain space.

"It will allow corporations to better take control of their brands," said Theo Hnarakis, chief executive of Melbourne IT, which manages online brands for clients such as Volvo, LEGO and GlaxoSmithKline. "For example, .apple or .ipad would take customers right to those products."

But others said that the promise of space could be a double-edged sword. "If you're a company with a lot of money, such as Barclays, then you could buy the '.barclays' suffix and build a little island on the internet, on the basis that you can persuade customers that only legitimate Barclays sites will end with that," said Charlie Abrahams, of the brand protection company MarkMonitor. "If your brand has just three letters, it might be worth it. If you're Tommy Hilfiger, it's probably not, because I can't imagine anyone bothering to type all that at the end of a URL."

However, the principal beneficiaries are likely to be the internet registrars who sell the rights to site names. Icann has set a $185,000 fee per suffix, and applicants have to work their way through a 360-page guidebook to prepare their bids ahead of the first suffix auctions, which start on 12 January 2012 and run for 90 days.

Icann says it will auction suffixes if multiple parties have legitimate claims. However, it expects companies will reach deals to avoid a public auction.

"I think we'll see much more of that going on than see auctions generating circuses," said Dengate Thrush. "But there is that prospect that there will be a couple of identical applicants and applications."

Adrian Kinderis, chief executive of AusRegistry International, which helps companies to register domains and manages names such as ".au" for Australia, said: "It's a significant undertaking. We're calling it the Olympic bid. But it's worth it for corporations that have suffered from things like trademark infringement and can now carve out a niche on the internet."

Abrahams estimates that it would cost a typical company £1m to run their own suffix for the minimum 10 years required. "It is a lot of work – but if someone beats you to it, you have lost it forever," he noted.

The Icann board approved the move by 13 votes to one with two abstentions in a meeting in Singapore. "This is the start of a whole new phase for the Internet," said But tThe move could also create enormous confusion for consumers and companies. It greatly expands the risks from "phishing" sites because they could use confusing domain names in language scripts that look similar to existing ones to capture peoples' details. And for companies, the challenge will be to decide whether to register their names in all possible domains, or to create their own suffix, or to limit themselves to a small number of domains.

ICANN approves dot changes

SINGAPORE, June 20 (UPI) -- Internet regulators meeting in Singapore said they would be permitting more choices after the dot in Internet addresses.

The move, which allows for addresses with endings like .pizza, .baseball, .hotel and .SanFrancisco instead of .com or .org is expected to create a stampede of applications for address changes and could end up in bidding wars among large businesses.

If several pizza chains apply for .pizza at the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the regulator would auction off the domain address, CNNMoney.com reported Monday.

Board members for global Internet regulator ICANN, which is based in California, voted on the name-change at a meeting in Singapore. The changes are not expected to show up on the Internet until some time in 2012.

"The way things are now, technically anyone can buy a dot-com domain to imply a relationship with a brand," said Ben Crawford, chief executive officer at dotBrand Solutions, a consulting firm.

Even without a competitive auction, the process is pricey. The application form is $185,000 and requires considerable work to pull together because it can be up to 150 pages long.

Web Addresses Enter New.Era

By Sam Holmes and Christopher Rhoads
JUNE 21, 2011

The dot-com era is over. Welcome to the dot-anything age.

On Monday, the organization that regulates the world's Internet domain names—yes, there is central coordination—approved changes that could allow anyone to register any name they like in almost any language as a Web address.

The new rules affect what the industry calls top-level domain names, the familiar dot-coms and dot-nets that end every Web address. Now, instead of having to use one of those existing forms, users will be able to end their addresses with the name of their company, such as dot-Ford, or their city, like dot-Berlin.

 If successful, the change could alleviate a shortage of dot-com Web addresses and produce hundreds of millions of dollars in business for the companies whose business is managing the Internet's vast registries, as well as those selling the names, called registrars. Companies could gain new tools for highlighting their identities and networking with suppliers and distributors. The shift, however, could also cause anxiety and disputes among governments, companies and other entities in safeguarding their brands and identities in cyberspace. Those seeking religious or political names, for example, could lead to sensitive situations.

For companies, even those that are happy with dot-com and aren't interested in adopting a new domain-name suffix will have to monitor the process to head off any potential trademark or brand-name infringement from other applicants, Internet experts said.

"Instead of having a dot-com that doesn't really mean anything, you will have an extension that means something," said Antony Van Couvering, the head of Minds + Machines LLC, a Santa Monica, Calif., company that advises clients on domain names.

The idea behind the change—which likely will need another 18 months before any of the new names become active—was to create more choice on the Internet and potentially spur innovation, according to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or Icann, the nonprofit Internet coordinating body that approved the measure.

For companies, having a Web-address suffix reflecting their own name could benefit branding as well as online security.

Online sales of counterfeit goods are on the rise, with fake domain names duping customers into thinking they are getting a good price on the real deal. Fraud is a problem, too.

To combat that activity, companies could register their brands as domain names—dot-brand—then offer authorized distributors of their products access to that domain, said Elisa Cooper, director of product marketing at MarkMonitor, a firm that helps businesses protect their brands online.

Those distributors would appear on the Web as distributor1.brand and distributor2.brand. Eventually, consumers could learn that only sites using the dot-brand domain carry authentic products.

Shiv Singh, head of digital for PepsiCo Beverages-America, says the change creates interesting opportunities for building his brand. But he worries about the cost and wonders whether the new addresses will be adopted by consumers, noting that alternatives like dot-biz failed to find an audience. If it does catch on, companies like Pepsi may feel pressure to follow suit.

"I see this as nice to have, but it's not something we're going to get cracking on tomorrow morning," Mr. Singh said. "I am keen to see how other brands adopt it, because this will only succeed if it has critical mass adoption among companies."

Many companies opposed the change, however, citing the hassles it would create. Major companies typically register their name in multiple countries under country-code domain names such as dot-uk for Great Britain, as well as under multiple top-level domain names such as dot-com and dot-net.

The new rules create infinite options, compounding the registration issues. "Trademark owners and their lawyers are watching this closely to ensure their rights," said Jeff Brown, a spokesman for videogame publisher Electronic Arts Inc. "For us, the domains seem expensive and offer negligible value."

 Search-engine giant Google Inc. warned that the change has the potential to create widespread user confusion.
"For example, if someone wants to find Citibank, would that be at citibank.com, www.citibank, citi.bank, or somewhere else?" a Google spokeswoman asked hypothetically.

Icann will accept applications for addresses under the new rules from Jan. 12 to April 12. The first of the new domains could be online by late 2012.

There are currently about 20 generic top-level domain names, like dot-org, and more than 200 country-code domain names, like dot-de for Germany. As of April, there were more than 211 million Web addresses in use around the world, with nearly half of those using the dot-com suffix, according to Matthew Zook, the head of ZookNIC Internet Intelligence, an Internet research firm.

Companies now will need to determine if they want to register their name under the plethora of potential new addresses. Ford Motor Co., for example, might eventually need to consider whether to register its name under a new dot-Texas suffix—ford.texas—to associate with customers there, or get a suffix using its own name, dot-ford.

"We need time to investigate but it sounds interesting," Said Deep, a spokesman for Ford, said Monday. "In the end, we will do what makes the most sense for our customers."

Since so many names are already taken on the popular dot-com suffix, the change could produce attractive alternatives like dot-web for entities that missed out.

Not everyone will jump in, primarily because entry isn't cheap.

A company or government or individual that wants a domain-name suffix must pay Icann $185,000 just to apply. The application itself is several hundred pages long.

The fee could keep smaller businesses from registering a unique extension, even as the change opens up opportunities to build Web addresses on industry keywords like dot-pets, said Warren Adelman, president of domain-name registration firm GoDaddy.com.

Jason Levin, an online florist in Vista, Calif., who paid $2,500 on the secondary market for SunFlowerGuy.com, said he's unlikely to change his domain name under the new rules. "If we saw an opportunity that made sense, we'd consider it," Mr. Levin said. "But I'm not in the business of buying and selling domain-name extensions. I sell flowers."

For those who secure domain names, there is a yearly fee to Icann of around $25,000. That comes on top of the costs of running the domain-name suffix, likely outsourced to a company already in the business, which can run anywhere from $15,000 to millions of dollars, depending on the number of users, according to Ms. Cooper of MarkMonitor.

Icann said the hefty fee is based on the estimated cost of processing the applications, including possible litigation involving name disputes and other contingencies.

Applicants that look like cyber-squatters taking advantage of brand names or trademarks that clearly don't belong to them will be rejected, Icann said. An applicant seeking to register, for example, dot-cocacola, would have to be the well-known beverage company.

Winners otherwise will be determined by a panel that will consider factors like financial and technical capability, as well as how the applicant plans to use the domain. Some contests for a single name could be resolved by an auction, potentially generating sizeable revenue for Icann.

Once an appealing domain-name suffix is secured, selling the secondary names—meaning the words to the left of the dot—could be a profitable business. Dot-doctor could be an attractive offering to the medical profession, said Adrian Kinderis, chief executive of Melbourne-based AusRegistry International, which sells names under country code domain names like dot-au for Australia and dot-om for Oman.

Dot-doctor, for example, could be made available to only licensed doctors, who would get Web addresses appearing as yourname.doctor.

"I could sell those for $1,000 a throw because you're adding value into the verification mechanism that exists," Mr. Kinderis said.

Steve Crocker Jadi Chairman ICANN

Minggu, 26 Juni 2011 13:00 WIB
Penulis : Annisa Indri Lestari

STEVE Crocker terpilih menjadi chairman Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Sebagai pimpinan, pionir internet itu bertanggung jawab mengurusi sistem alamat online yang baru.

Penunjukan Crocker dilakukan setelah ICANN menyetujui pembuatan pedoman baru alamat internet yang akhirannya disesuaikan dengan jenis industri pemilik alamat. Lulusan UCLA pada 1960-an itu menggantikan Peter Dengate Thrush yang menjadi chairman sejak 2007.

ICANN merupakan organisasi yang berbasis di California dan mengatur kebijakan mengenai nama *domain* dan aspek lain alamat internet. Keputusan mereka memengaruhi bagaimana komputer mencari situs dan pesan email yang beredar di seluruh dunia. Crocker ialah pimpinan ICANN yang keempat.

Ia juga disebut sebagai pelopor internet. Saat masih menjadi mahasiswa UCLA, Crocker membantu mengembangkan dasar-dasar teknis internet saat ini. Crocker dan teman sekelasnya, Vint Cerf, terlibat dalam pengembangan mekanisme jaringan komputer yang memungkinkan terjadinya komunikasi antarperangkat.

Crocker membantu menciptakan protokol teknis untuk Arpanet yang berkembang menjadi internet setelah tim Cerf mengembangkan alat komunikasi TCP/IP. Alat komunikasi tersebut masih digunakan hingga saat ini. Pada 2002-2010, Crocker adalah Ketua Komite ICANN yang bertugas mempelajari keamanan dan stabilitas sistem alamat internet.

Dia juga chief executive officer Shinkuro Inc., perusahaan *startup* yang bertujuan untuk berbagi informasi

'Uncle of the internet' named ICANN chair

Steve Crocker, man who wrote first ever RFC document

By Kevin Murphy
24th June 2011 09:54 GMT

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers has named internet veteran Steve Crocker as the new chairman of its board of directors.
Crocker is noted for his work on the ARPANET, the internet's predecessor, in the 1960s and 70s, as well as his involvement with the Internet Engineering Task Force since its inception

He's also known for writing the first-ever Request For Comment document. RFCs are now used as the standard format for describing IETF internet standards.
Crocker, an American, replaces Peter Dengate Thrush, a New Zealand intellectual property lawyer known in the ICANN community for his forthright, occasionally confrontational negotiating style.

His appointment came as absolutely no surprise to anybody following ICANN politics closely. Crocker has served as vice-chair since December last year, and directors have been dropping hints about his selection all week here at ICANN's 41st international public meeting in Singapore.

He was described on Monday by ICANN chief executive Rod Beckstrom, as "one of the uncles of the internet", an apparent reference to the fact that Dengate Thrush's predecessor in the chair, Vint Cerf, is usually described as one of the "fathers of the internet".

The election, which was carried out by ICANN's board in a secret poll, also saw Bruce Tonkin, chief strategy officer of Australian domain name registrar Melbourne IT, named vice-chair. Crocker beat nominees Cherine Chalaby and Sebastien Bachollet to the chair, while Tonkin beat Bachollet and Ray Plzak in the vice-chair race. It was the first time ICANN had revealed the names of unsuccessful candidates in these elections.

The appointments follow ICANN's historic vote to approve its new generic top-level domains (gTLD) program. On Monday, the organisation announced plans to let any company apply to run dot-anything domain names, potentially increasing the number of domain extensions by hundreds over the next few years.

Dengate Thrush's experience as a barrister was undoubtedly a boon to ICANN during its recent talks with international governments, which had been pushing for stronger trademark protections in new gTLDs, but he was also criticised by some for pushing too hard for the program to be approved on his watch, before it was fully ready.

Dengate Thrush is departing as chairman due to the expiration of his time on the board, which is subject to strict term limits. ®

Internet address group names Steve Crocker chair

Posted: Jun 24, 2011 8:26 AM PDT
By ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) - Steve Crocker, one of the pioneers of the Internet, was named chairman Friday of the organization responsible for the online address system.

Crocker's appointment came as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers wrapped up weeklong meetings in Singapore. On Monday, ICANN approved new guidelines for Internet addresses, allowing groups and companies to vie for suffixes such as ".bank" and .eco." As chairman, Crocker will oversee that expansion, the largest since the address system was created in 1984. Hundreds of new suffixes could be established by late next year to join the familiar ".com" and ".org."

Crocker succeeds Peter Dengate Thrush, who has been chairman since 2007.
Formed in 1998, ICANN is the California-based organization that sets policies on domain names and other aspects of Internet addresses. Its decisions affect how computers find websites and route email messages around the world.

Crocker, 66, is ICANN's fourth chairman and the second Internet founding father in that role. Vint Cerf, one of Crocker's high school classmates, served from 2000 to 2007 and called his appointment "a first-rate choice for chair."

As a UCLA grad student in the late '60s, Crocker helped develop the technical underpinnings of the Internet today.

Crocker and Cerf were both involved in developing the mechanisms for different computer networks to talk to one another. Crocker helped create the technical protocols for Arpanet, which evolved into the Internet after Cerf's team developed the TCP/IP communications tools still in use today.

More recently, from 2002 to 2010, Crocker was chairman of an ICANN committee tasked with studying the security and stability of the Internet's address system. He is also CEO of a startup company devoted to information sharing, Shinkuro Inc.

Cities could cash in on new domain extensions

By Rachel Roubein
USA TODAY
July 13, 2011

The gates are opening, but it's unclear if a flood of applicants will rush to register the name of their corporate or municipal website for a potentially longer "dot-anything" suffix, starting in January, for a whopping price tag.

The rigorous process requires applicants to spend $185,000 to complete a lengthy form that will prevent cybersquatters and can take 18 months for approval.

While some critics say switching to or adding on a corporate domain, such as .ibm or .mcdonalds, is unnecessary and probably unlikely for big-name brands, municipalities could reap marquee display and extra cash.

New generic top-level domains, as they're known, may be right for some organizations but not all, says Brad White, spokesman for the Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN.

"I have a hard time seeing it right now," says Christopher Glancy, an intellectual-property attorney at White & Case. "You have to wonder whether or not owning the domain .company is really going to end up increasing your bottom line when you already own company.com."

But a city could register its name as a top-level domain — for example, .tulsa — then dole out second-level domains to an array of businesses, such as pizzeria.tulsa.

New York Councilwoman Christine Quinn said such cyberbranding could be an instant revenue booster. "This is a fantastic opportunity for New York City establishments … and for the city of New York, which will benefit from the millions of dollars in revenue .nyc will generate."

The uses for generic top-level domain names are many: One company has found it can be used to shield children from inappropriate content.

Adult-entertainment sites that serve up pornography will be able to register shortly with ICM Registry as a .xxx. With this domain name, a consumer will have the ability to set a computer's parental controls to block .xxx sites.

"The consumer, the adult provider and the avoiders all win at the same time," says Stuart Lawley, chief executive of ICM Registry, the company that's handling all the new .xxx extensions.

He says the benefits are simple: The people who want to find the .xxx domains can find them, and the people who want to avoid them can do so easily.

What remains to be seen is how it all fits into a marketing plan, Glancy says. For companies and cities, it's a waiting game riding on changing consumer behavior.

"Ultimately, I think the consumer will be the deciding factor here," Glancy says.

2011-07-28-02-Annex-FY12SSR

ANNEX TO BOARD SUBMISSION NO. 2011-07-28-02

SUBMISSION TITLE: **FY 12 SSR Framework**

- ICANN published an initial plan in May 2009 as a baseline document describing the organization-wide activities and programs related to security, stability & resiliency (http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-21may09-en.htm). The Board acknowledged receipt of the 2009 Plan (for Fiscal Year 2010) at the ICANN meeting in Sydney, Australia in June 2009.

- Following the signing of the Affirmation of Commitments, and based on the development of the 2010-13 ICANN Strategic Plan and FY 11 Operating Plan and Budget, ICANN staff updated the SSR Plan to reflect the current activities and programs for Fiscal Year 2011. The FY 11 SSR Plan was acknowledged at the ICANN meeting in Cartagena, Colombia in December 2010.

- During the Cartagena meeting, staff received input from the community that the next version of the SSR Plan could be more streamlined, less repetitive, more actionable, and make a distinction from those areas in which ICANN has an operational role, areas in which ICANN is a collaborator, facilitator and contributor, and those areas in which ICANN is an observer of activities led by others in the ecosystem.

- This new format for the SSR Framework was developed and discussed with SSAC and the At Large community prior to publication in 5 UN languages on 2 May 2011.

- The new format was published for public comment from 2 May to 1 June 2011. At the informal request of the ccNSO, the comment period was extended to 7 June 2011.

Now that the comment period has concluded and staff is conducting further briefing sessions during the ICANN Singapore meeting with the community, ICANN staff is requesting that the Board acknowledge receipt of the FY 12 SSR Framework.

Consultations Undertaken

In preparation for the revision of the SSR Framework, ICANN's Security team conferred with a cross-functional group of staff composed from IANA & DNS Operations, Information Technology, Global Partnerships & Government Affairs, Stakeholder Relations, General Counsel, and Policy areas.

During the comment period, ICANN conducted briefings on the SSR Framework and ICANN activities in SSR with:

- Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) – 7 April 2011

- At Large community open briefing – 26 April 2011

- ccNSO work team briefing – 9 May 2011

- IT Sector Coordinating Council (IT-SCC) International Committee briefing in Washington, DC – 10 May 2011

- Briefing to international law enforcement and security community participants at the SpyEye/Zeus Conference held at the National Cyber-Forensics Training Alliance in Pittsburgh, PA on 19 May 2011

- Discussion of the SSR Framework at the Board's retreat in Istanbul, Turkey on 20 May 2011

Additional briefings were conducted with the community at the ICANN meeting in Singapore. Staff conducted a briefing for At Large, the Business Constituency of the GNSO, and a Security team open session on the SSR Framework.

Public Comment Summary - Potential objections and proposed responses

ICANN received five public comments during the comment period that ran from 2 May to 1 June (and was extended to 7 June 2011).

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Inputs were received from one individual in the DNS technical community (Thierry Moreau), the ccNSO, Registries Stakeholder Group and the Business Constituency of the GNSO. Commenters generally supported the new format for the FY 12 SSR Framework. The summary of the comments was posted on 8 June 2011, http://forum.icann.org/lists/ssr-fy12/msg00006.html.

Main themes in the comments included the following:

1. In briefings with the community, there was general support for the revised format and presentation of the FY 12 SSR Framework, as an improvement over previous versions of the SSR Plan. There was also support for the simultaneous posting of translations in 5 UN languages.
2. Both the ccNSO and the Registry Stakeholders Group asked for improvement of definitions used by ICANN in the SSR Framework, and precision on describing ICANN's remit.
3. There was support for an environmental scan to assess the current Internet security ecosystem and involve the broad community including enterprise users, Internet and government entities in that work.

Resource implications – **The Plan does not provide additional resource implications, but instead documents ICANN's SSR initiatives in FY 12.**

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