



VERISIGN™

February 20, 2013

**VIA FED EX AND EMAIL**

John Jeffrey, Esq.  
General Counsel  
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers  
12025 Waterfront Drive, Suite 300  
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536

**Re: ICANN's Transparency and Selective Disclosure Related to the new gTLD Program**

Dear John:

I am writing to raise Verisign's concern with ICANN's lack of transparency in matters pertaining to the new gTLD program. As you know, we have recently written two letters to you raising serious and substantive concerns with certain issues related to the new gTLD program. I have attached both letters for your convenience. To date, ICANN has not made either letter public (and you have neither acknowledged receiving nor responded to any concerns identified in either letter).

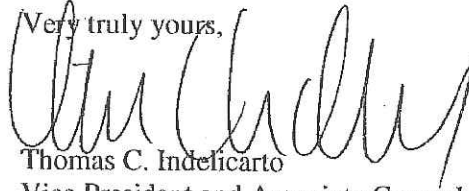
We are also aware that others have sent letters to ICANN raising additional important concerns with the new gTLD program, including a widely distributed letter from the Association of National Advertisers dated January 30, 2013. ICANN has similarly not made this letter public. We ask whether ICANN has received other similar letters and we wish to know why those (like ours and the letter from the ANA) have not been made public by ICANN.

We are increasingly concerned that ICANN is choosing to withhold from public view letters that raise important but critical issues with ICANN's new gTLD program. We note in this regard that ICANN *did* make public Verisign's letter of January 8, 2013 declining ICANN's invitation to voluntarily participate in a contractual compliance audit of the .net TLD. Because ICANN has published no criteria on how it decides to make letters public, we are left to conclude that ICANN posts only those letters it believes will advance its positions and withholds those thought to be critical. This conclusion, however, if true, violates ICANN's obligations under the Affirmation of Commitments and undermines our shared goal of upholding and supporting the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance.

We therefore ask you to identify the standards ICANN uses to determine when a letter is made public and to consider making public all letters regarding the new gTLD program,

including those letters that raise concerns such as the attached letters and the letter from the ANA. We intend to make public our concerns including this and the attached letters.

Very truly yours,



Thomas C. Indelicarto  
Vice President and Associate General Counsel  
VeriSign, Inc.

Encls.

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