ICANN, the IANA, and Regional Initiatives

Fahd Batayneh | MEAC-SIG 2015 | May 27, 2015

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Introduction to ICANN

ICANN

- To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number

- ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world

- ICANN **promotes competition** and **develops policy** on the Internet's unique identifiers

- ICANN does not control content, it cannot stop spam, and it does not deal with access to the Internet

- Has hub offices in Los Angeles (HQ), Istanbul, and Singapore

- Has engagement centers in Montevideo, Washington DC, Brussels, Geneva, Beijing, and Seoul

- Website at http://www.icann.org/

The Formation of ICANN

- In November 1998, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between ICANN and the USA Department of Commerce where ICANN would:

  1. Establishment of policy for and direction of the allocation of IP number blocks;

  2. Oversight of the operation of the authoritative root server system;

  3. Oversight of the policy for determining the circumstances under which new top level domains would be added to the root system;

  4. Coordination of the assignment of other Internet technical parameters as needed to maintain universal connectivity on the Internet; and

  5. Other activities necessary to coordinate the specified DNS management functions, as agreed by the Parties;"

ICANN's Structure

ICANN Multistakeholder Model
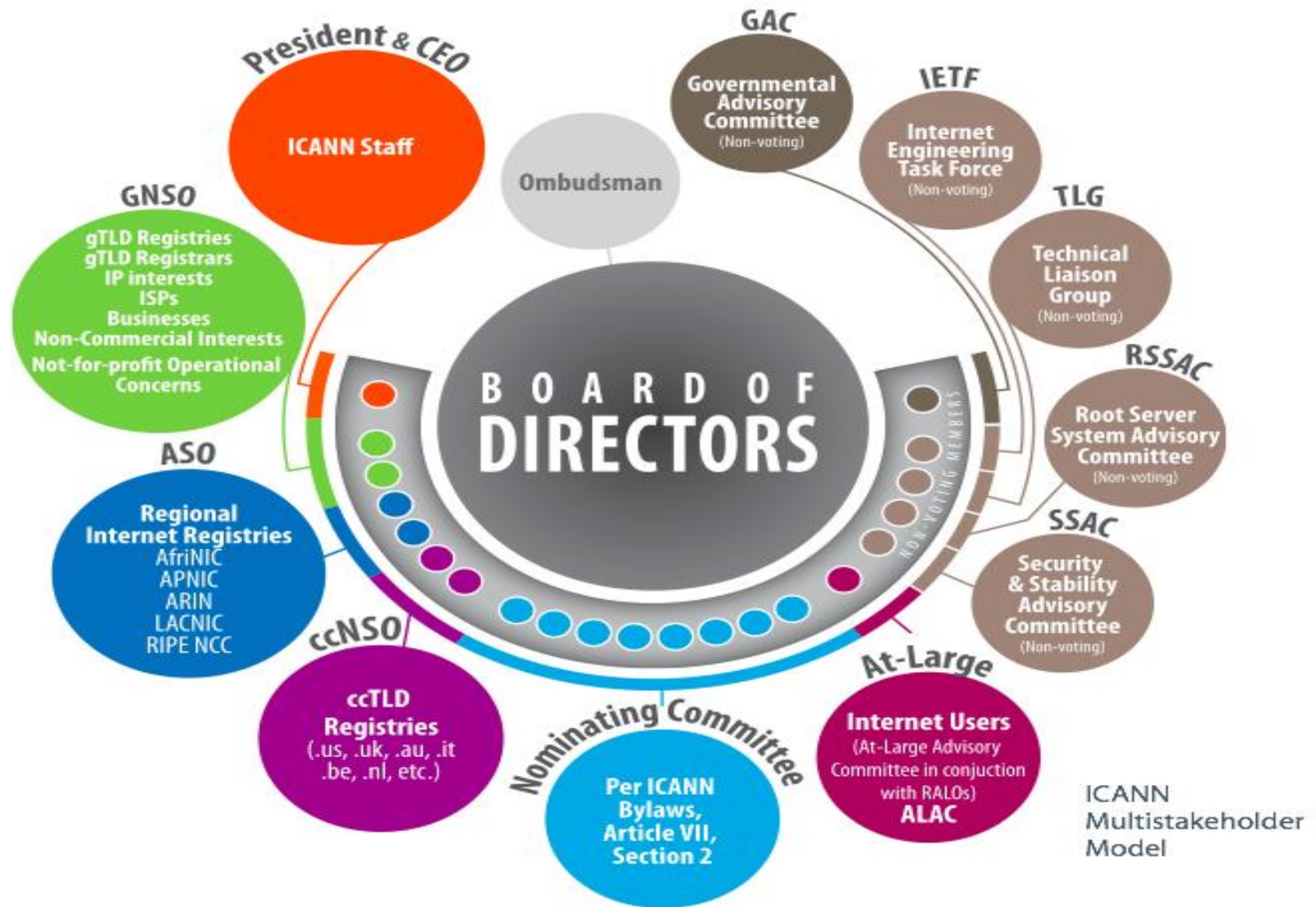
Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees

- **ASO:** Address Supporting Organization

- **ccNSO:** Country Code Name Supporting Organization

- **GNSO:** Generic Name Supporting Organization

- **ALAC:** At-Large Advisory Committee

- **GAC:** Governmental Advisory Committee

- **RSSAC:** Root Server System Advisory Committee

- **SSAC:** Security and Stability Advisory Committee

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

- Formed in October 1999

- One of the supporting organizations that was formed through community consensus

- Their purpose is to review and develop recommendations on Internet Protocol (IP) address policy

- More at http://aso.icann.org/

Country Code Name Supporting Organization

- Formed in 2003

- A body within the ICANN structure created for and by ccTLD managers

- Has to date 150 ccTLDs as members

- More at http://ccnso.icann.org/

Generic Name Supporting Organization (GNSO)

- Fashions policies for generic Top-Level Domains (e.g., .com, .org, .biz)

- Strives to keep gTLDs operating in a fair, orderly fashion across one global Internet, while promoting innovation and competition

- More at http://gnso.icann.org/en/

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

- Is a community of individual Internet users who participate in the policy development work of ICANN

- Views are represented via groups called "At-Large Structures (ALS)"
    - To-date, 200 ALSs are part of the At-Large

- Website at http://atlarge.icann.org/en/

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

- Its key role is to provide advice to ICANN on issues of public policy, and especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements

- Usually meets three times a year in conjunction with ICANN meetings

- Has more than 150 governments as members

- More at https://gacweb.icann.org/

Root Server System Advisory Committee

- Is responsible for advising the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System

- The RSSAC Executive Committee holds periodic teleconferences and meets in person at IETF meetings and ICANN meetings

- More at http://rssac.icann.org/

Security and Stability Advisory Committee

- Advises the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems

- They produce Reports, Advisories, and Comments on a range of topics

- More at http://ssac.icann.org/

Participation in ICANN

- Participation in ICANN is open to all who have an interest in ICANN's mission, and is free of charge

- Bottom-up policy-making and decision-making

- Public meetings held three times a year

  - ✓ Last meeting was in Singapore (8-12 February 2015, http://singapore52.icann.org/)

  - ✓ Next meeting will be in Buenos Aires, Argentina (21-25 June 2015, http://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/)

Fellowship Program

- The program aims at providing financial scholarships to individuals from developing countries to facilitate participation in ICANN meetings

- Fellowships Committee is responsible for qualifying and selecting applicants and is advising ICANN staff on how the program could be improved

- Funds 40-45 travelers for every ICANN meeting

- More can be found at https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/fellowships-2012-02-25-en

ICANN Learn

- An online learning platform built for the global community

- Designed to be an effective way to maintain institutional knowledge, connect peers, and unlock a new level of understanding

- Like to take a course? Please visit http://learn.icann.org/

Introduction to the IANA

ICANN

A Bit of History

Prior to the establishment of ICANN, IANA was administrated primarily by Jon Postel at the Information Sciences Institute (ISI), at the University of Southern California (USC), under a contract USC/ISI had with the US Department of Defense, until ICANN was created to assume the responsibility under a contract with US Department of Commerce

What is IANA?

- <u>I</u>nternet <u>A</u>ssigned <u>N</u>umbers <u>A</u>uthority

- Responsible for global Internet unique identifier systems
  - Domain names, number resources, and protocol assignments

- Founded in 1988 though its function has existed since 1972
  - The first reference to the name "IANA" in the RFC series was in RFC 1060 published in 1990, but the function and the term was established well before that
  - RFC 1060 lists a series of earlier editions of itself starting with RFC 349 which was published in 1972

- Website at http://www.iana.org/

What IANA Does Not Do?

- Does not set policy

  - Follow precedent where possible

  - Encourage review of its operations by the community

- Does not decide what the two letter codes should be

  - ISO 3166-1 standard provides these codes

- Does not decide who runs a ccTLD

  - The local Internet community decides this

  - IANA performs due-diligence to ensure requests accord with local Internet community view

US Government and IANA

- ICANN performs the functions of IANA governed by a contract with the US Department of Commerce (DoC)

- US DoC authorizes all changes to the DNS root zone

  - IANA does all the processing, and when a change is ready, it is sent to the DoC as the final step before implementation

  - DoC directs Verisign to implement the change into the root

  - DoC notifies IANA when change is implemented

The U.S. Government's Announcement

- On 14 March 2014, the U.S. Government (USG) announced its intent to transition its stewardship of the IANA functions to the global multistakeholder community;

- As the first step, it asked ICANN to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by the USG;

- ICANN was asked to serve as a convener based on its role as the IANA functions administrator (since 1998) and the global coordinator for the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS).

- The multistakeholder community has set the policies implemented by ICANN for more than 15 years.

Why Now?

- The USG always envisioned its role as transitional;

- Transitioning the USG out of its current role marks the final phase of the privatization of the DNS as outlined by the USG in 1997;

- The decision further supports and enhances the multistakeholder model of Internet policymaking and governance.

Transition Proposal's Guiding Principles

NTIA has communicated to ICANN that the transition proposal must have broad community support and address the following four principles:

- Support and enhance the multistakeholder model;

- Maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS;

- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services; and

- Maintain the openness of the Internet.

NTIA also specified that it will not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an intergovernmental organization solution.

Regional Initiatives

ICANN Staff in the MEAC Region

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What is ICANN doing for the MEAC Region?

- Middle East Strategy Working Group (MESWG)

  - Formed in late 2012 under ICANN's Coordination

  - Covers the 22 Arab states, Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan

  - An ad-hoc working group consisting of 20 experts from 11 countries of the region. 3 members from Pakistan.

  - A 3-year strategy with annual Implementation Plans

- …

- And lots of other activities as will be explained shortly

Strategic Goals for ICANN's Engagement

- Foster two-way engagement between ICANN and the broader Internet community in the region;

- Build strong and competitive domain name industry in the region; and

- Promote multi-stakeholder Internet governance mechanisms in the region

Strategic Areas of Work

- Working group has defined three strategic areas to work on:

  o   DNS Security and Stability

  o   Domain Name Industry

  o   Internet Governance Ecosystem

- More   at

  https://community.icann.org/display/MES/Middle+East+Working+Group

Key Outcomes from the Strategy

- Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)

- Middle East DNS Forum

- Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on IG (MEAC-SIG)

- Task Force on Capacity Building and Awareness (TF-CBA)

- The DNS Entrepreneurship Center (DNS-EC)

- DNS Study for the Middle East

Task Force on Arabic Script IDNs (TF-AIDN)

- Looking into use of IDNs in Arabic script:

  - Arabic Script Label Generation Ruleset (LGR) for the Root Zone

  - Second level LGRs for the Arabic script

  - Arabic script Internationalized Registration Data Protocol and Practice

  - Universal acceptability of Arabic script IDNs and variants

  - Technical challenges around registration of Arabic script IDNs and variants

  - Operational software for Arabic script IDN registry and registrar operations

  - DNS security matters specifically related to Arabic script IDNs and variants

  - Technical training material around Arabic script IDNs

… cont. (TF-AIDN)

- Membership open to anyone interested

- Work published to the public on the wiki space at http://bit.ly/1tiN7MM

Want to join the TF-AIDN? Please send your Resume/CV and Statement of Interest (SoI) to meswg@icann.org

Engagement with Stakeholders

- Attend events where ICANN can benefit in engaging with participants

- Visit academic institutes and educate them on IG

- Visit SME funding entities, angel investors, incubators, and startup accelerators and aware them on the various business opportunities in the domain name industry

- Engage with all local stakeholders through country visits

- Engage via a dedicated mailing list (Arab ICANN)

Questions?!

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