

Dearest ICANN Board

Happy Valentine's Day 2020! While the World Wide Web might be likened (to borrow from Forrest Gump) to a box of chocolates, the idea of never knowing "what you're gonna get," is hardly what an average user seeks from a TLD. Instead from each vow, each *contract*, an individual end user expects fidelity and support. In our last go *round*, far too many of our new treats smelled phishy and exposed us to *mal*nutrition. The latest gift from our European sweethearts, the GDPR, is a dire portent, at least in the near term, of a return to the anonymous Valentines of our teenaged years.

Therefore, it is with happy hearts, that the At-Large Advisory Council receive the LOI between Verisign and ICANN (<https://www.icann.org/sites/default/files/tlds/com/com-proposed-loi-03jan20-en.pdf>) as a commitment to expand efforts to identify and promulgate best practices by contracted parties to mitigate DNS Abuse. While there are many whose efforts exceed those of others ([http://www.circleid.com/pdf/Framework\\_to\\_Address\\_Abuse\\_20191017.pdf](http://www.circleid.com/pdf/Framework_to_Address_Abuse_20191017.pdf)), we in the At-Large Community believe that even more can be done both in terms of best practices and in terms of bringing along those whose practices are *not* the best.

Our reading of the LOI suggests that this is not a "grant" per se from Verisign but a commitment to reimburse effective research and work. To that end, we would like to suggest ICANN ORG embrace and expand on the research into machine learning and pattern recognition on DNS Abuse. The [.EU system of predictive DNS Abuse mitigation](#) shows incredible promise and deserves further support, research, generalization and propagation. Furthermore, [Hong Zhao, et al.'s work on algorithmic identification of DNS Abuse](#) deserves further exploration.

Finally, enough time has passed for ICANN's [DNS Abuse Activity Reporting](#) (DAAR) tool to be evaluated and improved as a practical tool, to be used by the internet community as a whole. The At-Large support further investment into the tool to improve its usefulness.

So again, Happy Valentine's Day. Let's make the most of this gift to ensure the next time we receive a music link "from a friend," it's not a cynical rendition of My Phony Valentine.

Thanks, as always, for the opportunity to express the feelings of individual end users.