

APF WEBINAR #1

Next Round of New gTLDs: An Overview

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7 Sept 2023



APRALO
POLICY FORUM

Agenda

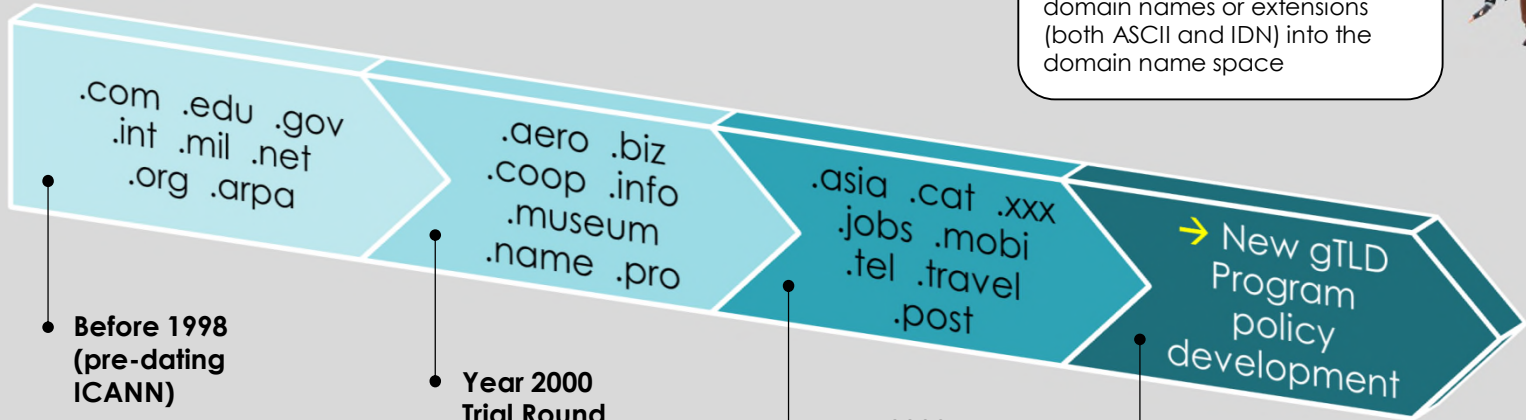
- **A bit of history on the New gTLD Program**
- **How does the New gTLD Program impact end-users?**
- **What are Subsequent Procedures (“SubPro”)?**
- **Why should SubPro matter to end-users?**
- **Moving from SubPro to the Next Round of New gTLDs**

Hi there! I'm Pixie, and I will be providing some additional commentary here and there.



Before the New gTLD Program Launch

New gTLD Program?
 An ICANN initiative to introduce unlimited generic top-level domain names or extensions (both ASCII and IDN) into the domain name space



• Before 1998 (pre-dating ICANN)

• Year 2000 Trial Round for TLDs

• Year 2003 Round for Sponsored TLDs

• Dec 2005 – Sep 2007

The Anatomy of a Domain Name?

First or Top-Level (TLD) ———→
 Second-Level (SLD) ———→
 Third-Level ———→

www.atlarge.icann.org

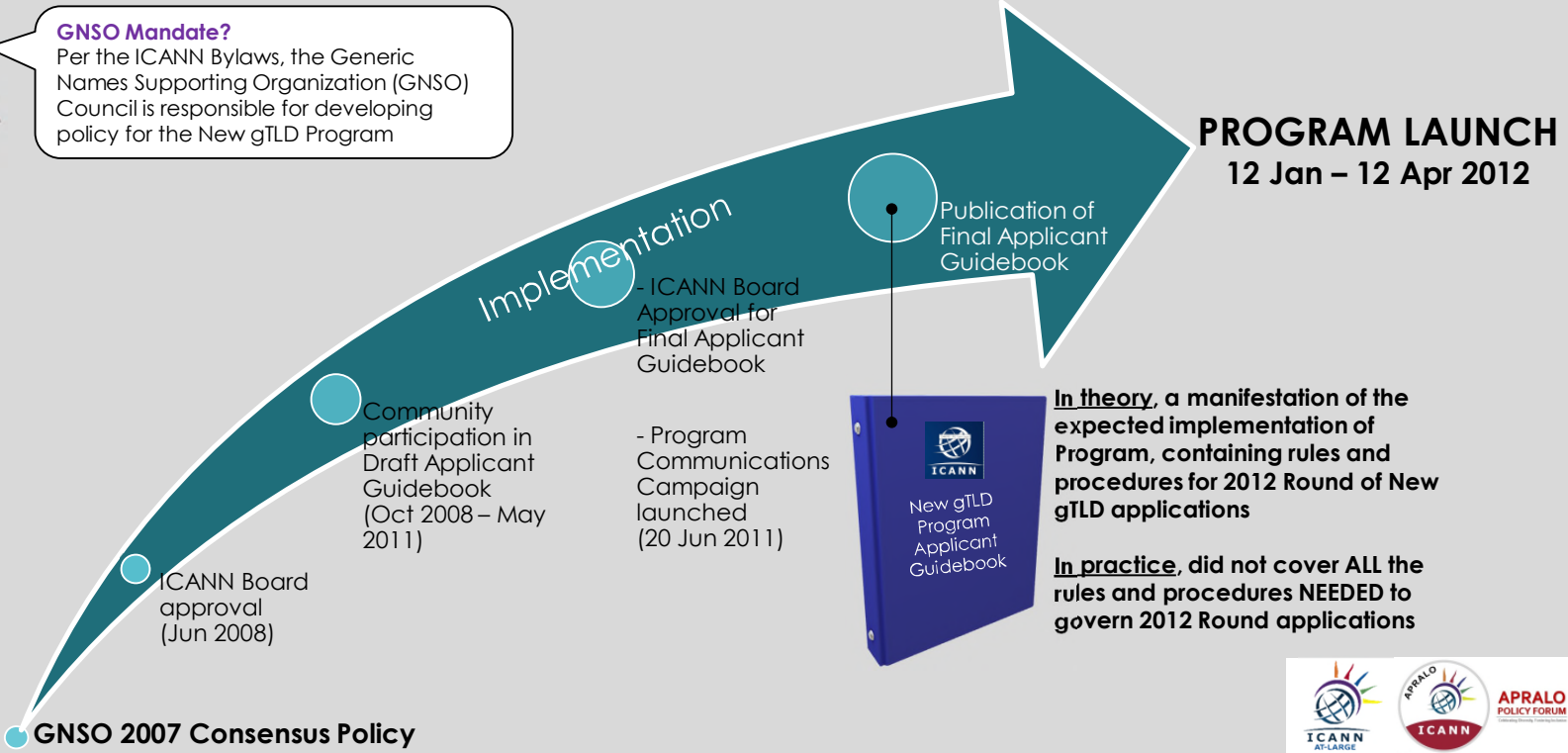


New gTLD Program - the 2012 Round



GNSO Mandate?

Per the ICANN Bylaws, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council is responsible for developing policy for the New gTLD Program



How does the New gTLD Program impact end-users?

- **Much use of the Internet still depend on utilizing domain names**
 - websites, email, web applications, online media, online communities, e-commerce platforms, etc
- **'Core business' of ICANN is managing the Domain Name System/Unique IDs**
- **New gTLD Program aims at enabling expansion of the Domain Name System...**
 - ...to enhance innovation, competition and consumer choice...**
 - ...with safeguards to help support a secure, stable and resilient Domain Name System.**
- **Framework for who gets which applied-for string to operate as a TLD**
 - ...under applicable terms & conditions for such operation & use (including at SL, if any)...
 - ...which in turn impacts on end-users' access, trust of domain names - service providers – services, medium etc

What are Subsequent Procedures (“SubPro”)?

“New generic Top-Level Domain Program Subsequent Procedures”

- **Rules & procedures governing next round of New gTLD applications**
 - Determine what string can be applied for, who can apply, how to apply, what fees are payable/refundable, terms & conditions, additional requirements for certain types of TLDs etc
 - An update which ‘attempts at’ addressing issues, policy goal achievement deficiencies, lacunae, unintended consequences, etc, identified from the 2012 Round
 - Captured predominantly within an Applicant Guidebook (AGB)
- **DO NOT apply to legacy TLDs or ccTLDs or delegated New gTLDs or those still unresolved from the 2012 Round**



SubPro Policy Development Process



- **SubPro PDP WG**

Chartered in early 2016, ran for about 5+ years. Yes-sir-ree!

- **A GNSO PDP?**

Yes! Because GNSO Council is responsible for developing and recommending substantive policies relating to gTLDs per the Bylaws.

- **What about ccNSO?**

Only responsible for ccTLDs.

- **What about Work Track 5 on Geonames?**

Work Track 5 is a sub-team of SubPro PDP WG, although it has co-leads from ALAC, ccNSO, GAC & GNSO.

PDP WG Work Track 5 on Geonames established
(22 Oct 2017)

New gTLD SubPro Discussion Group created
(Jun 2014)

PDP Charter approved
(21 Jan 2016)

PDP WG commenced with 4 work tracks
(circa Feb 2016)

Community Comment 2
(Mar 2017)

Community Comment 1
(May 2016)

Policy Development Process (PDP) initiated
(17 Dec 2015)

Preliminary Issue Report requested
(24 Jun 2015)

Final Issue Report considered
(4 Dec 2015)

Release of Initial Report
(30 Aug 2018)

PDP WG concludes with release of Final Report
(by early 2021)

Release of Draft Final Report
(circa Aug 2020)

Release of WT5 Supplemental Initial Report (on Geonames)
(14 Jan 2019)

Release of Supplemental Initial Report
(21 Dec 2018)



Why did SubPro PDP WG take 5+ years to complete its work?

OVERARCHING	FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES	PRE-LAUNCH ACTIVITIES	APPLICATION SUBMISSION	APPLICATION PROCESSING	APPLICATION EVALUATION	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	STRING CONTENTION RESOLUTION	CONTRACTING, PRE-DELEGATION & POST-DELEGATION
Continuing Subsequent Pro.	Registry Commitments	AGB - Applicant Guidebook	Applicant Support Program	App. Change Request	Reserved Names	GAC Advice & Early Warning	Community Applications	Base Registry Agreement
Predictability	Universal Acceptance	Communications	Fees	Application Queueing	Geographic Names	Objections	Auctions, Private Resolutions	Registrar Non-Discrimination
App's Assessed in Rounds	Applicant Freedom of Exp.	Systems	Application Submission Period		Closed Generics	Limited Challenge / Appeal Mech.		Registrar Support
Different TLD Types			Terms & Conditions		String Similarity	Dispute Resolution post Delegation		Registry System Testing
Application Submission Limits					IDNs - Int. Domain Names			TLD Rollout
RSP Pre-Evaluation					Security & Stability			Second Level RPMs
					Name Collisions			Contractual Compliance
					Registrant Protections			
					Applicant Reviews			
					Role of App. Comment			

- SubPro PDP WG had to discuss 40+ topics across 9 areas of the Program ranging from pre-application, during application right through to contracting, pre-delegation and post-delegation.
- Plus consideration of input from 2 Community Comment and 3 Public Comment processes



Why do Subsequent Procedures matter to end-users?

Because they facilitate further expansion of the Program – next round(s) of applications – more New gTLDs

Want

- Competition, consumer choice – new entrants, single/niche/Community TLD applicants
- Trustworthy TLDs & operators, registrars & registrants
- More IDNs - TLDs in non ASCII scripts
- Registry Commitments as contractual obligations
- Accessible preventive/curative protections
- Protection for registrants against RO failure
- Regard to strings with geographic meaning, preferably
- Metrics to understand impact

Don't Want

- Concentration of players
- TLDs that are against public interest or facilitate abuse
- TLDs that are confusingly similar
- TLDs that don't resolve in expected manner
- Highly sensitive TLDs without safeguards
- Gaming of system
- Negative impact to stability & security of DNS
- Unfair/open-ended ways to resolve contention sets

Where end-user Wants and Don't Wants arise mostly in SubPro

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Different TLD Types					String Similarity	Dispute Resolution post Delegation		
					IDNs - Int. Domain Names			Contractual Compliance
					Security & Stability			
					Name Collisions			
					Registrant Protections			
					Applicant Reviews			
					Role of App. Comment			

Did we consider all these topics? When??

YES, we did !

If you had followed the At-Large Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) calls from Jul 2019 to Apr 2021, you will recall **MANY** consultations led to:

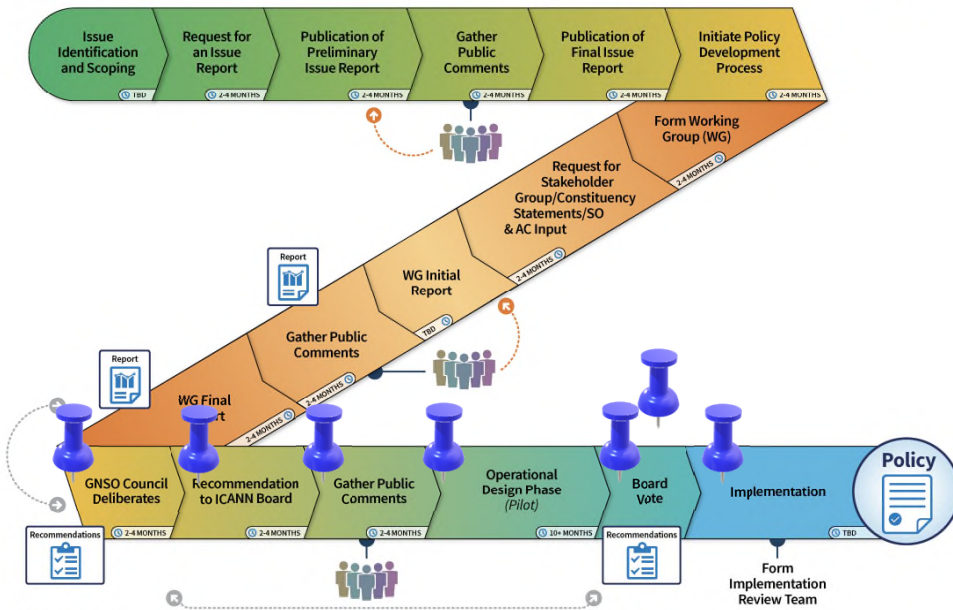
- 1-ALAC Statement** on SubPro, Jan 2021
- 2-ALAC Advice** on SubPro, Apr 2021
- 3-ALAC Supplementary Advice** on SubPro, Oct 2021



How does SubPro get to the Next Round of New gTLDs?

GNSO Policy Development Process

*Summarized



* Some steps omitted, for brevity and timing notations are estimates.

Since the Final SubPro PDP Report was finalized in Jan 2021....

- GNSO Council approval, Feb 2021
- Submitted to ICANN Board for adoption, Mar 2021
- ICANN Board called for public comments, Apr-Jun 2021
- ICANN Board directed ICANN org to do Operational Design Phase (ODP), Sep 2021
- ICANN org conducts ODP, Jan-Nov 2022; released Operational Design Assessment (ODA), Dec 2022
- ICANN Board adopted 98 recommendations, @ ICANN 76 Mar 2023
 - **But 38 recommendations still pending**
- SubPro Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT) commenced, May 2023



How does SubPro get to the Next Round of New gTLDs?

REMAINING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

- Recall that Policy development is driven by **GNSO**
- Still 38 recommendations pending due to ICANN Board concerns
- Since ICANN76, GNSO Council SubPro 38 Pending Recs Small Team working with ICANN Board SubPro Caucus to resolve Board concerns
- gTLD & SL Variant Management (in addition to & outside of SubPro)

Parallel Processes

- GNSO Guidance Process on Applicant Support (GGP on ASP)
- Tri-party Closed Generics Facilitated Dialogue
- SSAC Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)



IMPLEMENTATION TO LAUNCH

- In the meantime, implementation work on the 98 approved recommendations has begun
- Implementation is driven by **ICANN org**, with community input through SubPro IRT
- Implementation expected to take up to 18-24 months
 - Finalize AGB by May 2025
 - Launch in Apr 2026
- Subject to “dependencies” out of:
 - EPDP on IDNs: gTLD & SL Variant Mgt
 - Closed Generics Dialogue
 - Name Collision Analysis Project



What Community work is left to be done for the Next Round?

NOW COMPLETED OR NEAR COMPLETION

- **12 of 38 SubPro pending recommendations** expected to be adopted by ICANN Board with GNSO Council First Clarifying Statement
- **Another 10 of 38 SubPro pending recommendations** expected to be adopted by ICANN Board with GNSO Council Clarification
- **Closed Generics** Dialogue – no ensuing policy work
- **Initial Implementation Guidance recommendations on Applicant Support** [GGP on ASP]

COMPLETION BY END 2023?

- **Balance 16 of 38 SubPro pending recommendations** still to be resolved by GNSO Council via its Small Team
 - Community input sought, esp. for **Rec. 17.2 on Applicant Support**
- **Final Implementation Guidance recommendations on Applicant Support** [GGP on ASP]
- **Final Policy recommendations on gTLD Variant Management at Top-Level (Phase 1)** [EPDP on IDNs]
- **Name Collision Analysis Project Study 2 - Revised Name Collision Framework** [NCAP DG]

ONGOING UP TO APR 2026

- **Policy recommendations on Variant Management at Second-Level (Phase 2)** [EPDP on IDNs]
- Implementation of 98 Board adopted SubPro Outputs ++
- Implementation of various other Board adopted recommendations
- **Next Round Applicant Guidebook** targeted for May 2025
- **Program Communications**, esp. Applicant Support Program



What's left to be done by At-Large/ALAC towards the Next Round?

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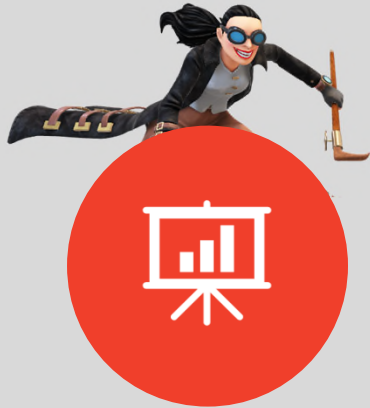
- **Policy recommendations on Variant Management at Second-Level (Phase 2)** [EPDP on IDNs]
- Implementation of 98 Board adopted SubPro Outputs ++
- Implementation of various other Board adopted recommendations
- **Next Round Applicant Guidebook** targeted for May 2025
- **Program Communications, esp. Applicant Support Program, Community Applications**
- Increase adoption of **Universal Acceptance (UA) and Email Address Internationalization (EAI)**

Subsequent Procedures Implementation Review Team (SubPro IRT)

- **Implementation of New gTLD Program is by ICANN org**
- **Community participation is via SubPro IRT;** in other words:
 - Community ensures ICANN org's implementation aligns with Board-approved, community-developed policies (bottom-up, multistakeholder approach)
 - Participants need to be familiar with the SubPro Outputs and preferably, the deliberations leading to those Outputs
- **SubPro IRT takes an Open + Representative Model**
- **Output is the revised Applicant Guidebook**



Thank you



HOPE YOU ENJOYED
THE PRESENTATION



ALSO HOPE YOU
FOUND IT USEFUL



AND NOW...

Have a question?



Now, tell me which topics you would like to know more about, as input to this Webinar Series...



Which topics would you like to covered in this Webinar series?

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POLL TIME !!



Thank you very much for your participation and feedback.

Please join Webinar #2 in the series, in due course.

