A QUICK LOOK AT

ICANN

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Overview

ICANN is a global multistakeholder, private sector organization that manages Internet resources for the public benefit. It is best known for its role as technical coordinator of the Internet's Domain Name System.

Mission

To coordinate, at the overall level, the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers, and in particular to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN:

1. Coordinates the allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet, which are:
   - **a.** Domain names (forming a system referred to as DNS)
   - **b.** Internet protocol addresses and autonomous system numbers
   - **c.** Protocol port and parameter numbers
2. Coordinates the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system
3. Coordinates policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions

Governance

Board of Directors: 16 voting members and 5 liaison representatives.

A not-for-profit corporation organized under California law in 1998, and originally operated under a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Policy Development

ICANN achieves its mission through implementation of policies approved by its Board of Directors. These policies start out as recommendations formed and refined by the global ICANN community through its Supporting Organizations and influenced by Advisory Committees. The SOs and ACs are comprised of volunteers from over 130 countries and territories — in a bottom-up, open and transparent process.

Members of any SO and AC as well as the ICANN Board may raise an issue they believe requires policy development.

Volunteer policy development Working Groups form around an issue and consider it from all angles, making decisions by consensus wherever possible. These Working Groups are open to everyone in ICANN's volunteer community.

All Working Group discussions are recorded and transcribed so that the public has full access to discussions and debate. Major documents and executive summaries are typically translated into the six United Nations languages.

Public comments are sought at several stages in the policy development process to let interested community members provide their views on policy proposals, and to ensure that policy recommendations reflect the concerns and perspectives of the broader Internet community.

The relevant Supporting Organization considers decisions or recommendations by Working Groups before forwarding to the Board of Directors. The Board has ultimate authority to approve or reject policy recommendations.

Stakeholders

A sample of ICANN global stakeholders includes companies that offer domain names to public (registrars), companies that operate top-level domain registries (gTLD and ccTLD registries), Internet Service Providers, intellectual property interests, business users, non-commercial users (such as academics, non-governmental organizations, non-profits and consumer advocates), individual Internet users and governments.

ICANN is a global forum. As of mid-2013, the Governmental Advisory Committee represents 125 nations (plus the African Union Commission, European Union and the Vatican). The Country Code Names Supporting Organization represents more than 135 country code domains. The At-Large Advisory Committee represents more than 150 At-Large Structures from all geographic regions.

Leadership

Board Chair : Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
President and CEO: Fadi Chehadé

Facilities

ICANN has nearly 200 staff members, working from hub offices in Singapore, Turkey and the United States and engagement centers in Belgium, the People's Republic of China and Uruguay.

Key Programs

Internationalized Domain Names

The domain name system is growing more globalized with the entry of top-level domains in non-Latin scripts into the Internet's root. There are more than 30 Internationalized Domain Names in the DNS root zone in scripts including Arabic, Chinese (simplified and traditional), Cyrillic, and Devanagari.

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

At the core of ICANN's responsibilities are the global coordination of the domain name system root and Internet protocol addressing, conducted through the IANA Department. ICANN performs these functions in the public interest, through a contract with the U.S. government's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The most recent contract is in effect through 30 September 2015 with options to extend it through 30 September 2019.

New gTLD Program

In 2012, ICANN received more than 1900 applications for new top-level domains through its New gTLD Program. The program is the largest expansion in the history of the domain name system, and will increase the number of generic Internet domain name extensions beyond the 22 (including .COM, .INFO and .NET) in the root now.

New Generic Top-Level
Domains

Hub offices:	Engagement offices:
Istanbul	Beijing
Los Angeles	Brussels
Singapore	Montevideo
	Washington

WWW.ICANN.ORG

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