Beginner's Guide to

POLICY ADVICE IN THE AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ICANN
AT-LARGE

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Can my voice affect ICANN Policy?

Absolutely. You, as an individual Internet user, have a voice in policy-making at ICANN. And the ICANN community wants to hear more from you.

At ICANN, you'll hear a lot about our bottom-up, consensus-driven multistakeholder process. This means that every individual involved in the process has a voice and can be heard. Every viewpoint added to the ICANN community makes our decisions richer.

A good example of how At-Large has used this bottom-up, consensus-driven process to affect ICANN policy can be seen in the case of "domain name tasting." At-Large played an important role in halting an abusive Internet practice.

What is ICANN?

ICANN is a not-for-profit, public-benefit corporation formed in 1998. Its staff helps organize the voices of volunteers worldwide dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. ICANN promotes competition and helps develop Internet policy.

Specifically, what ICANN does is coordinate the Internet's global DNS (domain name system) – that is, the system of unique addresses (in the form of names and numbers) used to reach every computer on the Internet. The DNS is a vital part of the Internet's infrastructure, without which the Internet could not function. Through its coordination of the DNS, ICANN plays an important role in the expansion and evolution of the Internet.

What ICANN does not do is control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam, and it does not deal with access to the Internet.

Celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the ALAC during the 44th ICANN meeting in Prague, June 2012.

How is ICANN organized?

At the heart of ICANN's policy-making is what is called a "multistakeholder model." This decentralized governance model places individuals, industry, non-commercial interests and government on an equal level. Unlike more traditional, top-down governance models, where governments make policy decisions, the multistakeholder approach used by ICANN allows for community-based consensus-driven policy-making. The idea is that Internet governance should mimic the structure of the Internet itself – borderless and open to all.

ICANN Multistakeholder Model
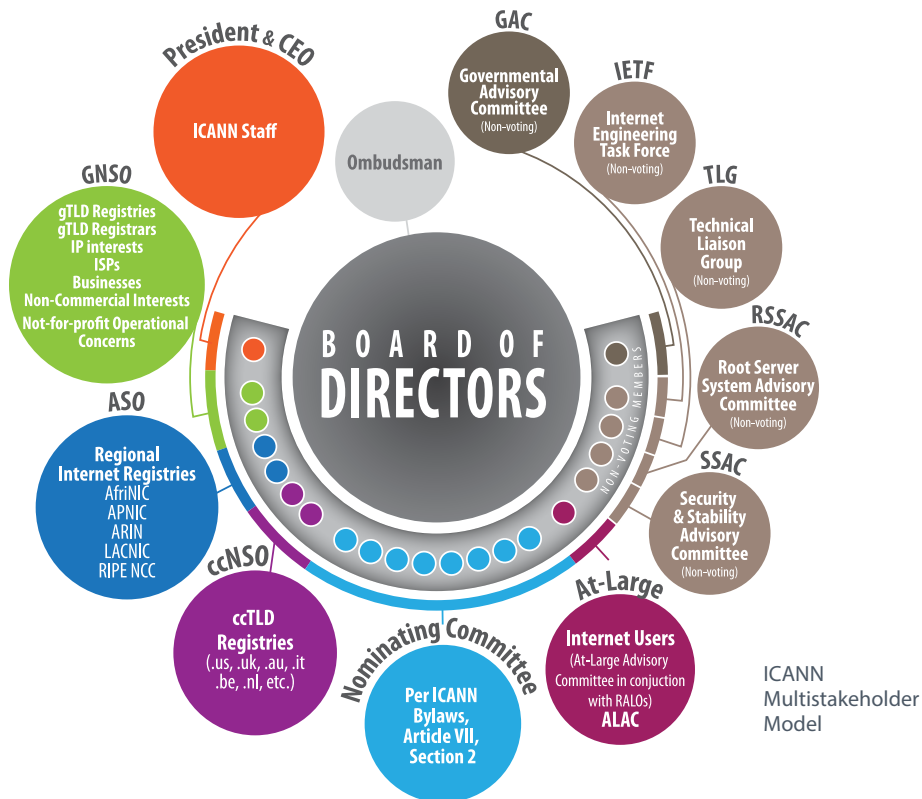
While the ICANN Board of Directors has the ultimate authority to approve or reject policy recommendations, Supporting Organizations (SOs) are responsible for developing and making policy recommendations to the Board. Advisory Committees (ACs) advise the ICANN Board and, in certain cases, can raise issues for policy development. The SO/ACs are described in more detail later in this booklet.

ICANN staff is responsible for executing and implementing policies developed by the ICANN community and adopted by the ICANN Board.

The ICANN Ombudsman is an independent, impartial and neutral person contracted to ICANN, with jurisdiction over problems and complaints made about decisions, actions or inactions by ICANN, the Board of Directors, or unfair treatment of a community member by ICANN staff, Board or a constituency body.

The Nominating Committee is a team of community volunteers responsible for the selection of eight ICANN Board members, and portions of the At-Large Advisory Committee, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization and the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

What is At-Large?

Within ICANN's multistakeholder model of policy development, At-Large is the community representing individual Internet users.
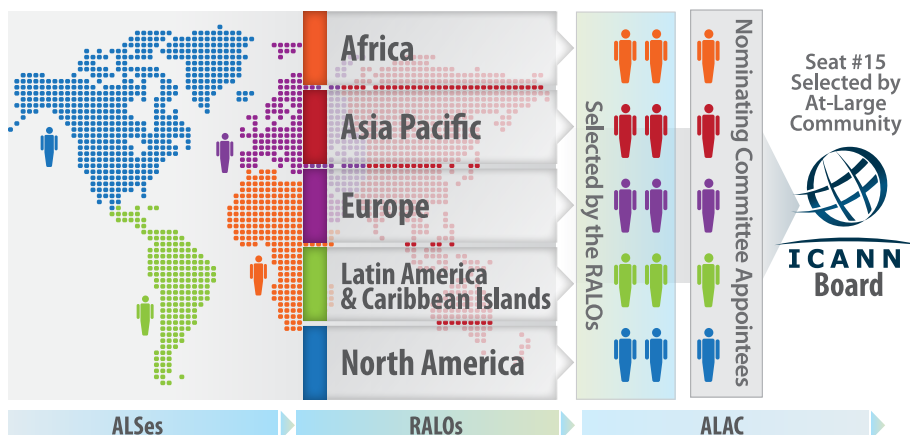
How is At-Large organized?

The At-Large Community has a bottom-up, tiered structure.

On the grassroots level are more than 150 At-Large Structures (ALSes). These local organizations of At-Large members are located throughout the world. The goal is ultimately to have at least one ALS in every country. Typically, an individual Internet user joins At-Large by joining one of its local ALSes.

Following are the five RALOs:

- African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)
  http://www.atlarge.icann.org/afralo/
- Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO)
  http://www.atlarge.icann.org/apralo/
- European At-Large Organization (EURALO)
  http://www.atlarge.icann.org/euralo/
- Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO)
  http://www.atlarge.icann.org/lacralo/
- North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO)
  http://www.atlarge.icann.org/naralo/

ICANN At-Large Organization Diagram

What is the At-Large Advisory Committee?

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) is the primary organizational home within ICANN for individual Internet users. The role of the ALAC shall be to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN, insofar as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users. This includes policies created through ICANN's Supporting Organizations, as well as the many other issues for which community input and advice is appropriate. The ALAC, which plays an important role in ICANN's accountability mechanisms, also coordinates some of ICANN's outreach to individual Internet users.

According to ICANN's Bylaws, the 15-member ALAC consists of two members selected by each of the Regional At-Large Organizations for a total of ten directly elected representatives, and five members selected by the Nominating Committee. The five members selected by the Nominating Committee shall include one citizen of a country within each of the five Geographic Regions.

Public Comment Periods at ICANN

A vital element in ICANN's processes is the opportunity for public comment on each substantial piece of work before it is considered for approval. These topics can be operational (such as budget or strategic planning), technical (such as security reports and recommendations) or policy-oriented (such as Bylaw changes).

The following principles guide the public comment process:

- Each item posted for public comment is available for a minimum of 21 days.

- If comments are received, then at the close of the comment period, a reply period begins, lasting a minimum of 21 days.

- If no substantive comments are received during the comment period, then there will be no reply period.

- During the reply period, participants should address previous comments submitted; new posts concerning the topic should not be introduced. When constructing replies, contributors are asked to cite the original poster's name, comment date, and any particular text that is pertinent.

You can find a list of all topics open for public comment on a dedicated public comment page (*http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment*). The page includes links to relevant announcements, documents, comment locations, and reference sources with full descriptions and background information.

After the comment period is closed, staff publishes a comment summary report that is archived along with all public comment documentation and comments received.

How is ALAC Policy advice made?

When a new Public Comment (PC) is open, the ALAC will review it. After consultations via mailing lists and teleconferences, the ALAC will come to a consensus on determining if a Statement on the PC is necessary. If so, ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC will set up a webpage for it on the At-Large Policy Development Page – *https://community.icann.org/x/bwFO*.

Once the webpage has been set up, the ALAC works to identify an individual responsible for writing an initial draft in response to the PC. Once the individual composes a draft, a five-day Call for Comments is sent to At-Large asking for input on the draft.

Once the Call for Comments has ended, the input received is incorporated into the draft via consensus.

The ALAC will then hold a five-day ratification vote to determine is the draft is approved. If it is approved, the Statement is submitted to the ICANN Board as well as the ICANN Staff member responsible for the Public Comment.

ALAC POLICY ADVICE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS CHART

ALAC reviews Public Comment

ALAC decides if Statement is necessary

Wiki page is set up

Pen-Holder is identified

Statement is drafted

5 day call for comments

Comments received, incorporated as necessary

ALAC Ratification: generally a 5 day vote

Submission to Board and/or the Staff member responsible for the Public Comment

POLICY ADVICE/INPUT
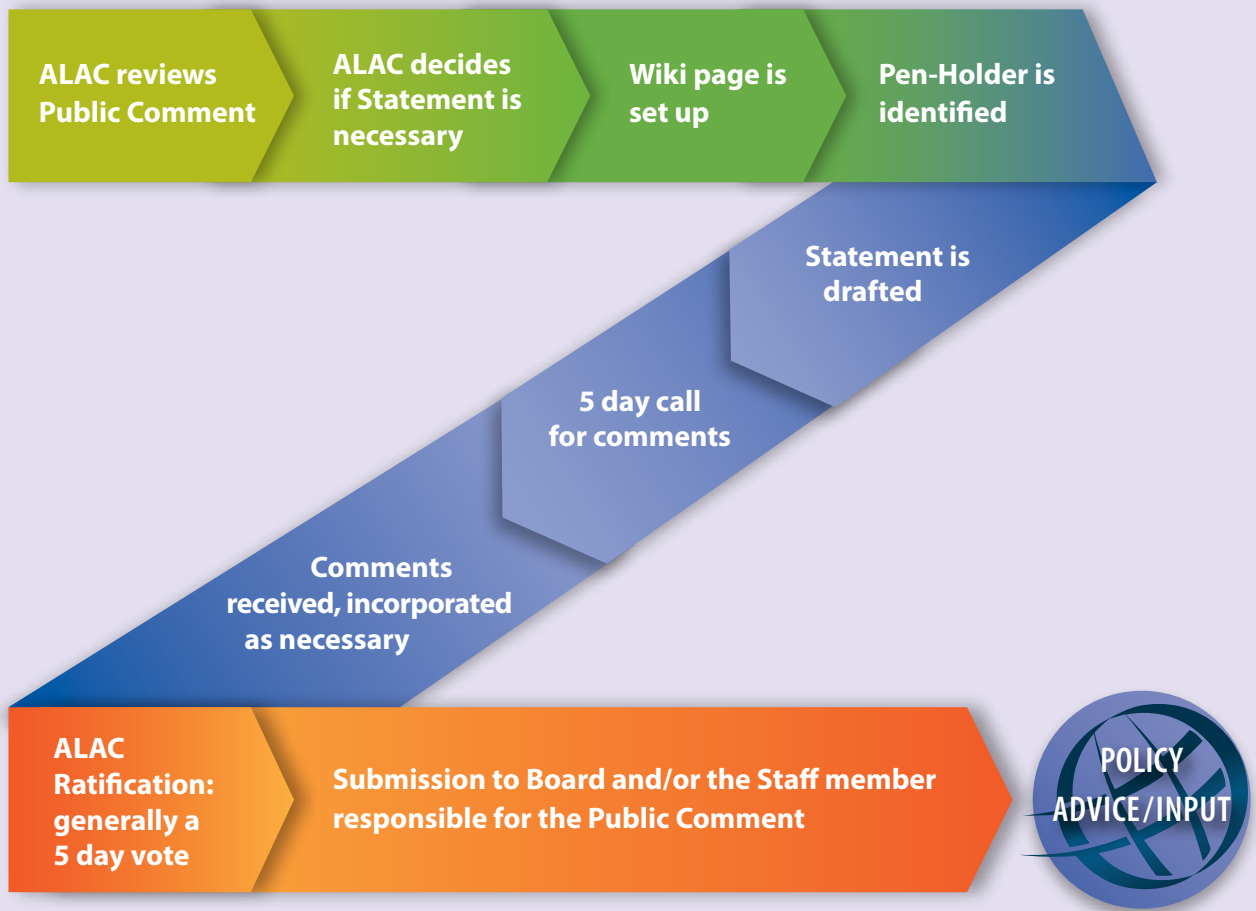
WHAT MAJOR POLICY ISSUES DOES THE ALAC GIVE POLICY ADVICE ON?

How do the Policy Issues affect end-users?

WHOIS

What is WHOIS?

WHOIS (pronounced "who is"; not an acronym) An Internet protocol that is used to query databases to obtain information about the registration of a domain name (or IP address). The WHOIS protocol was originally specified in RFC 954, published in 1985. The current specification is documented in RFC 3912. ICANN's gTLD agreements require registries and registrars to offer an interactive web page and a port 43 WHOIS service providing free public access to data on registered names. Such data is commonly referred to as "WHOIS data," and includes elements such as the domain registration creation and expiration dates, nameservers, and contact information for the registrant and designated administrative and technical contacts.

WHOIS services are typically used to identify domain holders for business purposes and to identify parties who are able to correct technical problems associated with the registered domain.

How does WHOIS affect end-users?

Essentially, WHOIS affects end-users in one specific way: the balance between privacy and disclosure.

End-users wishing to become registrants must decide if making publicly available their mailing addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses in the WHOIS directories is in their best interests. Particularly as registering this information could lead to it being used by spammers, identity thieves, or others.

However, end-users also have the potential to benefit from this collection of information. Specifically, accurate WHOIS data can protect end-users by assisting law enforcement officers investigating violations like spam and phishing.

REGISTRAR ACCREDITATION AGREEMENT (RAA)

What is the RAA?

An individual or legal entity wishing to register a domain name under a generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) *(www.icann.org/en/resources/registries/listing)* may do so by using an ICANN-accredited registrar. There are several hundred accredited registrars located throughout the world that provide support in local languages. For a list of all current ICANN-accredited registrars, please see *www.internic.net/regist.html*. The relationship between a domain name registrant and the ICANN-accredited registrar is governed by a Registration Agreement between the two parties.

ICANN has published a Registrant Rights and Responsibilities document that identifies and summarizes currently existing registrant rights and responsibilities arising from the 2009 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), and within ICANN Consensus Policies and specifications, as they are incorporated in the RAA. This published document is the result of initial input from a joint working group of the GNSO and the At-Large Advisory Committee and subsequent consultations with the registrars. The Registrant Rights and Responsibilities document can be found here: *www.icann.org/en/resources/registrars/registrant-rights-responsibilities*.

Any entity that wants to offer domain name registration services under gTLDs with a direct access to the gTLD registries is required to obtain an accreditation from ICANN. To that end, the interested entity must apply for accreditation and demonstrate that it meets all the technical, operational and financial criteria necessary to qualify as a registrar business. The relationship between ICANN and every accredited registrar is governed by the individual Registrar Accreditation Agreements (RAA), which set out the obligations of both parties. The contacts can be found here: *www.icann.org/en/resources/registrars/raa/ra-agreement-21may09-en.htm.*

How does the RAA affect end-users?

Generally speaking, the policies that ICANN makes are embodied by the various organizations that make up the Domain Name System: the Registries and Registrars. The contract with these bodies impacts their business conduct with end-users. As such, the RAA contract is crucially important to end-users.

Moreover, the RAA is the primary tool by which ICANN enforces its rules and regulations with the Registries and Registrars. If end-users believe that the Registries and Registrars are in breach of their contractual obligations, the RAA helps to protect them as end-users can contact the ICANN Compliance department and issue a complaint.

INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN NAMES (IDNS)

What are IDNs?

IDNs are domain names that include characters used in the local representation of languages that are not written with the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet "a-z". An IDN can contain Latin letters with diacritical marks, as required by many European languages, or may consist of characters from non-Latin scripts such as Arabic or Chinese. Many languages also use other types of digits than the European "0-9". The basic Latin alphabet together with the European-Arabic digits are, for the purpose of domain names, termed "ASCII characters" (ASCII = American Standard Code for Information Interchange). These are also included in the broader range of "Unicode characters" that provides the basis for IDNs.

The "hostname rule" requires that all domain names of the type under consideration here are stored in the DNS using only the ASCII characters listed above, with the one further addition of the hyphen "-". The Unicode form of an IDN therefore requires special encoding before it is entered into the DNS.

The following terminology is used when distinguishing between these forms:

A domain name consists of a series of "labels" (separated by "dots"). The ASCII form of an IDN label is termed an "A-label". All operations defined in the DNS protocol use A-labels exclusively. The Unicode form, which a user expects to be displayed, is termed a "U-label". The difference may be illustrated with the Hindi word for "test" – परीक्षण – appearing here as a U-label would (in the Devanagari script). A special form of "ASCII compatible encoding" (abbreviated ACE) is applied to this to produce the corresponding A-label: xn–11b5bs1di.

A domain name that only includes ASCII letters, digits, and hyphens is termed an "LDH label". Although the definitions of A-labels and LDH-labels overlap, a name consisting exclusively of LDH labels, such as "icann.org" is not an IDN.

How do IDNs affect end-users?

IDNs can have three possible effects on end-users: a more beneficial end-user experience, the segmentation of the Internet, and fraud.

For those end-users whose whole Internet experience is in a non-Latin based alphabet script, the overall effects will be extremely beneficial if not crucial. At a minimum, it will mean access to webpages and information that were previously inaccessible. This ability by itself is significant insofar as millions of Internet users who previously struggled to navigate the Internet using non-native scripts and languages, or were simply unable to, will now have the ability to do so.

Regarding the segmentation of the Internet, the introduction of IDNs may cause a decrease in the lack of usability from end-users without access to specific character sets. For example, if groups of end-users only have Latin-based keyboards, it will be much harder, if not impossible, for them to visit websites with a domain name in the Arabic, Devanagari, or Chinese script.

There is also the possibility of an increase in fraud. Specifically, there is the issue of certain non-ASCII characters with Latin based alphabets being used to phish personal information. For example, a malicious registrant registering an address similar to a popular website but replacing an "a" in the address with an "ä". In these types of situations, end-users may be deceived into supplying their personal information to the phishing website.

ICANN'S STRATEGIC AND OPERATING PLAN

What is ICANN's Strategic and Operating Plan?

ICANN produces a three-year Strategic Plan (reviewed and updated annually), along with a framework for the draft Operating Plan and Budget, and an annual Operating Plan.
The ICANN planning process is continuous and allows for an overlapping of its three components:
• Strategic Plan, which is developed with community input usually between July and February
• Framework for the Operating Plan and Budget that begins in December with community input and target setting
• Draft Operating Plan and Budget that is posted by 17 May of each year for final community review

This year's approved Strategic Plan 2012-2015 – adopted by the ICANN Board during the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors held in Amsterdam on 6 May 2012.

The Strategic Plan feeds into the Operating Plan and Budget and helps to define ICANN's yearly goals and priorities.

How does ICANN's Strategic and Operating Plan affect end-users?

ICANN's Strategic and Operating Plan is crucial to end-users as it is a key component of sustaining the multi-stakeholder model.

It works towards the sustainability of ICANN the organization as opposed to ICANN the entity. ICANN, as the forefront of the multistakeholder system, must be not only be a self-sustaining organization but also be an evolving organization. The input from the community, including end-users, is what will allow ICANN to continue to grow in this way.

NEW gTLDS

What are New gTLDs?

ICANN has as its mission to ensure a stable and unified global Internet. One of its key responsibilities is introducing and promoting competition in the registration of domain names, while ensuring the security and stability of the domain name system (DNS).

In 2005, ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) began a policy development process to consider the introduction of new gTLDs, based on the results of trial rounds conducted in 2000 and 2003. The GNSO is the main policy-making body for generic top-level domains, and encourages global participation in the technical management of the Internet.

The two-year policy development process included detailed and lengthy consultations with the many constituencies of ICANN's global Internet community, including governments, civil society, business and intellectual property stakeholders, and technologists.

In 2008, the ICANN Board adopted 19 specific GNSO policy recommendations for implementing new gTLDs, with certain allocation criteria and contractual conditions.

After approval of the policy, ICANN undertook an open, inclusive, and transparent implementation process to address stakeholder concerns, such as the protection of intellectual property and community interests, consumer protection, and DNS stability. This work included public consultations, review, and input on multiple draft versions of the Applicant Guidebook.

In June 2011, ICANN's Board of Directors approved the Guidebook and authorized the launch of the New gTLD Program. The program's goals include enhancing competition and consumer choice, and enabling the benefits of innovation via the introduction of new gTLDs, including both new ASCII and internationalized domain name (IDN) top-level domains.

How do New gTLDs affect end-users?

As the New gTLD Program is still in its infancy, no one can be sure what the true affects on end-users will be or if there will in fact be any effects. However, there are three possible effects on end-users that must be considered: confusion, trust, and technical.

Firstly, there is the issue of confusion. End-users may have to learn new names for websites and services they already use. End-users may also have to learn that ".com" will no longer be the first choice for a website's address.

Secondly, there is the issue of trust. Depending on how some new gTLD names are used, some may gain a reputation for trustworthiness while some may gain a reputation for unreliability. End-users may then end up conducting business with what may be perceived as an "unreliable gTLD."

Thirdly, there is the issue of technical issues. These can range from small issues (e.g. a web browser's search toolbar not working properly) to much larger ones (e.g. conflicting certificates issued to a New gTLDs by a Certificate Authorities and another website that already uses the gTLD internally).

Nevertheless, it should not be assumed that New gTLDs will only have negative affects on end-users. New gTLDS will lead to more "products" being available, which will in turn give users greater choice. Moreover, once the trustworthiness of certain gTLDs has been established, end-users may have more confidence when conducting transactions, browsing the web, or looking for information. For example, if end-users knows that only verified banks may register with .bank, they may be a more beneficial and secure experience using this gTLD.

PUBLIC INTEREST

What is the Public Interest?

The Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) is an agreement between the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) and ICANN (a copy of the AoC can be found here: *www.icann.org/en/about/agreements/aoc/affirmation-of-commitments-30sep09-en.htm)*. The agreement affirms key commitments by the DOC and ICANN, including commitments to ensure that decisions made related to the global technical coordination of the DNS are made in the public interest and are accountable and transparent.

Specifically, the DOC affirmed its commitment to a multistakeholder, private sector led, bottom-up policy development model for DNS technical coordination that acts for the benefit of global Internet users. Moreover, the agreement notes that a private coordinating process, the outcomes of which reflect the public interest, is best able to flexibly meet the changing needs of the Internet and of Internet users.

ICANN and the DOC also recognize that there is a group of participants that engage in ICANN's processes to a greater extent than Internet users generally. To ensure that its decisions are in the public interest, and not just the interests of a particular set of stakeholders, ICANN commit to perform and publish analyses of the positive and negative effects of its decisions on the public, including any financial impact on the public, and the positive or negative impact (if any) on the systemic security, stability and resiliency of the DNS.

As such, to ensure that the outcomes of its decision-making will reflect the public interest and be accountable to all stakeholders, ICANN commits to maintain and improve robust mechanisms for public input, accountability, and transparency to ensure that the outcomes of its decision-making will reflect the public interest and be accountable to all stakeholders.

How does the Public Interest affect end-users?

The ALAC is uniquely charged in the ICANN bylaws to represent the perspectives and interests of Internet end-users around the world. It strives to analyze the effects of ICANN policies and actions on all who are not directly involved in the creation or allocation of Internet names and numbers.

By advising ICANN's Boards and structures on how to best serve the Internet-using public, the ALAC and the At-Large regional bodies play a key role in advancing the global public interest within it.

QUICK TIPS/ENGAGEMENT TOOLS

FAQs

- Do I have to be an ALS to be on a RALO teleconference? No!
  - African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) Teleconferences: *https://community.icann.org/x/JgUt*
  - Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) Teleconferences: *https://community.icann.org/x/rogi*
  - European At-Large Organization (EURALO) Teleconferences: *https://community.icann.org/x/Pooi*
  - Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) Teleconference: *https://community.icann.org/x/mlwi*
  - North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) Teleconferences: *https://community.icann.org/x/6o0i*
- Do I have to be an ALAC member to be on an ALAC teleconference? No!
  - ALAC Teleconferences: *https://community.icann.org/x/_pQi*
- Do I have to be an ALS Representative to be in a Working Group or to contribute in other ways? No!
  - ALAC Teleconferences: *https://community.icann.org/x/_pQi*

Guides

- Beginner's Guide to Participating in At-Large
  http://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/beginners-guides/participating-at-large-beginners-guide-06mar12-en
- Beginner's Guide to Participating in ICANN *http://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/beginners-guides/participating-01nov12-en*
- At Large Wiki Training Guides *https://community.icann.org/x/v4Cv*

Brochures

- At-Large *https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/At-Large+Brochure+Workspace*
- African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)
  https://community.icann.org/display/AFRALO/AFRALO+Brochure
- Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO)
  https://community.icann.org/display/APRALO/APRALO+Brochure
- European At-Large Organization (EURALO)
  https://community.icann.org/display/EURALO/EURALO+Brochure
- Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO)
  https://community.icann.org/display/LACRALO/LACRALO+Brochure
- North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO)
  https://community.icann.org/display/NARALO/NARALO+Brochure

At-Large Structures

- How can I get involved? *http://www.atlarge.icann.org/announcements/announcement-23may05.htm*
- What groups can become ALSes? *http://www.atlarge.icann.org/framework.htm*
- Why become and ALS? *http://www.atlarge.icann.org/announcements/announcement-23may05.htm*
- Join Us! *http://www.atlarge.icann.org/joinus*
- ALS Starter Kit *https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/ALS+Starter+Kits*

Media

- Podcast on "What is ALAC and At-Large" by the ALAC Chair, Olivier Crépin-Leblond
  https://www.icann.org/en/about/learning/podcasts/icann-start-10mar11-en
- PowerPoint on "The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and the At-Large Community" by the ALAC Chair, Olivier Crépin-Leblond *https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/41888801/At-Large+Policy+Process+-+OCL.ppt?version=2&modificationDate=1370904530344*
- PowerPoint on "At-Large and At-Large Advisory Committee 101" by ICANN Board member, Sébastien Bachollet *https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/31165556/At-Large_101_Sept2011_EN_V2.pptx?version=1&modificationDate=1328054399000*

Social Media

- Facebook *http://www.facebook.com/icann.atlarge*
- Twitter *http://twitter.com/ICANN_AtLarge*
- YouTube *http://www.youtube.com/user/AtLargeStaff/videos*
- *myicann.org*

- ■ Check the current discussion topics at Public Comments page and have your say at *http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment*

- ■ Check the community wikis and get involved *https://community.icann.org/dashboard.action*

- ■ Read the Policy Update monthly newsletter *http://www.icann.org/en/resources/policy/update*

- ■ Subscribe to Newsletters *http://www.icann.org/en/news/newsletter/signup* and newsfeeds *http://www.icann.org/en/news/rss*

- ■ Visit the ICANN meeting site for information on past or future meetings *http://meetings.icann.org/*

WHAT YOU'LL FIND AT ICANN.ORG AND MYICANN.ORG
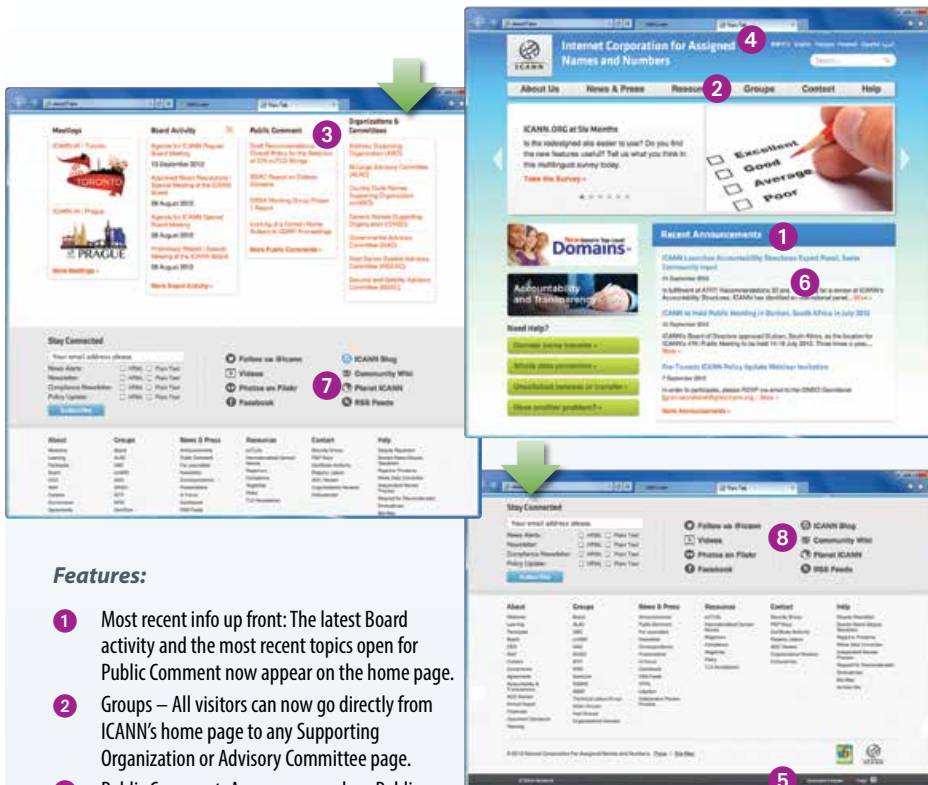
Features:

1. **Most recent info up front:** The latest Board activity and the most recent topics open for Public Comment now appear on the home page.

2. **Groups** – All visitors can now go directly from ICANN's home page to any Supporting Organization or Advisory Committee page.

3. **Public Comment:** Anyone can make a Public Comment about any active issue being considered by the community or the organization.

4. **Multilingual content bar:** Choose a language and immediately see a list of all materials available in that language, starting with the most recent.

5. **Footer Acronym Helper:** Type in an acronym and get the definition on demand.

6. **Inline Acronym Helper:** Acronym definitions appear when you hover over underlined terms in HTML portions of the site.

7. **Planet ICANN:** Read every RSS and Twitter feed from ICANN in one place.

8. **Community Wiki:** Web pages created for specific purposes, like Working Groups, that allow all community members to edit content in an easy and collaborative way.

MyICANN.ORG

Launched in October 2012, MyICANN is an information portal offering personal delivery of topical and timely information from all over the ICANN community.

GLOSSARY/ACRONYM LIST

A

ALAC

At-Large Advisory Committee

Primary organizational home for the voice and concerns of the individual Internet user in ICANN processes. Global users are represented through small self-forming groups called At-Large Structures (ALSes) who are part of Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs).

ASO

Address Supporting Organization

Represents the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) – companies that oversee the allocation of Internet number resources in particular geographic regions. Only representatives of RIRs may join.

ATRT

Accountability and Transparency Review Team

A team of community representatives responsible for reviewing ICANN's accountability, transparency and pursuit of the interests of global Internet users.

B

BCUC

Business and Commercial Users Constituency

One of the constituencies of the Generic Names Supporting Organization and the voice of commercial and business users within ICANN processes.

C

CCNSO

Country Code Names Supporting Organization

Represents the managers of country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs) such as Britain's .uk or Germany's .de registry. You have to be a ccTLD manager to join.

D

DNS

Domain Name System

A system that allows Internet users to type in names, like *www.icann.org*, and be directed to a machine-understandable unique Internet Protocol address like 192.0.34.163.

DNSSEC

Domain Name System Security Extensions

DNSSEC introduces security at the infrastructure level through a hierarchy of cryptographic signatures attached to the DNS records. Users are assured that the source of the data is verifiably the stated source, and that the mapping of name to Internet Protocol (IP) address is accurate. DNSSEC-compliant name servers also provide denial of existence, that is, they tell a user that a name does not exist. There are two dominant strategies: (1) a process that zone operators can initiate for digitally signing their own zones by employing public-private key pairs and (2) a chain of trust between parent and child that enables the system eventually to become trustworthy.

G

GAC	**Governmental Advisory Committee** Represents governments and governmental organizations. You need to be a formally acknowledged representative of a government or international organization to become a member.
GNSO	**Generic Names Supporting Organization** The Generic Names Supporting Organization is the main policy-making body for generic top-level domains and consists of seven sub-groups: • Commercial and Business Users • Non-Commercial Users • gTLD Registries • Registrars • Intellectual Property • Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers • Not-For-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency
GTLD	**Generic Top-Level Domain** An Internet domain name extension of three letters or more, such as .COM, .NET and .ASIA.

I

IANA	**Internet Assigned Numbers Authority** The authority is responsible for the allocation and maintenance of the unique codes and numbering systems that are used in the technical standards ("protocols") that drive the Domain Name System. For more than a decade, ICANN has performed the IANA functions.
IDN	**Internationalized Domain Names** Include characters used in the local representation of languages that are not written with the 26 letters of the basic Latin alphabet.
IPC	**Intellectual Property Constituency** One of four constituencies of the Generic Names Supporting Organization. It represents the views and interests of owners of intellectual property worldwide with particular emphasis on trademark, copyright, and related intellectual property rights and their effect and interaction with Domain Name System.
IPV4	**Internet Protocol version 4** Developed in the early 1980s. It had a capacity of just over four billion IP addresses, all of which have been fully allocated to Internet service providers and users. An IPv4 address looks like this: 192.0.2.53.
IPV6	**Internet Protocol version 6** has a 128-bit address space, which is 340 undecillion addresses. An IPv6 address looks like this: 2001:0db8::53. Where there are two colons side by side, all the segments in between contain only zeros. So without the double colons, you would expand the example address to 2001:0db8:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0053.

I

IRTP — **Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy**

The IRTP is a GNSO consensus policy that was adopted in 2004 with the objective to provide registrants with a transparent and predictable way to transfer domain name registrations between registrars.

ISPCP — **Internet Service Providers Constituency**

A constituency of the Generic Names Supporting Organization charged with the responsibility of advising the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the management of the Domain Name System.

N

NCSG — **Non-commercial Stakeholders Group**

The home for civil society in ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization, created as one of four Stakeholder Groups in the GNSO and approved by the ICANN Board in 2008. Membership is open to non-commercial organizations and individuals involved in education, digital rights, community networking, public policy advocacy and many other areas.

NCUC — **Non-commercial Users Constituency**

A constituency within the GNSO's Non-commercial Stakeholders Group that represents the views of non-commercial individuals and non-profit organizations.

NGPC — **New gTLD Program Committee**

A committee of the ICANN Board responsible for making strategic and financial decisions relating to the New gTLD Program. It has all the powers of the ICANN Board.

NPOC — **Not-for-profit Operational Concerns Constituency**

A constituency within the Generic Names Supporting Organization's Non-commercial Stakeholders Group that represents non-profit organizations who have operational concerns related to service delivery.

P

PDP — **Policy Development Process**

A set of formal steps, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws, to guide the initiation, internal and external review, timing and approval of policies needed to coordinate the global Internet's system of unique identifiers.

R

RA — **RA – Registry Agreement**

The contract between ICANN and its registries.

R

RAA – Registrar Accreditation Agreement

The contract between ICANN and its accredited registrars. It describes the obligations of both parties.

Registrar Stakeholder Group

Represents domain name registrars. Registrars are organizations that verify availability and reserves domain names on behalf of a registrant.

Root Server System Advisory Committee

Represents organizations responsible for operating the world's 13 root name servers and others concerned with stable technical operation of the authoritative root server system.

Registries Stakeholder Group

Represents the interests of registries currently under contract with ICANN, in the Generic Names Supporting Organization. A registry is the authoritative, master database of all domain names registered in each top-level domain.

S

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. Membership is by invitation only.

U

Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy

A set of agreed-upon policies and procedures that define how to resolve domain name registration disputes, such as abusive registrations that harm existing brands or trademarks, with any ICANN-accredited registrars.

W

WHOIS (pronounced "who is"; not an acronym) An Internet Protocol that is used to query databases to obtain information about the registration of a domain name or IP address. ICANN's gTLD agreements require registries and registrars to offer an interactive web page and a port 43 WHOIS service providing free public access to data on registered names. Data includes the domain registration creation and expiration dates, name servers, and contact information for the registrant and designated administrative and technical contacts.

ONE WORLD. ONE INTERNET.

About ICANN

ICANN's mission is to ensure a stable and unified global Internet.

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer—a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet.

ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from around the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers.

ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. For more information please visit *www.icann.org.*

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