PUBLIC COMMENTS DATA ANALYSIS

Years 2010-2012

1) Overview

After one full year of experience with the Public Comments enhancements introduced as part of the ATRT Recommendations, Staff has undertaken an analysis to determine what can be learned based upon actual community usage and participation patterns.

The study period selected was all Closed Public Comments Forums from 1 January 2010 through 31 December 2012 (3 years[1]). The preference for using Closed vs. Open Forums was to coincide with the way that data is presented on ICANN.org's Public Comments Archive pages.

There were **212** individual Public Comments solicitations for which the following data was captured:
- Title
- Comment Open Date
- Comment Close Date *(Note: if the period was officially extended, the later Comment Close Date was captured)*
- Number of Comments[2]
- Translated (Yes or No) into languages other than English
- Staff Member Responsible

Beginning with 1 January 2012, the following additional data were captured:
- Reply Open Date
- Reply Close Date *(Note: if the period was officially extended, that later Reply Close Date was captured)*
- Number of Replies

The data collection process involved harvesting information from each of the Public Comments Forums archived on ICANN.org and building an Excel workbook for subsequent analysis. Once the data was available in spreadsheet form, various statistical calculations and other summarizations were prepared along with graphs/charts that would serve to highlight trends and patterns. Sections 3 and 4 of this report present various findings that may be useful as input to those who will continue working toward improving the Public Comments capability within ICANN. A final Section 5 summarizes those findings that relate specifically to the ATRT Recommendations discussed briefly in Section 2 immediately below.

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[1] *The first quarter of 2013 was not included because a significant percentage of those topics had not yet reached closure at the time of this analysis.*
[2] *Although spam has not been a major problem within ICANN Public Comments, the analysis did make an effort to identify any obvious spurious entries and exclude them from the raw data counts.*