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Feedback



EDITORIAL

2017: New Agreements, Renewed Energy and Exciting Challenges

We closed 2016 with a completed IANA stewardship transition and the first Internet Governance Forum since the renewal of the United Nations commitment, among other important events.

Our region has been increasing our levels of participation in various organizations and events in the Internet environment, proposing and discussing issues relevant to our population. It is with hope that we've noticed a growing population of young people in regional events. These young people are working toward a better understanding of key Internet topics and are promoting dialogue around them.

The cooperation between organizations and individuals, illustrated recently by the Anycast cloud signature (see article below), must grow in quantity and variety. Our community can leverage our shared languages, cultures and history.

We know that there is still much to do in the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) region. The contribution of each individual at local, national, regional and global levels is vital. We need to forge a strong and relevant presence so that we can hear the voices of those who cannot be present all the time, but who do need the region to develop and properly take advantage of being connected.

In 2017, our region must renew our commitments, recognize the challenges ahead and work together to achieve the best for our fellow citizens.

Rafael "Lito" Ibarra



*Rafael "Lito" Ibarra, ICANN Board
Director*



ICANN NEWS

Register Now for the Next Quarterly Stakeholder Call

In the second call in our new format, we'll continue to focus on how ICANN has implemented community policy, with a Board update and news from a specific region. This quarter's call features Africa and the Middle East. ICANN's Istanbul hub office will host the call at the end of the first day of the Turkey DNS Forum.

Everyone is welcome. [Register here.](#)

15 February 2017 at 15:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

Live interpretation is offered in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The call will be recorded and posted in all languages on the [Quarterly Reports page](#). Read the [full announcement](#).



Register Now for ICANN58 in Copenhagen

Registration is open for ICANN58. This first ICANN Public Meeting of 2017 will take place from 11-16 March 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. If you attend, you can network with your peers in the community, engage in face-to-face discussions, ask questions and help develop and implement Internet policies.

[Register now for ICANN58.](#)

Before you book your travel, check the [ICANN58 home page](#) to find out if you need to obtain a visa to travel to Denmark. Our page has links to the relevant pages on Denmark's official website, which gives detailed information about visa requirements, the application process and deadlines. If you determine that you do need a visa, you can request the Danish host letter through the ICANN58 page. Please check as soon as possible so you don't miss any deadlines.

Jamie Hedlund Takes on Senior Contractual Compliance and Consumer Safeguards Role at ICANN

On 4 January 2017, ICANN announced that Jamie Hedlund, Vice President of Strategic Programs for ICANN's Global Domains Division, will take on Allen Grogan's role as Senior Vice President (SVP), Contractual Compliance and Consumer Safeguards, following Grogan's [previously announced](#) departure.



"Contractual compliance, consumer safeguards and public responsibility are areas of central importance to ICANN," said CEO Göran Marby. "Jamie has years of ICANN and legal experience, which he will be using to build upon the great work already done by Allen and the rest of the global Contractual Compliance team." [Read more...](#)



LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS



Miguel Ignacio Estrada, promoter of the first IGF LAC Space, and Rodrigo de la Parra, ICANN's VP for Latin America and the Caribbean

LAC Space at the Internet Governance Forum

by Miguel Ignacio Estrada

The LAC Space was held for the first time on 5 December at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2016 in Guadalajara, Mexico. The meeting was an open space of the LAC community and for the LAC community. The promoters of this space would like this project to be replicated every year.

Among the main objectives of the IGF LAC Space were highlighting the work of the regional organizations and creating and strengthening ties among participants. The regional organizations that took the floor to present their work in the LAC region were the Asociación Latinoamericana de Internet (ALAI), the Asociación

Interamericana de Empresas de Telecomunicaciones (ASIET), ICANN, the Internet Society (ISOC), the Latin American and Caribbean Network information Centre (LACNIC) and the Latin American and Caribbean Top-Level Domains Association (LACTLD).

During this session, the publication "[Broadband Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean: A Digital Economy Toolkit](#)" was also presented.

This positive initiative allowed new participants to learn more about the work of the regional organizations and to join their mailing lists. And regional organizations had the chance to present their ongoing projects. But more importantly, the LAC Space helped us to get to know each other as a region, to put faces to the names we read in emails, and to network and share experiences from our countries. In short, it was an opportunity to continue building the LAC Internet community.

Anycast Cloud Signature

by LACTLD

The Signing Ceremony of the Anycast cloud was held on 7 December, during the 2016 Internet Governance Forum in Guadalajara, Mexico.

The LACTLD Anycast cloud is a joint initiative of country code TLDs (ccTLDs) in Latin America and the Caribbean which aims to promote the robustness and resilience of the Internet in the region with a mechanism that allows reuse of the same name of a namespace (NS) in several geographical locations.

Read more [here](#).



Signing ceremony with Demi Getschko of NIC.br, Luis Arancibia of NIC.cl, Andrés Piazza of LACTLD and Oscar Robles of LACNIC



LAC STRATEGIC PLAN NEWS



Panelists of the 2016 Andean Region edition of the LAC-i-Roadshow in Quito, Ecuador

Final 2016 LAC-i-Roadshow Makes a Stop in the Andean Region

On 15 December, ICANN and NIC.EC hosted the 2016 Andean Region edition of the LAC-i-Roadshow*, with the support of the Internet Society's Ecuadorian Chapter. The event attracted more than 40 participants. Discussion topics pertained to the critical infrastructure of the domain name system (DNS), and included deployment of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6); security, stability and resiliency (SSR) issues; and the impact of the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program. The group also addressed specific topics of interest to the Ecuadorian audience. See the [agenda](#) (in Spanish).

This is the third Andean Region roadshow organized since the project was launched in 2014, and the first one in Ecuador.

*The LAC-i-Roadshow is part of the LAC Strategy, which was developed by the different stakeholder groups from the Latin American and Caribbean region represented at ICANN. Its goal is to raise awareness across the region on key topics related to the DNS critical infrastructure.

Videos: LAC Participation at ICANN57

Our regional [mitigation plan](#) came about after the relocations of ICANN56 from Panama City, Panama, to Helsinki, Finland, and ICANN57 from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to Hyderabad, India. As part of this plan, we produced a short video highlighting the participation of the LAC community at ICANN57 (like we did previously for ICANN56).

These videos are available in English, Spanish and Portuguese in our [LAC YouTube playlist](#).

2016 LAC Communications Highlights

Read our blog post - available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#) and [French](#) - to get a quick look at our regional communications efforts during 2016.

... 2016



GDD UPDATE

New Report Presents Accuracy of WHOIS Data in gTLDs

In December 2016, ICANN published the latest WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System (ARS) report. WHOIS data is information about registered domains. The data is publicly available and includes the name, address, email and phone number of the registrant or registrar. Because WHOIS data connects individuals or organizations with domain names, registrants are required to provide accurate and reliable contact details. The WHOIS ARS project tests syntax and operability accuracy of WHOIS records in generic top-level domains (gTLDs). A report of findings is published quarterly. [Read the key findings](#) or [listen to a recording](#) of the webinar about the latest report.



Two-Character Second-Level ASCII Domain Names Authorized for Release

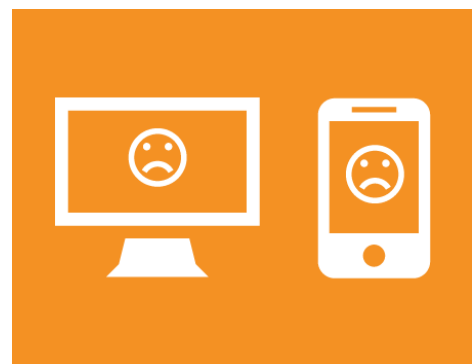
On 13 December 2016, ICANN authorized the release of all letter/letter two-character ASCII labels at the second-level for registry operators that implement "Measures for Letter/Letter Two-Character ASCII Labels to Avoid Confusion with Corresponding Country Codes." The measures - adopted by the ICANN Board during ICANN57 - provide a standardized framework to help Internet users avoid confusion between country codes and corresponding letter/letter two-character domain names. This change is the result of more than two years of work by members of the Internet community and the ICANN organization. [Read the](#)

[measures](#).

Help Make Universal Acceptance a Priority!

Universal Acceptance addresses technical issues that prevent Internet users from successfully completing online transactions. Problems can arise when applications reject or don't treat all parts of domain names correctly, which can occur when domain names are longer than three characters or are in different languages and scripts. Worldwide adoption of Universal Acceptance will enable a truly multilingual Internet, which will help bring the next billion users online.

If you've found an application or system that's not Universal Acceptance-ready, [report the issue](#). Our Global Support Center will track and work to resolve all reported issues. Interested in learning more about Universal Acceptance? Visit uasg.tech.



Updated gTLD Marketplace Health Index
Published



On 21 December 2016, ICANN published an update to the gTLD Marketplace Health Index (Beta), which presents statistics and trends related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The index was first published in July 2016. ICANN plans to publish these statistics twice a year to track progress against its goal of supporting the evolution of the domain name marketplace to be robust, stable and trusted. A community advisory panel is working with ICANN to refine the index in preparation for publishing version 1.0. Read the [gTLD Marketplace Health Index \(Beta\)](#).



DELEGATED NEW GTLDS

Ten New gTLDs Were Delegated in December 2016

[See the full list here.](#)

[.catholic](#)

[.hair](#)

[.hospital](#)

[.phone](#)

[.data](#)

[.fun](#)



POLICY UPDATE

GNSO and ccNSO Approve Final Framework for Future Cross-Community Working Groups

In October 2016, the Council of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) [approved](#) the Final Framework of Operating Principles for Future Cross-Community Working Groups (CCWGs), followed by the Council of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) approval in November 2016. This Final Framework was developed by the [Cross Community Working Group to Develop a Framework of Principles for Future CCWGs \(CWG Principles\)](#), which was jointly chartered by the GNSO and the ccNSO. The adoption by the GNSO and ccNSO Councils marks the official completion of work on the CWG Principles. A CCWG is a mechanism that allows two or more of any of ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) to work together to address issues that are of common interest and do not fall within the sole remit of one SO or AC. The Final Framework intends to provide a general outline for the establishment, operations and closure of CCWGs, and will highlight certain principles that are considered fundamental to the effective functioning of a CCWG. [Read the Final Framework here.](#)

CCWG on New gTLD Auction Proceeds Calls for Volunteers

To date, over 230 million USD has been accrued through ICANN's authorized auction services to resolve string contention in the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program. A Cross-Community Working Group has been formed and will be tasked with developing one or more proposals on a mechanism to allocate these auction proceeds. Once the proposal is developed, its Chartering Organizations and the ICANN Board will consider the proposals. The CCWG is open to anyone interested. If you would like to volunteer for this effort, you can become an individual participant or a mailing list observer, or can respond to public consultations when these are held. In addition, each Chartering Organization will appoint up to five members to keep its respective group up to date on progress and deliberations. The CCWG is expected to convene for its first meeting the week of 23 January 2017. [Learn how to join here.](#)

Customer Standing Committee Begins Monthly Reporting on PTI

Byron Holland, Chair of the Customer Standing Committee (CSC), provided the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community with the first monthly reports (October 2016 and November 2016) on how Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) is performing the IANA naming function. The CSC concluded that overall PTI performance was satisfactory - that PTI met its service level agreements. The CSC is aware of minor issues, but noted no trends. The CSC is in an ongoing discussion with PTI on how to remediate these issues. No persistent problems were identified, so no further action is needed. More background on the CSC and other useful information, including the full PTI reports, can be found [here](#).

GNSO Council Approves Review Implementation Plan

On 15 December 2016, the GNSO Council [approved](#) the plan developed by the [GNSO Review Working Group](#) to implement the 34 recommendations in the [GNSO Review Final Report](#). The Implementation Plan suggests a three-phased prioritization approach and specifies for each recommendation its dependencies, owner, resource requirements, budget effects and implementation steps. The ICANN Board will now consider adopting the proposed implementation plan. Following approval by the ICANN Board, the GNSO Review Working Group will execute and oversee the implementation, provide the GNSO Council with regular status updates, and identify any questions or concerns. [Learn more about the Implementation Plan](#).

Two Candidates Proceed to Next Stage in Selection of At-Large Board Director

On 16 December 2016, the Board Candidate Evaluation Committee (BCEC) concluded its evaluation of the six applicants who submitted their expressions of interest for the ICANN Board Director position selected by the At-Large Community. The BCEC named Alan Greenberg and Leon Felipe Sanchez Ambia to proceed to the next stage, which is managed by the Board Member Selection Process Committee. The selection process will conclude by Friday, 21 April 2017, with the announcement of the successful candidate on that date. [Learn more about the process](#).

ICANN Academy Begins a Pilot Program for Enhancing Chairing Skills

The ICANN Academy Working Group started a new course this month - the Chairing Skills Program. This course aims to help ICANN community leaders improve their effectiveness when chairing a working or community group. The program has two sessions: skills for chairing teleconferences, which began in January 2017, and skills for chairing in-person meetings, which will take place around the time of ICANN58. A professional coach from Incite Learning and multiple ICANN community coaches will facilitate this program. Besides providing a general framework and guidelines on developing chairing skills, coaches will observe their trainees during teleconferences and in-person meetings and provide targeted feedback. [Learn more](#).

GNSO Council Submits Review of the GAC ICANN57 Communiqué

On 15 December 2016, the GNSO Council [adopted](#) the GNSO Review of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) ICANN57 Communiqué. Subsequently, the GNSO Council submitted the Review to the ICANN Board. The Review provides feedback on gTLD-related issues in the GAC Communiqué. The issues include future gTLDs policies and procedures, mitigation of domain name abuse, and two-letter country/territory codes at the second-level. The Review specifies whether those issues are within the remit of the GNSO, whether they are subject to existing or ongoing GNSO policy development work, and how the GNSO will deal with them. This Review aims to promote coordination and information-sharing among the GAC, GNSO and ICANN Board on gTLD-related policy activities. [Read the Review here](#).

GAC Looks to 2017

On 15 December 2016, the GAC and the ICANN Board had a conference call relating to the GAC ICANN57 Communiqué. The call was organized by the ICANN Board-GAC Implementation Working Group. The purpose of the call was to make sure that the interpretation of the GAC Advice in the ICANN57 Communiqué is coherent and that both parties have a common understanding of what the GAC intended and can expect in terms of answers from the ICANN Board. Furthermore, following positive initial comments from GAC members at ICANN57, the GAC is considering participating as a chartering organization in the

Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds. Looking ahead to ICANN58, a survey has been launched within the GAC to help prioritize which matters must be addressed at ICANN58, and which topics can be handled through intersessional calls or email exchanges.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

Manuel Haces Aviña holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in strategic foresight from the university Tecnológico de Monterrey. He has experience in strategic intelligence, regulatory perspectives, research and consulting for various organizations in the public and private sectors. He is currently in charge of public relations and public affairs at NIC México SC, the entity responsible for administering the .mx ccTLD and the Internet number resources in Mexico. In addition, he teaches a course on network governance in the master's degree program in information technology law at INFOTEC.



Manuel Haces Aviña (Mexico)

Working at NIC México has allowed Aviña to become involved in issues of Internet public policy, particularly regarding the DNS and IP addresses. He has been a strong supporter of the multistakeholder model and has promoted a better understanding of the fundamental values of the Internet. Aviña is member of the Internet Society Mexico Chapter. He participates in the Initiative Group for Dialogue on Internet Governance in Mexico, serving as its Technical Secretary. At LACTLD, he is Chair of the Policy Group, where ccTLDs tackle common challenges. At ICANN, he participates in the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).



PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Spanish

[Argentina debe elaborar un "mapa de los cibercrimitos" para poder prevenirlos, según especialistas](#)

[Liderazgo para una nueva era](#) | Entrevista a Göran Marby por LACTLD

English

[Leadership for New Era](#) | Interview with Göran Marby for LACTLD



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