ICANN website
www.icann.org

Regional website
www.icannlac.org

Feedback

EDITORIAL

Joining the ICANN Board in the COVID-19 era

Last October, when I decided to run for the eleventh seat in the ICANN Board, I never expected that it would be like this. Even during February when my country code top-level domain (ccTLD) colleagues were choosing among their candidates, the news coming from China still seemed to be about something very far removed from our own reality. Not so, anymore.

Patricio Poblete, Director of NIC Chile.

The Cancún meeting, where I expected to meet everyone and thank them personally for their support, did not happen as planned, and ICANN's first all-virtual meeting was held instead. Thanks to sessions still being scheduled in the Cancún time zone, I was able to easily participate in many of them. I think they were superbly organized, considering the change in format happened almost overnight.
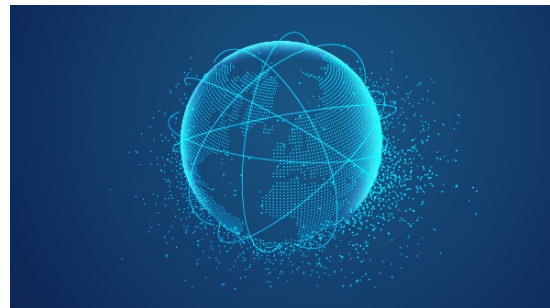
Many things have changed, but I hope others will not change. I am committed to bringing to the Board my experience as a long time ccTLD administrator, as a member of the ICANN community, and especially of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO). I also plan to keep in touch with our community as much as possible and not lose track of the issues of the moment. My roots are and will continue to be in Latin America, and I am sure this will also enrich my contribution to the ICANN Board.

TOP STORY

ICANN Board Withholds Consent for PIR Change of Control

After a thorough evaluation process, the ICANN Board is withholding consent to the request for a change of control of the Public Interest Registry (PIR). **Read more about the decision** from ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman, and find the full Board resolution **here**.

ICANN NEWS

Update from the 2020 Nominating Committee

The 2020 Nominating Committee (NomCom) is working to find the most qualified candidates for open leadership positions. They are working closely with the ICANN Board and org to mitigate issues that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Read **NomCom Chair Jay Sudowski's** blog for a full update on their activities.

New Learning Opportunities Now Available

ICANN Learn, our online capacity-development platform, now offers new courses for learning about the ICANN ecosystem.

The Policy Development Fundamentals course provides newcomers with a basic, foundational understanding of how policy development works at ICANN.

Policy Development Fundamentals, along with the recently launched Domain Name System (DNS) Fundamentals course, will serve as a cornerstone for developing capacity in the ICANN ecosystem.

The new Registrant Basics course is focused on educating registrants (also known as domain name holders), and the broader end user community about the rights and responsibilities of registrants and some of the ICANN policies that impact them.

Learn more here: **https://learn.icann.org/**

Prioritizing the Board's Work and Goals

The ICANN Board is undertaking a number of actions to ensure that it is fulfilling its Bylaws-mandated responsibilities and addressing the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to work effectively together. The Board is working with ICANN org to develop a comprehensive continuity work plan, which will drive and direct the Board's actions and goals in the coming months.

For the plan highlights, read ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman's **blog**.

Pandemic Effect on the DNS Traffic

Lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have a limited, but noticeable, effect on Domain Name System (DNS) traffic at ICANN Managed Root Servers (IMRS). ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) studied the impact of a nationwide lockdown in France on the DNS. Click **here** to read more detail.
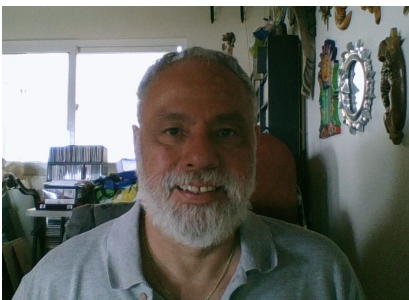
LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Despite COVID-19 our community is more connected than ever

Community members share their experiences with the Internet during COVID-19 pandemic

"Thanks to the Internet, I keep in touch with family and friends from all over the world. During our Board workshops, we usually do morning walks…We have even been able to maintain this tradition virtually."
León Sánchez
ICANN Board Vice Chair

In the face of this global emergency, the option of holding online work meetings is a great possibility for any company or institution. This contributes to reducing possible economic losses and delays in decision-making for organizations and governments.
Lito Ibarra
ICANN Board Member

"Luckily, today we have Internet applications, like Zoom, which are obviously very familiar to members of the ICANN community. Thanks to these programs, and the wide availability of the Internet (particularly mobile), the current crisis has been notably less traumatic than other recent extreme events"
Javier Rúa Jovet
ICANN Community Member

"As a university professor, I had to adapt my classroom classes to a virtual environment. The students and I now organize instant messaging groups to coordinate virtual classes. Classes are now recorded and saved in a virtual folder so those who could not participate can do it later by watching the recording. The challenge has been to find the most suitable virtual platform, at an accessible or free price, for academic use"
Olga Cavalli
Vice-Chair of the Governmental Advisory Committee at ICANN

"The Internet offers us the opportunity to clarify the tools and collaboration platforms for the continuity of our projects and commitments allowing Internet development in Mexico to become more relevant. The Internet offers new opportunities to learn, value, collaborate, grow as a family, and in community, at a distance but more united."
Carmen Denis Polanco
Autonomous University of Yucatan, Mexico

"We are overcoming challenges with the help of the Internet. Little by little, face-to-face activities are reconfiguring into online activities. LACTLD implemented efforts to respond to this emergency such as remote work, rotating shifts, special office hygiene, and technical changes which allowed us to achieve a 100% remote operation and postponement of expiration of domains, among other measures."
Miguel Ignacio Estrada - General Manager at LACTLD

Nicolás Antoniello (Uruguay)

Nicolas Antoniello joins ICANN as a Regional Technical Engagement Manager

Nicolás Antoniello will lead the execution of the technical engagement strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region in coordination with other regional engagement functions at ICANN. He is an engineer and studied at Universidad de la República in Montevideo, Uruguay, and the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, Spain. Before joining ICANN, Antoniello was a Senior Advisor to the Uruguayan Government's National Telecommunications Minister and worked for the National Telecommunications Company (ANTEL). Welcome Nicolás!

Stay Tuned for More LAC Virtual Activities

The LAC regional team is bringing together a set of activities tailored to the community's needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with our regional partners, the Latin American and Caribbean ccTLD Association (LACTLD), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), CaribNOG, Internet Addresses Registry for Latin America and Caribbean (LACNIC), and the National Association of Universities and Higher Education Institutions (ANUIES), ICANN is planning to bring discussions relevant to our current context on different technical topics. Subscribe to our **engagement calendar** to see more opportunities to interact with experts on the Domain Name System (DNS).

Missed ICANN's latest LAC Talks with John Crain on DNS Security and Threats during the COVID-19 Crisis? Watch the recording, **here**.

ARIN/CaribNOG Webinar Series on COVID-19 Impact

The first session in the North American Regional Internet Registry (ARIN) and CaribNOG webinar series, COVID-19 and the Caribbean Internet, was held on 9 April 2020 in collaboration with regional Caribbean partners the Organization of Eastern Caribbean states (OECS) Commission, the Latin American Internet Registry (LACNIC), the Internet Society (ISOC), and ICANN. These weekly webinars on COVID-19 and the Caribbean Internet explore the impact on Caribbean Internet infrastructure, network security, and electronic service delivery, telecommunications regulation, public policy, and public safety. Check the webinars recordings, **here**.

Rights Protection Mechanisms Session for Digital Law MBA Students in São Paulo

ICANN was invited for the second time by the Escola Paulista de Direito (EPD) to teach a session on Rights Protection Mechanisms and Dispute Resolution for domain names registered under gTLDs. The MBA course in Digital Law is coordinated by Professor Rony Vainzof and was streamed online due to the social distancing measures. Over 50 students actively participated in the session. Thank you, EPD and Professor Vainzof, for this opportunity.

The LAC Strategic Plan Keeps Moving Forward

After aligning the four key areas of interest and objectives of the new Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Strategic Plan with ICANN's Strategic Plan for FY2021-2025, ICANN's regional team started working with the LAC Strategic Plan Council on proposing new projects for each objective. The LAC team is waiting for final comments from the Council, before opening a Public Comment period to get feedback from the regional community on the new LAC Strategic Plan. The regional team will then organize a webinar for our community to go over the document, so everyone has a better understanding.

GDD UPDATE

ICANN UA Case Study Published

The ICANN org worked with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) to publish a case study outlining the org's ongoing efforts to become Universal Acceptance-ready. The document provides an overview of the process, including the three stages it recommends for achieving Universal Acceptance (UA), and best

ICANN
Universal Acceptance
Case Study
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practices. You can view the case study **here**, and read an accompanying ICANN org blog here. Has your organization updated its systems to accept all domain names and email addresses regardless of length or script? If so, reach out to talk about developing a case study with the UASG by sending an email to **info@uasg.tech**. The UASG wants to promote the efforts of all UA-ready organizations and share their lessons learned with the larger community.

For a list of all available UA resources, click **here**.

Relief for Registrants in Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic may impact the ability of registrants to renew their domain names in a timely manner. In response, ICANN org **announced** that it has approved registrars to defer cancellation of domain names under Section 3.7.5.1 of the 2013 **Registrar Accreditation Agreement** for the **second time**. This clause permits registrars to temporarily forebear from cancelling domain name registrations that were unable to be renewed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on domain name registrants. Read more in the blog published **here**.

RDAP
TRANSITION

RDAP Replacement for the WHOIS Protocol

The technology transition from WHOIS-based services to ones using the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) continues. Many contracted parties are already offering RDAP services allowing users to access domain name and other Internet identifier registration data in a secure and structured manner. ICANN also offers a registration data lookup tool based on RDAP – bookmark **this page**!

RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a replacement for the WHOIS protocol. Are you ready for this technology upgrade? Learn more **here**.

POLICY UPDATE

Consensus Playbook Published

The *Consensus Playbook* has been published for the ICANN community to reference and use in support of ICANN-related work. This *Consensus Playbook* aims to provide community volunteers with practical tools and best practices for building consensus, bridging differences, and breaking deadlocks in ICANN processes. It neither seeks to change the definition of consensus or the methods of decision-making of any community group, nor create any new requirements. Originating from the **GNSO Policy Development Process 3.0 (PDP 3.0)** initiative and a subsequent Additional Budget Request, the *Consensus Playbook* was developed by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), an external vendor contracted by ICANN org, with the requirement of broad applicability across the community beyond just GNSO PDP working groups. As part of the development process, CBI interviewed 14 community leaders across

Consensus Playbook
Techniques for Building Consensus within the ICANN Community

ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, who shared their extensive consensus-building experience in leading and participating in working and community groups. **Download the _Consensus Playbook_ here**!

Initial Report on the Retirement of ccTLDs Now Available for Public Comment

On 5 May, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Phase 1 Working Group of the third ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP3) published its **Initial Report for Public Comment**. The report focuses on the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and specifically seeks community input on the duration of the retirement process and the procedures leading up to the removal of a ccTLD from the root zone. The Initial Report will become part of the full set of policy recommendations that the ccNSO will present to the ICANN Board.

At-Large Plans DNS Abuse Discussion and Other Policy Sessions for ICANN68

For ICANN67, At-Large organized sessions on DNS abuse and other policy topics. Sessions utilized features such as polls and quizzes and involved interactive panels that received positive feedback from community leaders. For ICANN68, At-Large will continue discussions related to DNS abuse and its effects on Internet end users. Other sessions will include topics related to cybersecurity and geopolitics in a multistakeholder environment.

Strategic Outlook Trends Identification Continues

Every year, the ICANN community, Board, and organization participate in trend identification sessions to discuss emerging trends that could affect ICANN. When ICANN67 became a virtual meeting, the org successfully adapted the trend identification work of the **Strategic Outlook Program** to take place virtually. By combining online tools such as Zoom and Google Drive, we were able to hold a series of virtual brainstorming sessions after ICANN67 with several community stakeholder groups across the globe to help identify new trends, opportunities, and risks. Two public sessions were held, as well as sessions with the Governmental Advisory Committee, Security and Stability Advisory Committee, Generic Names Supporting Organization Council, and the Intellectual Property Constituency. The findings will provide critical update to help inform ICANN's strategy in an ever-changing environment. Approximately 80 community members participated. **Click here** to view all the inputs collected during these community sessions.

In the next phase of the program, the ICANN Board will oversee a trend analysis and impact assessment, so that new trends can be factored into the annual iteration of ICANN's strategic and operating plans. For more information on ICANN's Strategic Planning process, **click here**.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

Antonio M. Moreiras - Projects and Development Manager at NIC.br

Antonio M. Moreiras is a computer engineer currently working as a Projects and Development Manager at NIC.br, a private, not-for-profit organization connected to the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee. Moreiras participated in ICANN39 as an ICANN fellow and continues to be involved in the ICANN community.

As a part of his job at NIC.br, Moreiras coordinates efforts to foster the adoption of best operational practices and important technologies like IPv6, DNSSEC, and Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) among Internet service providers (ISPs) and the technical community in Brazil. Although he is not a member of the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP) at ICANN, he regularly contributes to their work.

Antonio M. Moreiras (Brazil)

MONTEVIDEO

La Casa de Internet de Latinoamérica y el Caribe
Rambla República de México 6125
11400 Montevideo, Uruguay

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