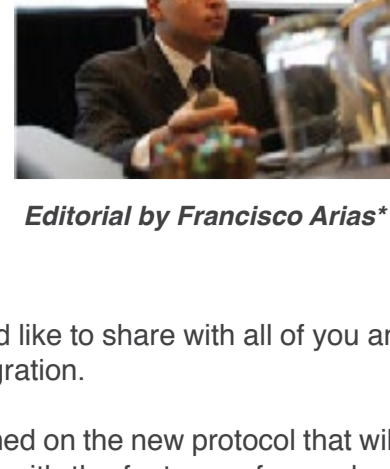


Dear friends,

It is a pleasure for me to write my first editorial for the Latin America and the Caribbean newsletter since my position in ICANN's team and also as a member of our regional community.

This newsletter precedes our 53rd public meeting, which is to take place in this region, in the great city of Buenos Aires (Argentina). It will be a crucial moment for the discussions about the IANA functions stewardship transition and, especially, for the development of the final proposal, which will be submitted to the US government. We invite you to read more about this critical issue in the first article of the newsletter and to get involved in the public comment period announced there.



Editorial by Francisco Arias\*

Before encouraging you to read the latest news from the last two months, I would like to share with all of you an important milestone we have achieved in the context of the WHOIS protocol migration.

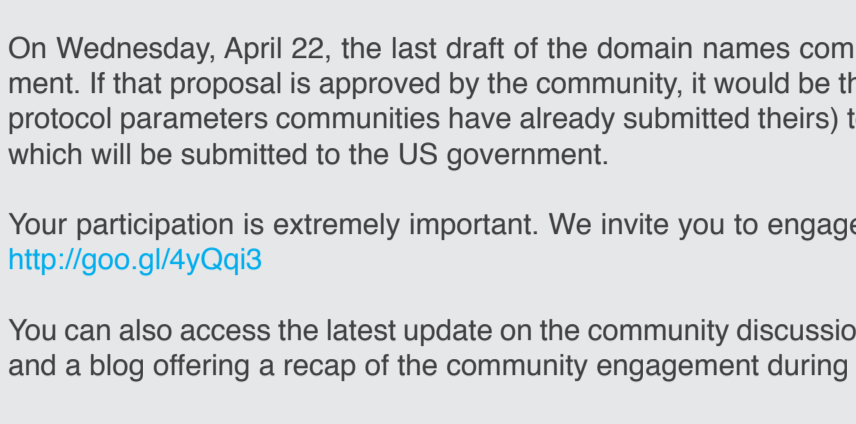
After many years of work by the technical community, consensus has been reached on the new protocol that will replace WHOIS. The new registry data access protocol (RDAP) was designed with the features of a modern protocol. The RDAP allows the use of characters from all writing systems, for instance, the letter "ñ" and the accented vowels. It also includes standard methods for data transmission in computer-readable formats, standard messages, standard errors, optional differentiated output support based on the information requester, etc. Now it is ICANN's turn to take the protocol and define the implementation details so that it can be deployed by the gTLDs in the near future. The discussion begins in the next ICANN meeting in Buenos Aires.

Thank you for your attention. *Let's keep on reading!*

**Francisco Arias**  
Technical Services Director, ICANN

English version will be available soon here! A versão em português vai estar disponível aqui! I version française bientôt disponible ici: <http://goo.gl/T9dE2>.

ICANN News



Who will govern the Internet and how? Speak up!

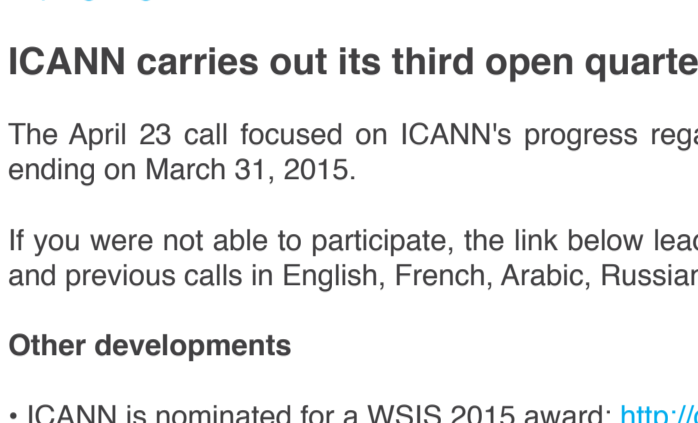
Several proposals trying to answer that same question have reached a significant milestone.

As you know, there are several proposals under development in response to the express wish of the US government to transfer the stewardship of some of the vital Internet technical functions (the IANA functions) to the global Internet community. Basically, the US National Telecommunications and Information Agency (NTIA) has requested ICANN to facilitate efforts from the global Internet community to develop a proposal that will help to bring about that transition.

On Wednesday, April 22, the last draft of the domain names community's proposal was posted for public comment. If that proposal is approved by the community, it would be the last of the three proposals (the number and protocol parameters communities have already submitted theirs) to be integrated in the final transition proposal, which will be submitted to the US government.

Your participation is extremely important. We invite you to engage in the comment period by following this link: <http://goo.gl/4yQq3>

You can also access the latest update on the community discussions about the transition (<http://goo.gl/ML7GJP>) and a blog offering a recap of the community engagement during the last year (<http://goo.gl/0ghA8Z>).



ICANN demonstrates high performance standards at IANA functions

ICANN has successfully completed two independent Service Organization Control (SOC) audits of the systems and processes it applies to the performance of the IANA functions for 2014. The SOC audits, applying a methodology jointly developed by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, allow ensuring that ICANN implements the appropriate internal controls to achieve the service levels in the areas of availability, process integrity and security for the IANA functions. The year 2014 was the fifth consecutive year in which ICANN achieved a level 3 SOC certification for its root zone key signing systems for the domain name system security extensions. Also, the organization has successfully completed its second SOC audit, which evaluated the key systems that support the IANA transaction processing functions. Both audits were carried out by the international accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

ICANN is devoted to improve its operational excellence, and the audits are a way to demonstrate its commitment to achieve high standards. We invite you to read more about ICANN's performance of these functions: <http://goo.gl/JEtIK>.

ICANN carries out its third open quarterly stakeholder call

The April 23 call focused on ICANN's progress regarding its strategic and operational plans for the quarter ending on March 31, 2015.

If you were not able to participate, the link below leads you to transcripts, presentations and recordings of this and previous calls in English, French, Arabic, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese: <http://goo.gl/d1eTuv>

Other developments

- ICANN is nominated for a WSIS 2015 award: <http://goo.gl/mXGxbJ>
- Fellowship period opens for ICANN54 to be held in Dublin: <http://goo.gl/x4lhGc>
- A video on ICANN's strategic plan with subtitles in the regional languages is launched: <http://goo.gl/Wt1QJe>
- An update on the report "Greasing the Wheels of the Digital Economy", commissioned by ICANN to the Boston Consultancy Group (BCG), is already available. This study reveals the causes of the frictions that need to be addressed by the different countries in order to take advantage of the economic and social benefits of the digital economy. Download the full document here: <http://goo.gl/B16mNT>
- ICANN requests statements of interest from potential hosts for its 2017 and 2018 meetings: <http://goo.gl/XapzAU>
- Latest update on ICANN policy development (February-March) published: <http://goo.gl/RF1Qx0>

Regional News

The LAC DNS 2015 forum launches its web site

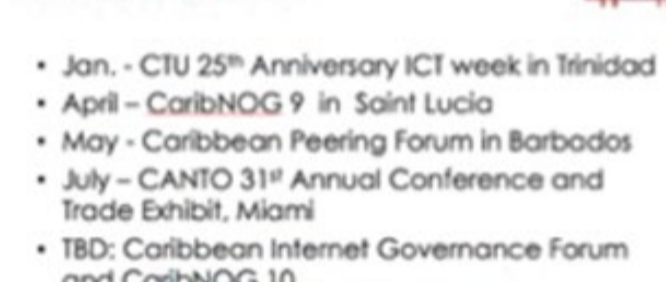
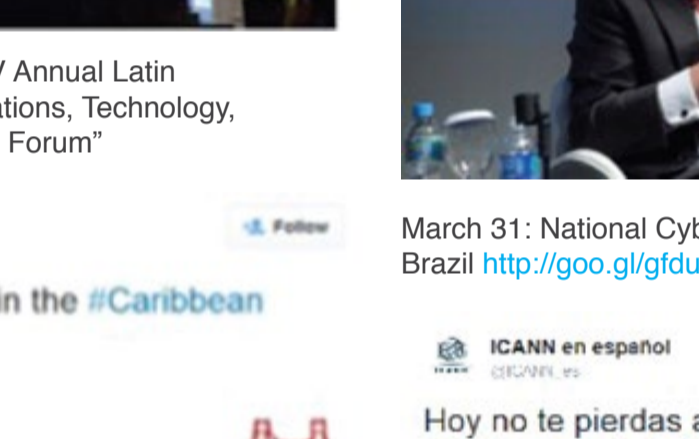
The second edition of the LAC DNS forum, gathering the main industry, Internet policies and technical stakeholders' representatives, will take place on June 19 in Buenos Aires to continue working on the proposal presented in 2013 for the promotion of a regional space for discussing DNS related issues.

The forum is open to anyone interested in topics related to the domain names industry and its business opportunities, as well as in engaging and getting in contact with the main stakeholders and experts in the field. It is targeted to ccTLD and gTLD registries and registrars, resellers, registrants, DNS experts, new TLD applicants, regional TLD organizations, IT and Internet companies, legal and intellectual property firms, among others. Visit <http://lac-dns.org/index.php> for more information.

Organized by: ICANN, LACNIC, LACTLD, ISOC, NIC Argentina, Public Interest Registry.

Our road map

The following map shows the countries we have visited in the last two months and the number of events in which we participated there. For more information, we include the following chronological list of events and we share links as well as some pictures and tweets.



March 11: presentation about ICANN delivered to students and researchers from UNICAMP, Universidade Estadual de Campinas, São Paulo (Brazil)



March 9-11: ecomLAC "IV Annual Latin American Telecommunications, Technology, and Internet Public Policy Forum"



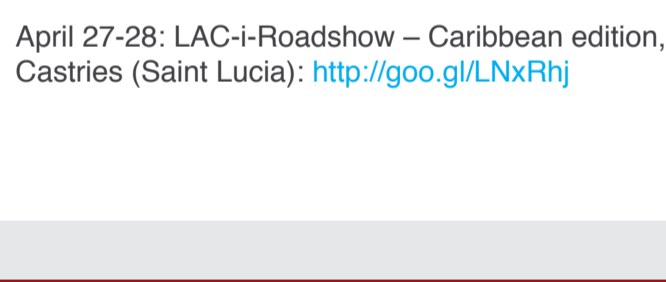
March 24: 2º Café Tecnológico – INATEL, Brazil: <http://goo.gl/r2dfZh>



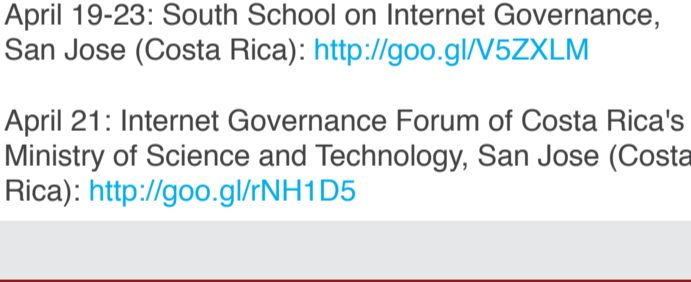
April 12-15: ARIN35, San Francisco (USA): <http://goo.gl/J16Yje>



March 31: National Cybersecurity Congress – FIESP, Brazil <http://goo.gl/gfdu4p>



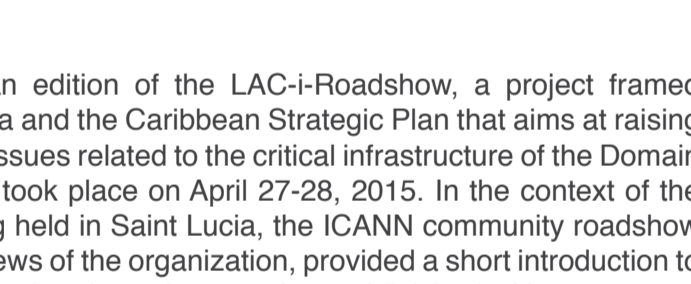
April 27-29: Internet Recorre (IR) – NIC Argentina, Parana (Argentina): <http://goo.gl/N2lzlj>



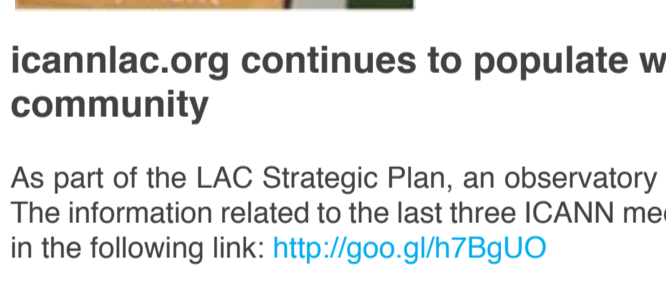
Meeting with the young and energetic entrepreneurs in Costa Rica



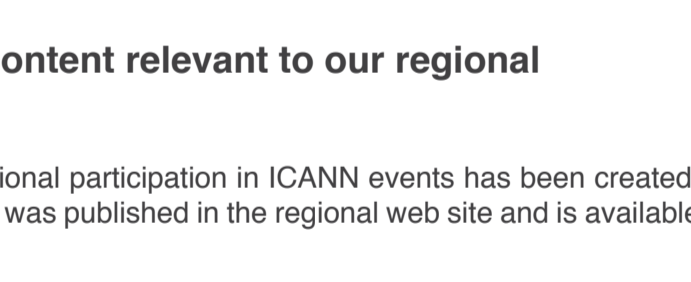
April 27-29: LAC-i-Roadshow – Caribbean edition, Castries (Saint Lucia): <http://goo.gl/LNxRhj>



April 19-23: South School on Internet Governance, San Jose (Costa Rica): <http://goo.gl/5ZXLm>



April 21: Internet Governance Forum of Costa Rica's Ministry of Science and Technology, San Jose (Costa Rica): <http://goo.gl/rNH1D5>



April 21: Internet Governance Forum of Costa Rica's Ministry of Science and Technology, San Jose (Costa Rica): <http://goo.gl/rNH1D5>

LAC Strategic Plan News

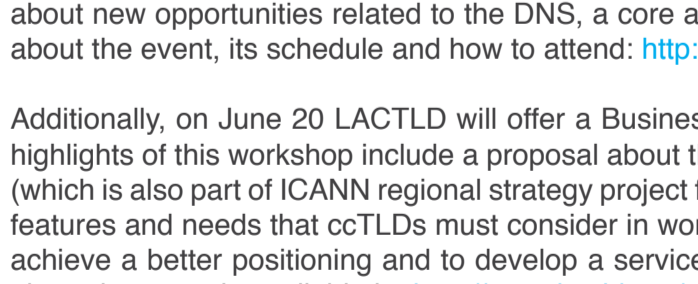
The second edition of the LAC-i-Roadshow takes place in Saint Lucia

The second Caribbean edition of the LAC-i-Roadshow, a project framed within the Latin America and the Caribbean Strategic Plan that aims at raising awareness about key issues related to the critical infrastructure of the Domain Name System (DNS), took place on April 27-28, 2015. In the context of the 9th CaribNOG meeting held in Saint Lucia, the ICANN community roadshow addressed the latest news of the organization, provided a short introduction to IPv6, presented topics related to cybersecurity, and finished with a presentation and discussion panel about the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program. For more information, visit the meeting web site: <http://goo.gl/LNxRhj>

icannlac.org continues to populate with content relevant to our regional community

As part of the LAC Strategic Plan, an observatory of regional participation in ICANN events has been created. The information related to the last three ICANN meetings was published in the regional web site and is available in the following link: <http://goo.gl/h7BgUO>

Besides that information, soon we will include other relevant indexes regarding the participation of the Latin American and Caribbean community on a meeting basis.

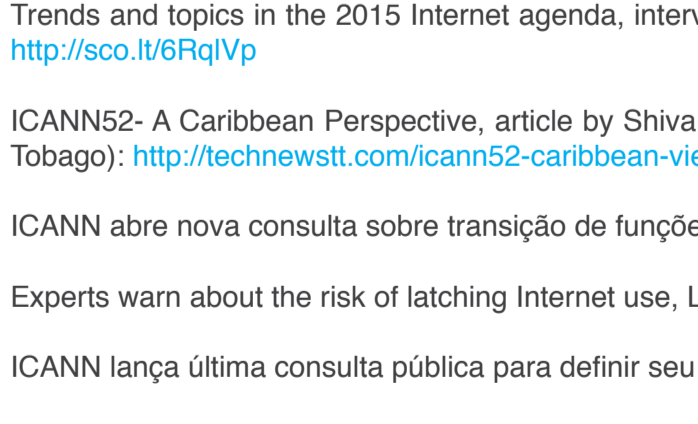


Online seminars about different topics of interest

In collaboration with ICANN staff and members of the Latin American and Caribbean community, various seminars were launched online with simultaneous translation in the different languages of the region. Among the topics covered were the progress of the regional Strategic Plan, an introduction to the Domain Name System (DNS), and how to become an ICANN-accredited registrar.

These online seminars will be available on a regular basis, so we invite you to join, participate and help us reach a greater number of people who might be interested.

"We give you the floor"



Carolina Aguerre (Director, LACTLD)

ICANN53 in Buenos Aires represents a fundamental milestone in the annual schedule of LACTLD. For our organization, the agenda proposed by the ICANN community is of great value for the activities of registries, and, given the fact that the event will take place in the region, greater attendance from Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs than usual is expected.

Taking advantage of the upcoming ICANN53, LACTLD is organizing together with ICANN, LACNIC, Public Interest Registry, NIC.AR and ISOC the second edition of the LAC DNS Forum to be held on June 19. The main goal of this effort is to gather business and technical stakeholders interested in developing ventures and learning about new opportunities related to the DNS, a core and growing technology for today's Internet. To learn more about the event, its schedule and how to attend: <http://lac-dns.org/> / <http://lac-dns.net.ar/>

Additionally, on June 20 LACTLD will offer a Business Workshop for its members and for special guests. The highlights of this workshop include a proposal about the development of the business vision of regional ccTLDs (which is also part of ICANN regional strategy project for LAC), dialogues with registrars invited to lecture about the features and needs that ccTLDs must consider in working with registrars, strategic use of ccTLD information to achieve a better positioning and to develop a service portfolio better suited to users' needs. More information about the event is available in: <http://www.lactld.org/agenda/>

Press Highlights

- Print media:**
- The future of Internet is in the mobile phone, interview with Fadi Chehadé by La Nación (Costa Rica): <http://sco.lt/4sX2K9>
  - Duel 2.0: the battles behind web sites, interview with Rodrigo de la Parra for El País (Uruguay): <http://sco.lt/6XgWLn>
  - Trends and topics in the 2015 Internet agenda, interview with Rodrigo de la Parra for Tech Target (Argentina): <http://sco.lt/6Rq1Vp>
  - ICANN52- A Caribbean Perspective, article by Shiva Bissessar (ICANN Fellow), Technology news (Trinidad & Tobago): <http://technewst.com/icann52-caribbean-view/>
  - ICANN abre nova consulta sobre transição de funções IANA, Telesintese (Brazil): <http://sco.lt/8H9j5F>
  - Experts warn about the risk of latching Internet use, La Nación (Costa Rica): <http://sco.lt/6HuG3t>
  - ICANN lança última consulta pública para definir seu futuro na Internet, Abranet (Brazil): <http://t.co/1Y6L9mxAC>
  - ICANN launches generic Top Level Domain program in the Caribbean, Breaking News (Trinidad & Tobago) <http://goo.gl/bfXhu>
- Radio:**
- ICANN, CaribNoG discuss internet matters, Radio Saint Lucia (Saint Lucia): <http://goo.gl/SSzswa>
- TV:**
- Saint Lucia: Interview with Albert Daniels, with HTS News, DBS Television Channel 35 and Think Caribbean Television.
  - Costa Rica: Interview with Daniel Fink and Rodrigo de la Parra, with Teletica Canal 7.

Upcoming Events

- May 6-8: World Economic Forum – Latin America, Cancun (Mexico): <http://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-latin-america-2015>
- May 11: 15th Anniversary of ECTEL (Regional regulating agency- Caribbean), Saint Lucia.
- May 18-22: LACNIC 23, Lima (Peru): <http://www.lacnic.net/web/evntos/lacnic23>
- May 26-29: XXVI PCC.I (CITEL) Meeting, Cusco (Peru): <http://www.citel.oas.org/en/pages/next-meetings.aspx>
- May 27: Caribbean Peering and Internet Connection Forum, Barbados.
- May 28: Exclusive Workshop: Developing the Benefits of the Digital Economy, Miami (USA): <http://www.icom.org/telecommunications-media-forum/tmf-miami-2015/exclusive-workshop-developing-the-benefits-of-the-digital-economy>
- June 2-5: Activity with the media in Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- June 3: Engineers Week, annual event organized by the Tucuman Regional College, National Technological University, Tucuman (Argentina)
- June 15-17: World Summit Youth Award (WSYA), São Paulo (Brazil): <http://www.youthaward.org/content/about-wysa>
- June 21-25: ICANN53, Buenos Aires (Argentina) <http://buenosaires53.icann.org/en/>



We invite you to listen to the post casts we share every week in the countdown to ICANN53! Follow us at @ICANN\_es to get them all.