The IANA Transition:

What it means to ICANN and At-Large

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ICANN

Overview

- What is IANA and the transition?

- Why is the transition important to ICANN?

- Why is the transition important to At-Large?

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IANA

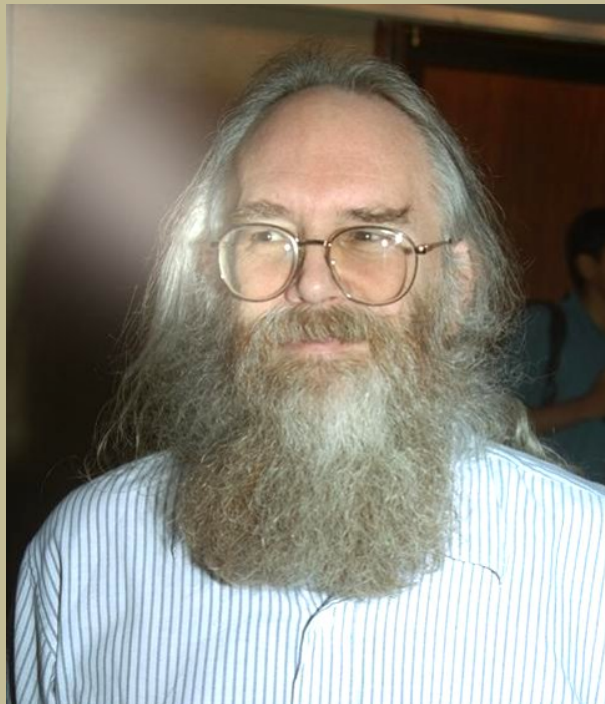**Internet Assigned Numbers Authority**

- Handles publication (and associated tasks)
  - Internet Root Zone - ICANN
  - Internet Parameters - Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- Distribution of IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers (through regional registries)
- Other
  - Time Zone Database
  - .INT Top Level Domain

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IANA

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

- Originally, a person!

Jon Postel

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IANA

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

- Originally, a person!

Jon Postel

Jon died
in 1998

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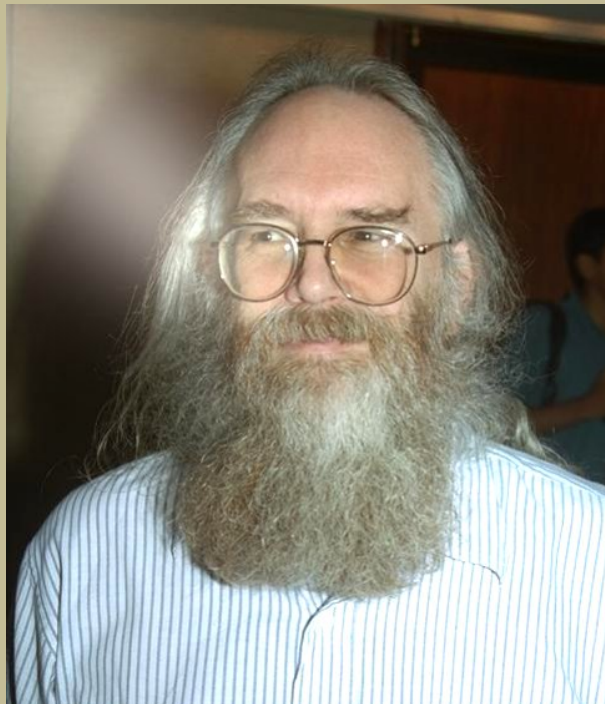
For whom?

- Funded by the US Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) through the University of Southern California Information Sciences Institute (USC ISI)

- In 1998, transferred to the US Department of Commerce – National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

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ICANN and IANA

- Memorandum of Understanding
  - 7 versions starting in 1998, the last being the "Joint Project Agreement" (JPA)
    - Transition from a largely US educational and research project to a commercial and international resource

- Affirmation of Commitments (2009)

- 2014 Announcement to consider relinquishing control over IANA and by implication, ICANN
  - "The Transition"

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Why is Transition Important to ICANN

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What this means to ICANN

- The US is no longer "in control"
  - How was "control" exercised?
    - Largely benign
    - Agreements with
      - ICANN
      - Verisign
    - In depth oversight of IANA by NTIA
      - Approving root zone changes
      - Details control over all aspects of IANA

- International Implications
  - Concept of Internet Governance
  - ITU

- Has significant repercussions in ICANN's Accountability

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Why is Transition Important to At-Large

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What this means to At-Large and Users

- IANA is essentially Infrastructure
- Infrastructure, when it is working well, is effectively invisible
  - For example, Sewers

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What this means to At-Large and Users

- IANA is essentially Infrastructure
- Infrastructure, when it is working well, is effectively invisible
  - For example, Sewers
- If transition is done properly, it will be invisible to users.
  - US oversight made prudent, perhaps overly safe judgements, and no political judgements
  - Not expected to change.

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So why did we care?

- ALAC and many individuals in At-Large put an ENORMOUS effort into the transition.

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So why did we care?

- ALAC and many individuals in At-Large put an ENORMOUS effort into the transition.

If transition is done properly, it will be invisible to users.

- We had a strong interest in making sure it was done properly.

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The Essence of Multistakeholderism

- Stakeholders come from all parts of the Internet community
- They have different perspectives
- Many are passionate about beliefs
- Some have long memories and "axes to grind"
- Some have territory to defend
- Many have large financial investments involved and therefore a strong interest in certain outcomes
- Some wanted to see ICANN out of the picture

Finding common ground and agreement is not easy!

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ICANN
AT-LARGE

At-Large

- We had no aim other than a clean success
- The US may have done a good job, but with our large international perspective, getting them out of the picture was REALLY important.
- Keeping ICANN in the picture essential
  - ICANN gives users a voice
  - FAR less likely with other potential organizations

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ICANN
AT-LARGE

CCWG-Accountability

- Cross-Community Working Group of ICANN stakeholders, but includes many Participants external to ICANN

- Charged with ensuring that ICANN is accountable to the community (without fully defining accountability or community).

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The Problem

- Can be described in many ways, but much of it comes down to "Lack of Trust"

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Before Appointment to ICANN Board

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After Appointment to ICANN Board

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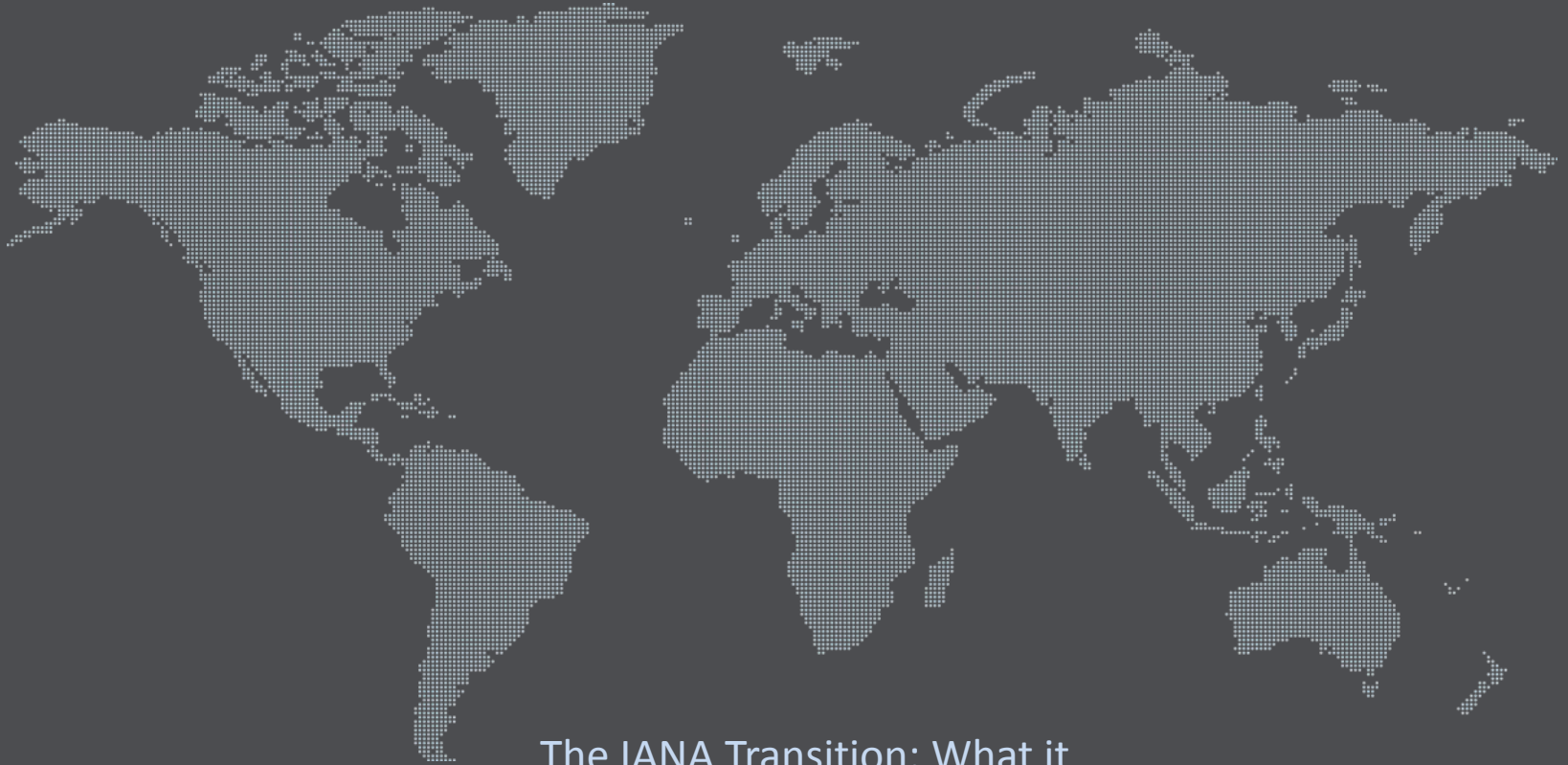means to ICANN and At-Large

The Issues

(A very personal Perspective)

- Board not trusted
  - Despite being selected BY the ICANN community, once selected, they can no longer be trusted.

- Perceived as being more concerned with corporation than stakeholders

- Some merit to concerns
  - Lack of impact of ALAC over the years
  - Historical Contractual Compliance issues

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ALAC Solution

- Address perception of lack of community control

- Ensure that community DOES have leverage to keep everyone honest

- Keep things humming...

- Keep control from vested interests – preserve the public interest and needs of users.
  - That needs a strong and credible ICANN!

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QUESTIONS

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