The IANA Transition:
What it means to ICANN and At-Large

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Overview

• What is IANA and the transition?
• Why is the transition important to ICANN?
• Why is the transition important to At-Large?
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
IANA

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

• Originally, a person!

Jon Postel
IANA

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

• Originally, a person!

Jon Postel

Jon died in 1998
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)
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”
Why is Transition Important to ICANN
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
Why is Transition Important to At-Large
What this means to At-Large and Users

• IANA is essentially Infrastructure
• Infrastructure, when it is working well, is effectively invisible
  – For example, Sewers
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.
So why did we care?

• ALAC and many individuals in At-Large put an ENORMOUS effort into the transition.
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.
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!
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
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).
The Problem

• Can be described in many ways, but much of it comes down to “Lack of Trust”
After Appointment to ICANN Board
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
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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