Introduction to ICANN

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What is ICANN?
The Beginning…

• The Internet started as a research project to allow computers in universities and research institutions to connect and share resources (ARPANET)

• As the network continued to grow, the need for a distributed naming system became apparent => the Domain Name System (DNS)
Unique Names and Numbers

Anything connected to the Internet – including computers, mobile phones and other devices – has a unique number called its IP address. IP stands for Internet Protocol.

This address is like a postal address. It allows messages, videos and other packets of data to be sent from anywhere on the Internet to the device that has been uniquely identified by its IP address.

IP addresses can be difficult to remember, so instead of numbers, the Internet’s domain name system uses letters, numbers and hyphens, to form a name that is easier to remember.
ICANN’s Mission

The mission of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is to ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet’s unique identifier systems.

Specifically, ICANN:

1. Coordinates the allocation and assignment of names in the root zone of the Domain Name System.

2. Coordinates the development and implementation of policies concerning the registration of second-level domain names in generic top-level domains (gTLDs).

3. Facilitates the coordination of the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system.

4. Coordinates the allocation and assignment at the top-most level of Internet Protocol numbers and Autonomous System numbers.

5. Collaborates with other bodies as appropriate to provide registries needed for the functioning of the Internet as specified by Internet protocol standards development organizations.
Overview

Coordinating with our partners, we help make the Internet work.
Our Partners

We all work together in different ways to help make the Internet work.
ICANN Ecosystem
The ICANN Community

A volunteer-based, open collection of global stakeholders, including: businesses, Internet engineers, technical experts, civil society, governments, end users and many others.

Works together through a bottom-up process to give advice, make policy recommendations, conducts reviews and proposes implementation solutions for common problems within ICANN’s mission and scope.

There are three supporting organizations in the ICANN community, representing: IP addresses, generic top-level domains (gTLDs), and country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). They develop policy recommendations in their respective areas. There are four advisory committees that give advice and recommendations. These are comprised of representatives of governments and international treaty organizations; representatives of root server operators; Internet security experts and Internet end users.
How Does the Community Develop Policy?

1. Identify and scope the issue
   - Identify issue
   - Issue report
   - Initiate policy development process

2. Develop policy
   - Call for volunteers to develop policy

3. Draft policy
   - Submit final report to Board
   - Public comments by Community

4. Voting or review
   - POLICY RECS
   - Final policy

5. Board votes
   - Implementation

Supporting organizations: identify, initiate, and create policy
- Address Supporting Organization
- Country Code Names Supporting Organization
- Generic Names Supporting Organization

Advisory Committees can participate during the process
- At-Large Advisory Committee
- Security and Stability Advisory Committee
- Root Server System Advisory Committee
- Government Advisory Committee
Members are representatives from the Community, selected by their peers. The Board is composed of 16 members and four non-voting liaisons, from different geographies and with expertise relevant to ICANN’s mission.

Provides strategic oversight for the ICANN organization, ensuring the organization acts within its mission and operates effectively, efficiently and ethically, and considers community-developed policy recommendations.

In accordance with the Bylaws, the ICANN Board approves Community policy. The Board directs the ICANN organization to implement. Board members act in what they believe to be the best interests of the global community. The Board acts by resolution, with information about decisions being provided openly and transparently.
What is the ICANN Board and What Does It Do?

The ICANN Board is a group of representatives from the ICANN community. The Board provides the ICANN organization's strategic oversight, ensuring that it acts within its mission and operates effectively, efficiently, and ethically. The Board also oversees and considers community-developed policy recommendations.
Members are representatives from the community, selected in a bottom-up approach by their peers. The Board is composed of 16 directors and 4 non-voting liaisons, from different geographies and with expertise relevant to ICANN's mission.

**SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION (SO) APPOINTEES:**
Each of the three SOs nominates two directors:
- The Address Supporting Organization (ASO)
- The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
- The Generic Names Supporting Organizations (GNSO)

**INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE (IETF) APPOINTEE:**
The IETF nominates one non-voting liaison.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTEES:**
The Nominating Committee appoints eight seats.

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC) APPOINTEES:**
Each of the four ACs nominates one member, although only the ALAC director can vote:
- The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)
- The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
- The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)
- The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

**ICANN PRESIDENT AND CEO**
Learn More ➔
go.icann.org/board

**VOTING MEMBERS**
Learn More ➔
go.icann.org/boardbylaw
What Does the ICANN Nominating Committee Do?

The Nominating Committee (NomCom) is responsible for appointing a number of seats to the ICANN Board of Directors, the At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the Councils of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), and the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO). The NomCom acts on behalf of the interests of the global Internet community and within the scope of ICANN’s mission and the responsibilities in the Bylaws.
A global organization, led by the CEO with staff members in 40 countries, the ICANN organization focuses staff & resources on: policy development support, event management, registrars & registries support, Community support, contract compliance, IANA functions, outreach and capacity building, external services for the broader community (L-Root, WHOIS, etc.), & internal staff services.

The ICANN organization implements the Community's recommendations at the direction of the Board, under the supervision of the CEO, within ICANN's mission and scope.

The ICANN organization is committed to accountable, transparent, inclusive and open operations and engagement, in cooperation with its partners.
ICANN’s Global Presence

Call one of our regional offices or submit a question online

Regional Offices:
Los Angeles, U.S.A (Headquarters)
Brussels, Belgium
Istanbul, Turkey
Montevideo, Uruguay
Singapore

Engagement Centers:
Beijing, China
Geneva, Switzerland
Nairobi, Kenya
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

Partnership Centers:
Asunción, Paraguay
Cairo, Egypt
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Contact us: www.icann.org/contact
Domain Name System
The domain name system provides addressing for the Internet so people can find websites, send email, and other tasks. The ICANN organization also supports the stability of the DNS through its work, and also its contracts and accreditations.

Policy Development
The ICANN organization supports inclusive, open and transparent multi-stakeholder bottom-up consensus based policy development mechanisms.

L-Root
The ICANN organization hosts and supports one of the 13 L-Root infrastructures. At over 161 locations worldwide, L-Root is critical to infrastructure that helps reduce latency and improves performance of the DNS.

Support and Grow the Community
The ICANN organization engages, nurtures and supports interested stakeholders for active and meaningful participation in ICANN. ICANN connects with stakeholders through outreach and engagement, and meeting & event support.

Generic Top-Level Domains
The ICANN organization manages the domain name system’s top-level domains. ICANN helps promotes competition and choice in the gTLD marketplace.

Country Code Top-Level Domains
The ICANN organization delegates top-level domains identified with a country code. Management is done by national ccTLD operators.

Protocol Parameters
The ICANN organization, in coordination with the Internet Engineering Task Force, manages protocol parameters by maintaining many of the codes and numbers used in Internet protocols.

Internet Protocol Addresses
By serving as the central repository for IP addresses, the ICANN organization helps coordinate how IP addresses are supplied – preventing repetition and conflicts

Root Zone Management
The ICANN organization helps manage the root zone through the IANA functions, which involves assigning the operators of top-level domains, such as bank and .com, and maintaining the technical and administrative details.
How Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses are Distributed

- **IANA functions**
  - Distributes IP address to Regional Internet Registries

- **Regional Internet Registries**
  - ARIN
  - LACNIC
  - AFRINIC
  - RIPE NCC
  - APNIC
  - Distributes IP address to ISP providers in your region

- **Internet Service Providers**
  - Distributes IP address by providing connectivity to homes and businesses

- **Homes and Businesses**

- **End users connect their personal and professional devices to the Internet**

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End users connect their personal and professional devices to the Internet.
The IANA functions evolved in support of the Internet Engineering Task Force, and initially funded via research projects supported by the U. S. Department of Defense, Advance Research Projects Agency.

What are the IANA functions?

These functions include:
- The coordination of the assignment of technical Internet protocol parameters
- The administration of certain responsibilities associated with Internet DNS Root zone management
- The allocation of Internet IP addresses

ICANN was created to perform the IANA functions and has did so pursuant to a no-cost contract with the Department of Commerce for over 15 years.
ICANN’s Multistakeholder Model
ICANN follows a bottom-up, multistakeholder model in which individuals, non-commercial stakeholder groups, industry, and governments play important roles in its community-based, consensus-driven, policymaking approach.

Learn More ➤ https://www.icann.org/community
The ICANN Multistakeholder Community

MAKING POLICY:
Three Supporting Organizations (SOs) in the ICANN community are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent: IP addresses; generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs); and country code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs).

PROVIDING ADVICE:
Four Advisory Committees (ACs) give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics. The ACs are made up of representatives from: governments and international treaty organizations; root server operators; Internet security experts; and Internet end users.
Exploring ICANN’s Multistakeholder Community

Supporting Organizations (SOs)
Three SOs in the ICANN community are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent.

- Address Supporting Organization (ASO)
- Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
- Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

Advisory Committees (ACs)
Four ACs give advice and make recommendations on ICANN topics.

- At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)
- Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
- Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)
- Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)
Supporting Organizations (SOs)

**ASO**
The ASO Address Council is composed of 15 volunteers—3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)—who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.

**ccNSO**
The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).

**GNSO**
The GNSO Council is composed of 21 members—divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties)—who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

Three SOs in the ICANN community are responsible for developing policy recommendations in the areas they represent.

- Address Supporting Organization (ASO)
- Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)
- Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)
Advisory Committees (ACs)

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

The ALAC voices the interests of the individual Internet user and is composed of 15 members - 2 from each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and 5 appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee. It is supported by over 200 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and volunteers.

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

The GAC provides advice on public policy issues, particularly on interactions with policies and national laws or international agreements.

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

The RSSAC advises the ICANN community and Board on the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.

Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

The SSAC advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.
The ASO Address Council is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) — who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.

- **African Network Information Center (AFRINIC)** the RIR for Africa
- **American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)** the RIR for Canada, parts of the Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the U.S.
- **Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)** the RIR for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia
- **Asia-Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)** the RIR for Asia and Pacific Region
- **Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre (LACNIC)** the RIR for Latin America and parts of the Caribbean

[Learn More](https://aso.icann.org)
Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

**ccNSO**
The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).

The ccNSO provides a forum for country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers to meet and discuss topical issues of concern to ccTLDs from a global perspective.

[Learn More](https://ccnso.icann.org)
Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

GNSO
The GNSO Council is composed of 21 members — divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) — who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).

Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) - divided into three constituencies

Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG)

Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG)

Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) - supported by two constituency groups

Business Constituency (BC) for commercial business interests

Intellectual Property Constituency (IPC) for IP interests

Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP) for ISP interests

Non-Commercial Users Constituency (NCUC) for civil society interests

Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC) for not-for-profit interests

gTLD registry operators

Domain name registrars
The ALAC voices the interests of the individual Internet user and is composed of 15 members—2 from each of the five Regional At-Large Organizations (RALOs) and 5 appointed by the ICANN Nominating Committee. It is supported by over 200 At-Large Structures (ALSes) and volunteers.

**Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO)**

**Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO)**

**African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO)**

**European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO)**

**North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO)**

[Learn More](https://atlarge.icann.org)
Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

GAC
The GAC provides advice on public policy issues, particularly on interactions with policies and national laws or international agreements.

- Representatives from National Governments
- Representatives from Distinct Economies recognized in International Fora
- Representatives from Multinational Governmental and Treaty Organizations (usually in observer capacity)
- Representatives from Public Authorities (usually in observer capacity)

Learn More
https://gacweb.icann.org
The RSSAC advises the ICANN community and Board on the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System.

The RSSAC consists of representatives of the organizations responsible for operating the world's 13 root name servers as voting members.

https://www.icann.org/groups/rssac
The SSAC advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet’s naming and address allocation systems. The SSAC consists of technical expert individuals appointed by the ICANN Board.

Learn More at: https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac
Multistakeholder Policy Development
Multistakeholder Policy Development

Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO)

GNSO Council is composed of 21 members — divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) — who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).

GNSO Policy Development Process

1. IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
   - GNSO Council, ICANN Board or an AC identifies issue.
   - GNSO Council considers if issue will result in consensus policy.

2. SCOPE THE ISSUE

3. INITIATE THE POP
   - WG consults with Community and develops Initial Report for Public Comment Period.
   - After reviews, WG submits Final Report to GNSO Council.

4. FORM A WORKING GROUP
   - GNSO Council reviews Final Report and considers adoption.
   - If adopted, GNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.

5. DELIBERATE THE FINAL REPORT
   - ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.

6. VOTE BY ICANN BOARD

Learn more about the GNSO gnso.icann.org

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .ca, .uk).

ccNSO Policy Development Process

1. REQUEST AN ISSUE REPORT
   - Issue manager determines if Issue is within the scope of ccNSO.
   - ICANN Bylaws define and limit the scope of issues.

2. SCOPE THE ISSUE
   - If Issue is in scope and ccNSO Council approves Issue Report, PDP begins.
   - ccNSO Council gives Public Notice and opens Public Comment Period.

3. INITIATE THE POP
   - ccNSO Council appoints WG to develop the policy.
   - ccNSO Council requests GAC approval.

4. DEVELOP POLICY
   - ccNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.
   - ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations. If national laws remain paramount.

Learn more about the ccNSO ccnso.icann.org

Address Supporting Organization (ASO)

ASO Address Council (AC) is composed of 15 volunteers — 3 from each of the 5 Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) — who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.

ASO Global Policy Development Process

1. IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
   - Any individual may submit global policy proposal to ASO AC or RIR.
   - RIR PDP generates global policy proposal.
   - ICANN Board may also request global policy proposal.

2. DETERMINE REQUIREMENTS
   - Five RIRs review global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs must approve identical global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs adopt approved global policy proposal to ASO AC for review.

3. REVIEW BY RIRS AND ASO AC
   - ASO AC submits ratified global policy proposal to ICANN Board. ICANN Board may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.

4. REVIEW BY ICANN BOARD
   - ASO AC submits ratified global policy proposal to ICANN Board. ICANN Board may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.

Learn more about the ASO aso.icann.org

GAC Governmental Advisory Committee | PDP Policy Development Process | SO/AC Supporting Organizations/Advisory Committees | WG Working Group
GNSO Council is composed of 21 members – divided into 2 houses (contracted and non-contracted parties) – who work on generic top-level domain name (gTLD) policies (e.g., .com, new gTLDs).
GNSO Policy Development Process

1. IDENTIFY THE ISSUE
   - GNSO Council, ICANN Board or an AC identifies issue.
   - GNSO Council considers if issue will result in consensus policy.
   - If yes, GNSO Council requests Preliminary Issue Report.
   - Staff publishes Preliminary Issue Report for Public Comment Period.
   - Following Public Comment review, Final Issue Report is submitted for GNSO Council consideration.

2. SCOPE THE ISSUE
   - GNSO Council considers Final Issue Report and decides whether to initiate PDP.
   - If yes, GNSO Council develops/adopts charter for PDP WG.
   - GNSO Council calls for volunteers to form PDP WG.

3. INITIATE THE PDP
GNSO Policy Development Process

1. WG consults with Community and develops Initial Report for Public Comment Period.
2. After reviews, WG submits Final Report to GNSO Council.
3. GNSO Council reviews Final Report and considers adoption.
4. If adopted, GNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.
5. ICANN Board consults Community and GAC.
6. ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations.

Learn more >

gnso.icann.org

ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization
The ccNSO (Council and members) works on global policies relating to country code top-level domain name (ccTLD) policies (e.g., .br, .uk).
ccNSO Policy Development Process

1. REQUEST AN ISSUE REPORT
   - ccNSO Council, ICANN Board, Regional ccTLD organizations, SO/AC or at least 10 members of ccNSO may request Issue Report.
   - ccNSO Council appoints issue manager.

2. SCOPE THE ISSUE
   - Issue manager determines if issue is within the scope of ccNSO.
   - ICANN Bylaws define and limit the scope of issues.

3. INITIATE THE PDP
   - If issue is in scope and ccNSO Council approves Issue Report, PDP begins.
   - ccNSO Council gives Public Notice and opens Public Comment Period.
ccNSO Policy Development Process

Stage 1. ccNSO Council deliberates Final Report and if adopted, makes recommendation to its members.

Stage 2. If members approve, ccNSO Council submits Final Report to ICANN Board.

- ccNSO Council appoints WG to develop the policy. WG issues Initial Report.
- WG opens Public Comment Period. WG produces Final Report.
- ccNSO Council requests GAC input.

VOTE BY ccNSO (TWO STAGES)

- ICANN Board votes on Final Report recommendations, but national laws remain paramount.

VOTE BY ICANN BOARD

DEVELOP POLICY

Learn more  ccnso.icann.org
ASO Address Council (AC) is composed of 15 volunteers – 3 from each of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)* – who work on global Internet Protocol (IP) Address Policy.
ASO Policy Development Process

1. **Identify the Issue**
   - Any individual may submit global policy proposal to ASO AC or RIR.
   - RIR PDP generates global policy proposal.
   - ICANN Board may also request global policy proposal.

2. **Determine Requirements**
   - ASO AC appoints Policy Proposal Facilitator Team (PPFT).
   - ASO AC or PPFT determine if global policy proposal requires specific IANA functions actions or outcomes.
   - ASO AC oversees global PDP.

3. **Review by Rirs and ASO AC**
   - Five RIRs review global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs must approve identical global policy proposal.
   - Five RIRs submit approved global policy proposal to ASO AC for review.
ASO Policy Development Process

- ASO AC submits ratified global policy proposal to ICANN Board.
- ICANN Board may accept, reject, request changes or take no action.

*Regional Internet Registries (RIRs)*
- AFRINIC: Africa
- APNIC: Asia and Pacific region
- ARIN: Canada, parts of the Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the U.S.
- LACNIC: Latin America and parts of the Caribbean
- RIPE: Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia

Learn more [ccnso.icann.org](http://ccnso.icann.org)

ICANN | ASO
Address Supporting Organization
Get Involved and Informed
Get Involved and Informed

- **Attend an ICANN Public Meeting.** Three times a year, ICANN holds free and open public meetings in different regions around the world. Visit [meetings.icann.org](http://meetings.icann.org) to learn more.

- **Visit go.icann.org/journey** to learn how you can attend an ICANN Public Meeting as part of the NextGen@ICANN or ICANN Fellowship programs.

- **Take a free online course** at [learn.icann.org](http://learn.icann.org).

- **Attend events in your region.**

- **Find and participate in an ICANN community group by visiting icann.org/community.**

- **Sign up for ICANN news alerts and regional newsletters.**
Programs Available

**Fellowship**
Global Capacity Building Program to support ICANN's Multistakeholder community; online application process 3x year around an ICANN Meeting (1 Mtg for Alumni only)

**NextGen**
Regionally based Program to create awareness and promote future discussions within universities and other regional forums; online application process 3x a year around an ICANN Meeting

**Newcomer**
Those just entering the ICANN community can self-educate using the Newcomer webpage or participate in person or remotely at the ICANN Meeting Newcomer Sunday

Watch Fellowship and NextGen video: 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrV_ZkDEfI0

Watch Newcomer video: 
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=da1RQt9-e-g
ICANN Learn presents education and training, across a wide variety of topics that pertain to ICANN, to better educate stakeholders in the ICANN ecosystem.

It is an online platform that is free to access and free to create course content to share with fellow ICANN community members.

ICANN Learn is currently available in the six UN languages.
Three times a year, ICANN holds free and open public meetings in different regions around the world.

ICANN Public Meetings provide the opportunity for an internationally diverse group of individuals and organizations to come together to discuss and develop policies for the Internet’s naming systems.

ICANN’s international meetings have been a staple of ICANN’s multistakeholder bottom-up consensus-building model since its formation in 1998.

Since 2006:
- 297% increase in attendance
- 218% increase in scheduled sessions
Upcoming Meetings

ICANN ANNUAL GENERAL
ABU DHABI
28 October–3 November 2017

ICANN COMMUNITY FORUM
SAN JUAN
10–15 March 2018

To find out how to participate, go to:
https://meetings.icann.org/en/about

For a schedule of past and upcoming meetings, go to:
http://meetings.icann.org/calendar

If you belong to an organization that is interested in having an exhibit at a meeting or in sponsoring a meeting, please contact:
meeting-sponsorship@icann.org
Engage with ICANN – Thank You and Questions

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