

ICANN and You

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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:

-  Coordinates the allocation and assignment of names in the root zone of the Domain Name System
-  Coordinates the development and implementation of policies concerning the registration of second-level domain names in generic top-level domains (gTLDs)
-  Facilitates the coordination of the operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system
-  Coordinates the allocation and assignment at the top-most level of Internet Protocol numbers and Autonomous System numbers
-  Collaborates with other bodies as appropriate to provide registries needed for the functioning of the Internet as specified by Internet protocol standards development organizations

The ICANN Community

ICANN Ecosystem



The ICANN Multistakeholder Community

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 Community



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).

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)

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)



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.



GAC

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



RSSAC

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



SSAC

The SSAC advises on matters related to the security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems.

What Does ICANN Mean for the End User?



The Domain Name System allows you to easily navigate the Internet. ICANN monitors for compliance with contracts, including review of complaints.



Policy Development is an inclusive, open and transparent process for the Community to create effective rules for the Internet



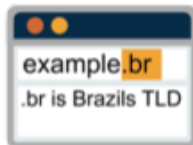
L-Root is one of the root servers that helps keeps the DNS stable around the globe



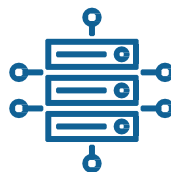
Supporting and Growing the Community ensures diverse participants contribute to bottom-up, multistakeholder, consensus-driven policy



Generic Top-Level Domains provide choice in the domain name space.



Country Code Top-Level Domains allow countries to host their own websites



Protocol Parameters allow computers to talk to each other



Internet Protocol Addresses are the numbers that identify devices



Root Zone Management keeps the DNS running smoothly

IANA functions





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