GNSO Review 2014 Home

ⓘ The Public Comment: Draft Report: Review of the Generic Names Supporting Organization closed on 31 July 2015. For information on the Draft Report, watch a short YouTube video and read a short Report Summary on any or all of the 36 recommendations. The Final Report was published on 15 September 2015 (along with a correction).

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN") engaged Westlake Governance Limited to conduct an independent review of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), as mandated by ICANN's Bylaws.
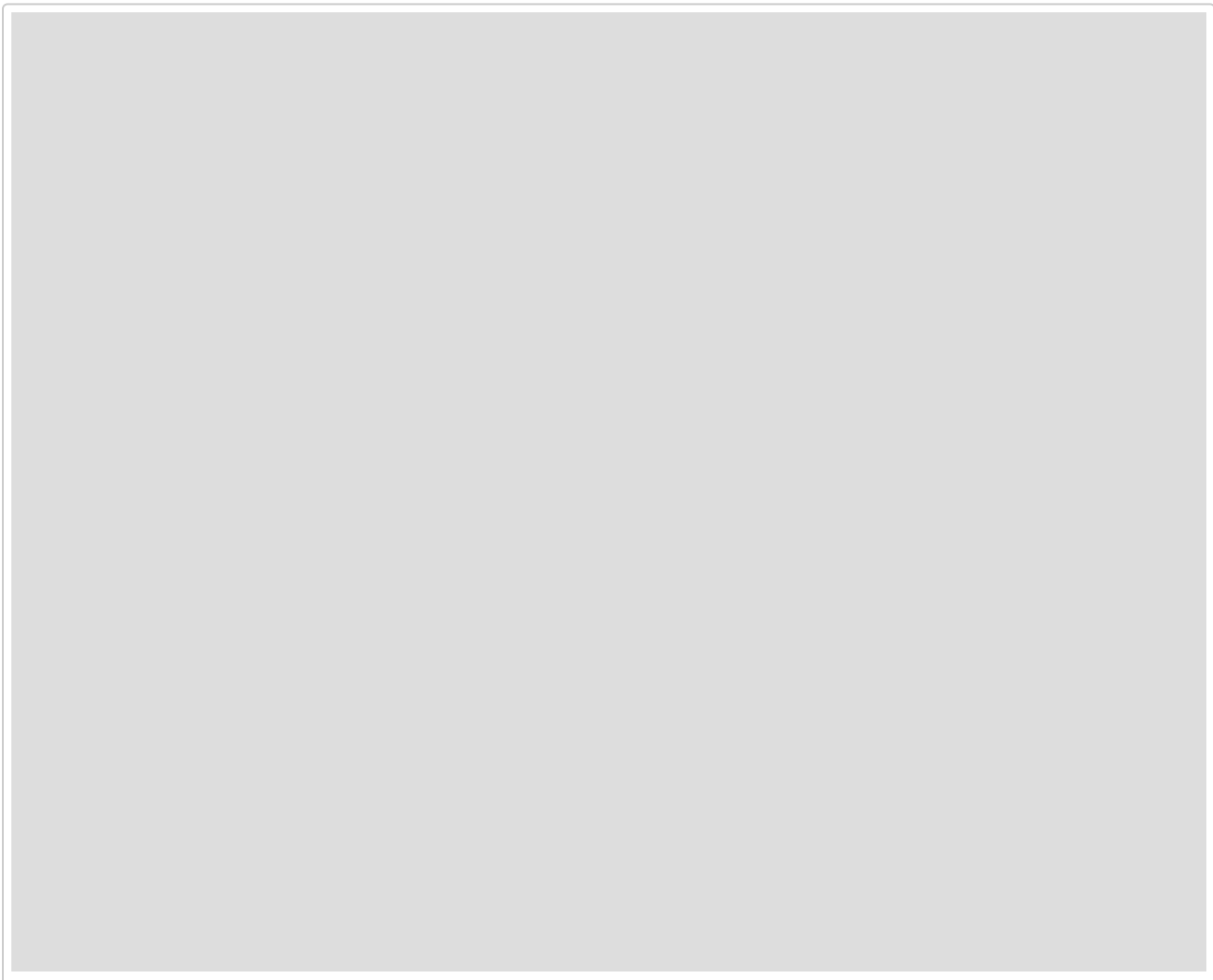
As part of ICANN's ongoing commitment to its evolution and improvement, Section 4.4(a) of ICANN's Bylaws contains provisions for *"periodic review of the performance and operation of each Supporting Organization, each Supporting Organization Council, each Advisory Committee (other than the Governmental Advisory Committee), and the Nominating Committee."*

These periodic reviews present ICANN structures with opportunities for continuous improvement through consistent application of compliance review principles to objectively measure performance relative to specific and quantifiable criteria developed by ICANN based on the unique nature of its structures. The resulting implementation of improvements and the systematic means of measuring performance and validating effectiveness of implementation are of utmost importance to the ongoing legitimacy of ICANN.

The GNSO is the policy-making body responsible for generic Top-Level Domains, such as .COM, .NET, and .ORG. Its members include representatives from generic Top Level Domains (gTLD) registries, gTLD registrars, intellectual property interest, Internet service providers, businesses and non-commercial interests. The GNSO strives to keep gTLDs operating in a fair, orderly fashion across one global Internet, while promoting innovation and competition.

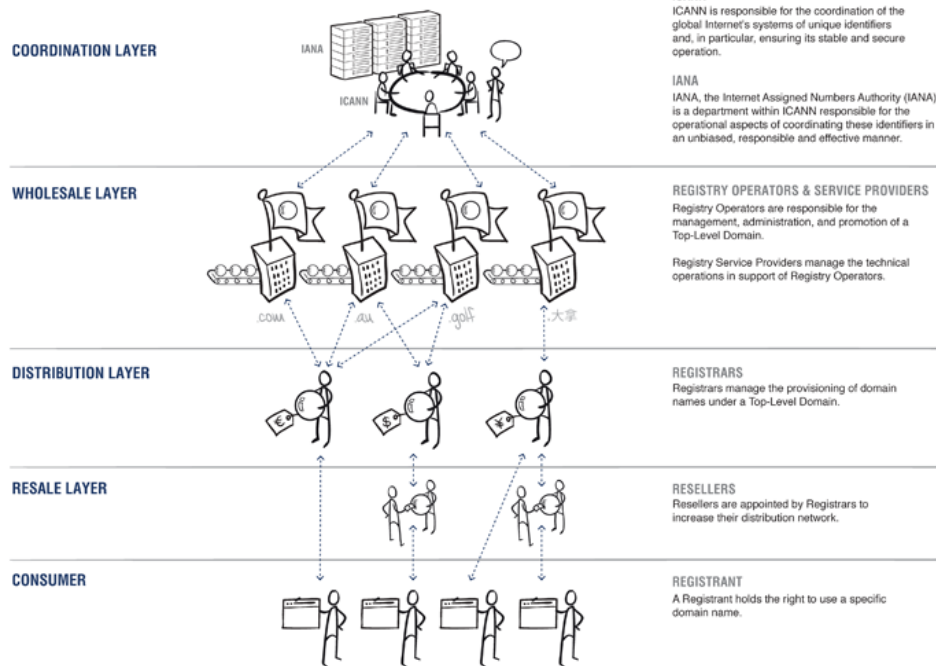For additional information on the GNSO Review, see the revised Timeline and Key Links below.

GNSO Review Timeline:

Key Links

THE DOMAIN NAME INDUSTRY
VALUE CHAIN

COORDINATION LAYER

IANA

ICANN

ICANN
ICANN is responsible for the coordination of the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers and, in particular, ensuring its stable and secure operation.

IANA
IANA, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) is a department within ICANN responsible for the operational aspects of coordinating these identifiers in an unbiased, responsible and effective manner.

WHOLESALE LAYER

.COM .au .gqIt 大字

REGISTRY OPERATORS & SERVICE PROVIDERS
Registry Operators are responsible for the management, administration, and promotion of a Top-Level Domain.

Registry Service Providers manage the technical operations in support of Registry Operators.

DISTRIBUTION LAYER

REGISTRARS
Registrars manage the provisioning of domain names under a Top-Level Domain.

RESALE LAYER

RESELLERS
Resellers are appointed by Registrars to increase their distribution network.

CONSUMER

REGISTRANT
A Registrant holds the right to use a specific domain name.

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This graphic is a living document, designed to provide a high level view of the relationship between the different parties of the Domain Name Industry. It is for illustrative purposes only and is not intended to be a definitive guide. Some of the names of the documents may vary. Please provide feedback at www.xplanations.com/domainnameindustry

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Charla K. Shambley

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