

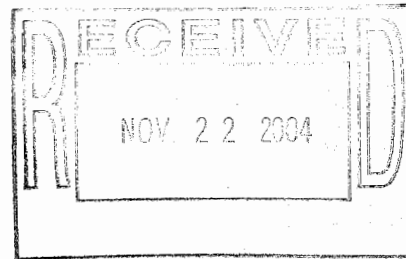


TechNet

2600 East Bayshore Road • Palo Alto, California 94303 • Telephone: 650.213.1160 • Facsimile: 650.213.9059 • e-mail: info@technet.org

November 17, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
U.S. Secretary of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230



Dear Secretary Evans,

As President and CEO of TechNet, the bipartisan political network of CEOs that promotes the growth of the innovation economy, I write to you to weigh in on the upcoming process by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for re-bidding of the .net registry contract.

I know you are deeply committed to ensuring the stability, security and continuity of Internet service. Disruptions due to a future unavailability of the .net domain would have unfortunate and likely very serious negative consequences for the entire Internet as .net is more than just a simple domain; this system also helps facilitate traffic and email to other domains including .com.

Without a doubt, the administrator of the .net domain must be able to demonstrate financial stability, strong management history and the technical expertise to manage such a vital system. Many of us in the technology industry believe that if any future .net registry operator is less dependable than the current operator, VeriSign, it could have serious negative consequences on the future of ecommerce and economic growth.

VeriSign has a strong track record in operating the .net infrastructure. They have helped keep the Internet infrastructure stable and secure with tremendous reliability and availability for seven years and I do not see a benefit in transferring this responsibility to another operator that could risk performance of the system during a transition.

Many ISPs, financial institutions, technology companies and individuals rely on the consistent, smooth and secure operation of .net. The fact is that billions of dollars in Internet transactions are facilitated due to this architecture and .net's reliability. I am pleased to endorse VeriSign's performance to date and hope that the company continues to operate the .net registry.

Sincerely,

Rick White
President and CEO, TechNet

Cc: Dr. Paul Twomey, President and Chief Executive Officer, ICANN Corporation
Michael Gallagher, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce