



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

14 March 2017

Mr. Tony Holmes
Chairman ISPCP Constituency

Dear Mr. Holmes

In response to the letter dated 1 February 2017 from the ICANN Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Provider Constituency (ISPCP) to ICANN's Board,

We thank the Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Provider Constituency (ISPCP) for expressing interest in clarifying the situation regarding emerging Identifier Technologies, and in particular the identifier technologies based on the Digital Object Architecture (DOA).

As the ISPCP may be aware, ICANN's Office of the CTO is looking at various identifier technologies through a number of research initiatives. The output of those research initiatives will be published in order to help the community understand how those identifier technologies work, who the actors involved in those technologies are, and identify any potential links with the systems ICANN helps coordinate. From what Office of the CTO staff have been able to learn to date about DOA, it appears to be a not-fully open set of technologies developed and promoted by the Corporation for National Research Initiative (CNRI), the DONA Foundation, and others aimed at providing uniform and interoperable access to heterogeneous information systems, resources or other entities. ICANN's Office of the CTO continues to explore the technology and intends to provide briefings and other materials to the community to help inform future discussions.

Ultimately, success or failure of any technology will depend on whether industry and users embrace it over time. One concern that we have heard from individuals who are following topics related to DOA is that DOA technologies are being presented in certain circles as a replacement or the future of the DNS. We believe improving awareness about both what the DNS really is and how it works as well as what DOA is and how it works will help community understand the applicability of DOA relative to the DNS. In order to help raise awareness on the topic of DOA, there was a session organized at ICANN 58 in Copenhagen by Office of the CTO staff on "Emerging Identifiers Technology", which included a discussion on DOA. We hope the community found this session useful and enlightening and attendees had the opportunity to interact with individuals involved the drivers behind DOA (and other emerging) technologies.



We certainly understand concerns related to ensuring clarity with respect to what DOA is and does, particularly in relation to Internet identifier technologies. We would, however, like to reassure the community that we will take all appropriate measures to keep an eye on the evolution of DOA and other technologies and we will be ready to inform the community in the event we anticipate or detect any potential risk it may pose to the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet's system of unique Identifiers that we help coordinate. We look forward to working with the ISPCP and other stakeholders in both identifying potential threat as well as defining/refining ICANN position on such risks.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Göran Marby", is positioned above the typed name.

Göran Marby
President & CEO, ICANN