Intro to ICANN

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London
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Context: Recent Statistics

- 8.5m Level 2 Domains in .com, .net, .org (NSI Jan 00)
- 75 Million Hosts (Est. Jan 2000)
- 212/246 countries + territories with IP (NW June 1999)
- 201 Million Users (NUA Nov 1999)
- (950 Million Telephone Terminations)
Users on the Internet - Nov 1999

CAN/US - 112.4M
Europe - 47.15M
Asia/Pac - 33.61M
Latin Am - 5.29M
Africa - 1.72M
Mid-east - 0.88 M

Total - 201.05M
Internet Transactions ($Billions)

- Goods and services traded between companies:
  - $8 billion in 1999
  - $327 billion in 2002

Source: Forrester Research
ICANN: The Basic Idea

**ICANN =**

An Experiment in
Technical Self-Management
by the global Internet community

(An experiment that must succeed!)
ICANN: The Basic Bargain

**ICANN =**

*Internationalization of Policy Functions for DNS and IP Addressing systems*

+ *Private Sector (non-governmental) Management*
What does ICANN do?

Coordinates policies relating to the unique assignment of:

- Internet domain names
- Numerical IP Address
- Protocol Port and Parameter Numbers

Coordinates the DNS Root Server System
- through Root Server System Advisory Committee
What are domain names?

- Domain names are the familiar, easy to remember names for computers on the Internet
  - e.g., amazon.com, inta.org, ge.co.uk

- Domain names correlate to Internet Protocol numbers (IP numbers) (e.g., 98.37.241.130) that serve as routing addresses on the Internet

- The domain name system (DNS) translates domain names into IP numbers needed for routing information over the Internet
Categories of Internet Domains

- **Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs)**
  - com, .net, .org, .gov, .mil, .edu, .int
  - Carry no territorial identifier
  - .com, .net, .org open for registration by all persons and entities on a global basis
  - Proposals for many more gTLDs (.biz, .arts, etc.)

- **Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs)**
  - .uk, .fr, .us, .mx, .ca, .de, etc.
  - Registration requirements vary by domain (many require domicile within the territory or other connection with the territory)
  - Derived from ISO 3166-1 list
Status Quo Ante ICANN

Most Internet DNS and IP Address coordination functions performed by, or on behalf of, the US government

- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
  - Information Sciences Institute (ISI) of University of Southern California
  - Stanford Research Institute (SRI)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - IBM, MCI, and Merit
  - AT&T, General Atomics, Network Solutions, Inc.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Department of Energy
IANA

Jon Postel
1943-1998
Need for Change

- **Globalization** of Internet
- **Commercialization** of Internet
- Need for **accountability**
- Need for more **formalized management structure**
- Dissatisfaction with **lack of competition**
- Trademark/domain name **conflicts**
White Paper Principles

White Paper: new policy/management structure must promote 4 goals:

- Stability
- Competition
- Private, bottom-up coordination
- Representation
White Paper Implementation

- Internet community to form non-profit corporation meeting White Paper’s 4 criteria
- US Government (through Commerce Department) to transition centralized coordination functions
- Amendment of Network Solutions agreement to require competitive registrars in gTLD registries
- WIPO to recommend solutions for trademark/domain-name dilemma
Status of Transition from USG

✓ 25 November, 1998 - ICANN recognized in MoU
✓ June, 1999 - Cooperative agreement among ICANN, US Government, root server operators
✓ 10 November, 1999
  • ICANN and Network Solutions sign gTLD registry and registrar agreements
  • DoC transfers root authority over gTLDs to ICANN
✓ 9 February, 2000
  • Contract with US Government to complete transfer of IANA functions
Remaining Transition Items

• Year 2000:
  – ccTLD registry agreements
  – IP Address registry agreements
  – Root server operator agreements

• September 30, 2000 - Target date for ICANN to settle all registry + registrar + root server relationships
Structure of ICANN
At Large Membership

- Open to any individual with verifiable name, email address, physical address
- Free to join and to vote
- Members will directly elect 5 ICANN Directors by November 2000
- Election by Region
- Nominations committee + petition process
- 6-month study period to follow
- Membership Implementation Task Force
- JOIN! <http://members.icann.org>
Applications for Membership

- Africa
  - 257 (2.33%)
- Asia/Pacific
  - 937 (8.50%)
- Europe
  - 3395 (30.79%)
- LA/C
  - 227 (2.06%)
- North Am
  - 6209 (56.32%)
ICANN Staff

New Model: Lightweight, minimal staffing
(= minimal bureaucracy)

Current Staff:

- Interim President and CEO (Mike Roberts)
- Vice President/General Counsel (Louis Touton)
- CFO/Policy Director (Andrew McLaughlin)
- IANA staff (2.3 full-time)
So does ICANN make law?

• Or: Is ICANN a cyber-government for the Internet?

A: NO!

• ICANN has no inherent coercive power, only the ability to enter into contractual relationships through a process of consensus & consent

• ICANN is not a substitute for the powers of governments (i.e., courts and laws)
Does ICANN regulate/govern?

• No: ICANN coordinates.

• But: technical coordination of unique values sometimes requires touching non-technical policy areas:
  – Data privacy protection
    • (WHOIS database)
  – Intellectual property/trademark law
    • (UDRP)
  – Competition law
    • (Registrars)
Lessons from the Experiment?

- Private-sector self-regulation is possible
- Global consensus is difficult to define; even harder to achieve
  - Consensus can be achieved in the technical community from which ICANN was created, because you can test options
  - Consensus on policy questions is elusive, because you can’t rely on objective data
For Further Information:

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http://www.icann.org
UDRP Statistics

• Total cases (other than recommencements):
  
  405 (Involving a total of 600 names)

• Cases terminated and later recommenced:
  
  8  Recommended

(As of April 1, 2000)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pending cases</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>274</td>
<td>Pending decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Case suspended at complainant’s request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Suspended pending settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Suspension to allow agreed transfer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>279</td>
<td>Total cases</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dispositions by Decision

19 - Decision for respondent
1  - Decision for respondent: Taken off hold
4  - Name cancellation
94 - Name transfer
1  - Name transfer (heelquik.com); complaint dismissed (heelquik.org)

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Total: 119
Disposition by settlement, etc.

- 1 Case settled; name transferred
- 1 Complaint dismissed
- 1 Dismissed on joint motion
- 1 Settlement; complaint withdrawn
- 1 Terminated at complainant's request
- 1 Termination of complaint without prejudice
- 1 Withdrawn without prejudice

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Total: 7
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Total Commencements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DeC</td>
<td>38/413 ( 9.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NAF</td>
<td>189/413 ( 45.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIPO</td>
<td>186/413 ( 45.0%)</td>
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</tbody>
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