

To: Michael Palage

Date: 16 March 2017

Re: Request No. 20170214-1

---

Thank you for your Request for Information dated 14 February 2017 (Request), which was submitted through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) Documentary Information Disclosure Policy (DIDP). For reference, a copy of your Request is attached to the email transmitting this Response.

### **Items Requested**

Your Request seeks the disclosure of “all initiatives, documents and research by ICANN dealing with blockchain and distributed ledger technology [DLT] in connection with the [Domain Name System] DNS and other unique identifiers schemes/frameworks.”

### **Response**

ICANN’s DIDP is intended to “ensure that information contained in documents concerning ICANN's operational activities, and within ICANN's possession, custody, or control, is made available to the public unless there is a compelling reason for confidentiality.” (See <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/didp-2012-02-25-en> (emphasis added).) As part of its commitment to transparency and accountability, ICANN makes available on its website a comprehensive set of materials concerning ICANN’s operational activities as a matter of course.

Your Request seeks the disclosure of documents relating to initiatives, documents and research by ICANN dealing with blockchain and DLT in connection with the DNS and other unique identifiers schemes/frameworks. There are currently no initiatives by the ICANN Organization relating to blockchain and DLT in connection with the DNS and other unique identifiers schemes/frameworks. Therefore, ICANN is not in possession, custody or controls of any documents responsive to your Request. To the extent that there have been any personal preliminary interest or individual research conducted relating to blockchain and DLT, those documents are subject to the following DIDP Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure and are therefore not appropriate for public disclosure:

- Internal information that, if disclosed, would or would be likely to compromise the integrity of ICANN's deliberative and decision-making process by inhibiting the candid exchange of ideas and communications, including internal documents, memoranda, and other similar communications to or from ICANN Directors,

ICANN Directors' Advisors, ICANN staff, ICANN consultants, ICANN contractors, and ICANN agents.

- Drafts of all correspondence, reports, documents, agreements, contracts, emails, or any other forms of communication.
- Information that relates in any way to the security and stability of the Internet, including the operation of the L Root or any changes, modifications, or additions to the root zone.

Notwithstanding the applicable Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure identified in this Response, ICANN also evaluated the documents subject to these conditions to determine if the public interest in disclosing them outweighs the harm that may be caused by such disclosure. ICANN has determined that there are no circumstances for which the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the harm that may be caused by the requested disclosure.

### **About DIDP**

ICANN's DIDP is limited to requests for documentary information already in existence within ICANN that is not publicly available. In addition, the DIDP sets forth Defined Conditions of Nondisclosure. To review a copy of the DIDP, please see <http://www.icann.org/en/about/transparency/didp>. ICANN makes every effort to be as responsive as possible to the entirety of your Request. As part of its accountability and transparency commitments, ICANN continually strives to provide as much information to the community as is reasonable. We encourage you to sign up for an account at ICANN.org, through which you can receive daily updates regarding postings to the portions of ICANN's website that are of interest. We hope this information is helpful. If you have any further inquiries, please forward them to [didp@icann.org](mailto:didp@icann.org).