Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

Louis Touton

Presentation to the FTAA Joint Public-Private Sector Committee of Experts on the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

14 June 1999
Background
Origins of the Internet

- Research oriented
- US Government funded
  - DARPA
  - NSF
- Government contractors
  - Network Solutions
  - IANA project at USC-ISI
Internet Protocol (IP) Address System

- Unique identification of computers on Internet (e.g., 128.9.128.127)
- Delegated allocation
  - IANA
  - RIRs
  - ISPs
- Current system (IPv4) mostly allocated
- New system (IPv6) being deployed
Domain Name System (DNS)

- Easy-to-remember names (e.g., icann.org)
- Translated to IP addresses by nameserver system
- Hierarchical naming system
- gTLDs (.com, .edu, .int, .net, .org)
- ccTLDs (.ar, .br, .ca, .mx, .us)
Domain Names and the Domain Name System: Statistics

- Total Domain Names Worldwide: 8,196,117
  - .com - 4,967,688
  - .net - 683,652
  - .org - 474,230
  - ccTLDs - 2,064,229

- Growth Rate: 40,000 new registrations per week!
  - % of non-us registrations in gTLDs on the rise

Domain Names and the Domain Name System: Statistics

Number of Registrations in the top 10 ccTLDs

Internet Standards

- Standards-setting organizations
  - IETF
  - W3C
  - ITU-T
- Protocol number assignment
  - Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)
Need for Change

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

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

- Internet community to form non-profit corporation
  - Global and functional diversity
- US Government (through Commerce Department) to transition centralized coordination functions
- Amendment of Network Solutions agreement to require competitive registrars
- WIPO to recommend solutions for trademark/domain-name dilemma
Structure of ICANN
ICANN Organization

Board of Directors

- Staff
- Supporting Organizations
- Advisory Committees
Board of Directors

- Currently 10-member initial board
- Ultimately 19-member board
  - 9--selected by 3 supporting organizations
  - 9--selected at large
  - 1--President and CEO
- Geographic diversity required
Supporting Organizations

- Address Supporting Organization (ASO)
- Domain Name Supporting Organization (DNSO)
- Protocol Supporting Organization (PSO)
Domain Name Supporting Organization

- Names council (21 members)
- 7 constituencies
  - ccTLD registries
  - Commercial & business
  - gTLD registries
  - ISPs and connectivity providers
  - Non-commercial domain holders
  - Registrars
  - Trademark, intellectual property, and anti-counterfeiting interests
- General assembly
  - Working groups
Protocol Supporting Organization

- Structure being finalized
- Minimalist structure
- Members will be global internet standards organizations
  - IETF
  - W3C
  - ITU-T
  - ETSI
- Does not set standards, only mediates conflicts
Address Supporting Organization

- Application not yet received
- Expected members:
  - Regional address registries
    - APNIC
    - ARIN
    - RIPE
  - Perhaps ISP organizations
Advisory Committees

- Root Server System Advisory Committee
- Government Advisory Committee
- Membership Advisory Committee
- Independent Review Advisory Committee
ICANN Staff

- Currently very small
  - President
  - IANA staff (3 full-time)
  - Policy specialists (2 part-time)
Geographic and Cultural Diversity

- Geographically diverse board of directors
  - SO directors
  - At-large directors
  - Present geographic diversity being revised for workable implementation
- Geographically diverse councils
- Geographically diverse board meetings (Singapore, Berlin, Santiago, Los Angeles)
- Multiple languages
ICANN Activities
Board of Directors Activities--Organizational

- Finalization of PSO structure
- Awaiting ASO application
- Membership feasibility & implementation
- Search for permanent staff
- Financing of operations
Board of Directors Activities--Substantive

- Registrar accreditation for gTLDs
- WIPO report
- IPv6 introduction
- Root server system enhancements
- Arrangements with ccTLD operators
Domain Name Supporting Organization Activities

- Domain-name dispute resolution
  - Cybersquatting/cyberpiracy
  - Legitimate disputes
- Famous/well-known names
- gTLD expansion
- Best practices for registrars
  - Accurate contact information
  - Prepayment
gTLD Registrar Accreditation

- Prompt introduction of competition
- Split registry/registrar business model
- 7 October 1998 amendment to NSI cooperative agreement
- ICANN registrar accreditation policy (4 March 1999)
- Shared registration system testbed
  - 5 registrars
- Full and equal competition
  - 37 additional registrars
Address Activities

- IPv6 deployment
- IPv4 assignment reallocation
- New regional address registries
Protocol Activities

- Continued IANA operation
Root Server System Advisory Committee Activities

- Y2000 compliance
- Formalization of root server operational procedures
- Establishment of contractual relationships
- Geographic dispersion of root servers
Government Advisory Committee

- Operating principles
- Filling out membership
- WIPO recommendations
- Recommendations regarding ccTLDs for dependent territories
How to Participate

- Private Sector
  - Participate in DNSO and its constituencies
  - Become an accredited gTLD registrar
  - Participate in open comment periods
- Governments
  - Participate on the Governmental Advisory Committee (contact GAC secretariat)
- Santiago, Chile ICANN meeting - 24-26 August 1999
  - Information posted at http://www.icann.org