



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Assistant Secretary for Communications
and Information
Washington, D.C. 20230

AUG 11 2005



Dr. Vinton Cerf
Senior Vice President, Technology Strategy
MCI
2201 Loudon County Parkway, F2-4115
Ashburn, VA 21047

Dear Dr. Cerf:

I understand that the Board of Directors of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is scheduled to consider approval of an agreement with the ICM Registry to operate the .xxx top level domain (TLD) on August 16, 2005. I am writing to urge the Board to ensure that the concerns of all members of the Internet community on this issue have been adequately heard and resolved before the Board takes action on this application.

Since the ICANN Board voted to negotiate a contract with ICM Registry for the .xxx TLD in June 2005, this issue has garnered widespread public attention and concern outside of the ICANN community. The Department of Commerce has received nearly 6,000 letters and emails from individuals expressing concern about the impact of pornography on families and children and opposing the creation of a new top level domain devoted to adult content. We also understand that other countries have significant reservations regarding the creation of a .xxx TLD. I believe that ICANN has also received many of these concerned comments. The volume of correspondence opposed to creation of a .xxx TLD is unprecedented. Given the extent of the negative reaction, I request that the Board will provide a proper process and adequate additional time for these concerns to be voiced and addressed before any additional action takes place on this issue.

It is of paramount importance that the Board ensure the best interests of the Internet community as a whole are fully considered as it evaluates the addition of this new top level domain. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael D. Gallagher".

Michael D. Gallagher

cc: Dr. Paul Twomey