ICANN-Studienkreis

ICANN: Ziele, Grundsätze, und Mechanismen

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Andrew McLaughlin
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

(But: 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
Status Quo Ante

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%)
Slogan?

• “In Cyberspace, weißt niemand, daß Sie ein ICANN-Mitglied sind.”

---John Perry Barlow?
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 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
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:

Andrew McLaughlin
<ajm@icann.org>

<http://www.icann.org>