

AoC Motivation letter

Good Morning.

I believe that ICANN has an enormous impact on the DNS in its capacity as the IANA operator, as a legacy holder of the operations of one of the Root Nameservers, and as a key actor in the provisioning of the production DNSSEC key generation and management. These roles place a significant burden on ICANN in the ongoing preservation, security, stability, and resilience of the DNS. I also believe that the goals of this review overstate ICANN's pragmatic ability to ensure these attributes of the DNS. By design, the DNS is a hierarchical structure with a distributed responsibility. Recent attempts by ICANN to further centralize the "command and control" of the DNS (DNS-CERT) show a fairly narrow long-range view. I believe that such actions will add to the burden – further pushing ICANN into a position of a single point of failure – this possibility needs to be known as we proceed down this review path.

There is another concern with the goal of preservation. The DNS has survived and grown with the Internet simply because it was allowed to evolve, both from a protocol and operational perspective. Most recently the addition of DNSSEC capabilities at various points in the DNS hierarchy and linking together these "islands of trust" is an evolutionary step. I believe that this statement, along with the other statements in this review need to have clear, crisp definitions to prevent the "mission creep" that fluid definition engenders.

Within this context, ICANN should find ways to foster evolution and innovation without the need to be directly involved in any/all aspects of the potential growth paths. Coming from a history of DNS development from both the protocol and operational perspectives, I believe that I have a fairly deep understanding of how the DNS has arrived at where it is today and where it might be heading in the future and would like to help ICANN reach useful, attainable goals that protect the on-going integrity and usefulness of the DNS.