Orientation Workshop
Marina del Rey, California
13 November, 2000

Andrew McLaughlin
Chief Policy Officer and CFO
ICANN: The Basic Idea

ICANN =
An Experiment in Technical Self-Management by the global Internet community
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
Says *The Economist*:

- “ICANN is in many ways a completely new institutional animal.”
- “It is a hybrid between an online community and a real-world governance structure, an untested combination.”
- “It is also a new type of international organisation: an industry trying to regulate part of itself, across the globe, with little or no input from national governments.”

*(10 June 2000)*
Domain names & IP addresses

- **Domain names** are the familiar, easy-to-remember names for computers on the Internet
  - e.g., amazon.com, icann.org, nic.or.kr

- Domain names correlate to **Internet Protocol numbers** (IP numbers) (e.g., 98.37.241.130) that serve as routing addresses on the Internet

- The **domain name system (DNS)** translates domain names into IP numbers needed for routing packets of information over the Internet
Categories of Internet Domains

• **Generic Top Level Domains (gTLDs)**
  - .com, .net, .org, .gov, .mil, .edu, .int, .arpa
  - .com, .net, .org open for registration by all persons and entities on a global basis
  - Proposals to add many more gTLDs (.shop, .arts, .union, etc.)

• **Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs)**
  - .kr, .uk, .fr, .us, .mx, .ca, .de, etc.
  - Registration requirements vary by domain (many require domicile within the territory or other connection with the territory)
  - Derived from ISO 3166-1 list
Status Quo Ante ICANN

Most Internet DNS and IP Address coordination functions performed by, or on behalf of, the US government:

- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
  - Stanford Research Institute (SRI)
  - Information Sciences Institute (ISI) of University of Southern California
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - IBM, MCI, and Merit
  - AT&T, General Atomics, Network Solutions, Inc. (NSI)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Department of Energy
IANA

- “Internet Assigned Numbers Authority”
- A set of technical management functions (root management; IP address block allocations) previously performed by the Information Sciences Institute (ISI) at the University of Southern California, under a contract with the U.S. Government
- Includes protocol parameter and port number assignment functions defined by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- Now a part of ICANN
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: 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
- Request to WIPO to study & recommend solutions for trademark/domain-name conflicts
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
Policy Objectives for Year 2000

- New Top-Level Domains
- ccTLD registry agreements
- IP Address registry agreements
- Root server operator agreements
Structure of ICANN
ICANN Board of Directors

At Large Directors:

- Esther Dyson (USA) – Chairman
- Geraldine Capdeboscq (France)
- George Conrades (USA)
- Greg Crew (Australia)
- Frank Fitzsimmons (USA)
- Hans Kraaijenbrink (Netherlands)
- Jun Murai (Japan)
- Eugenio Triana (Spain)
- Linda S. Wilson (USA)

ASO Directors:

- Rob Blokzijl (Netherlands)
- Ken Fockler (Canada)
- Sang-Hyon Kyong (South Korea)

DNSO Directors:

- Amadeu Abril i Abril (Spain)
- Jonathan Cohen (Canada)
- Alejandro Pisanty (Mexico)

PSO Directors:

- Helmut Schink (Germany)
- Vint Cerf (USA)
- Phil Davidson (U.K.)
ICANN Board of Directors

New At Large Directors (after 11-16-2000):

• Nii Quaynor (Ghana)
• Masanobu Katoh (Japan)
• Ivan Moura Campos (Brazil)
• Andy Mueller-Maguhn (Germany)
• Karl Auerbach (USA)
New Model: Lightweight
(minimal staff = minimal bureaucracy)

Current Staff:

- President and CEO (Mike Roberts)
- Vice President/General Counsel (Louis Touton)
- Chief Policy Officer/CFO (Andrew McLaughlin)
- Registrar Liaison (Dan Halloran)
- IANA staff (Joyce Reynolds, Michelle Schipper, Bill Huang)
- Office Manager (Diane Schroeder)
- Network Administrator (Jim Villaruz)
- Technical Advisor (Suzanne Woolf)
At Large Membership

• Open to any individual with verifiable name, email address, physical address
• Free to join and to vote
• At Large members cast votes for 5 ICANN Directors in October, 2000 (election by geographic region)
• Paths to ballot: Nominations committee + member-nomination
• 6-month study period to follow
• Membership Implementation Task Force
• See http://members.icann.org
Why Elect Directors?

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Representation
  - Geographic
  - Sectoral
- Diversity of views
- Distributed architecture of selection
ICANN = Cybergovernment?

A: NO!

- ICANN has no inherent 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 (i.e., courts and laws)
Does ICANN regulate?

- **No**: ICANN coordinates.
- **But**: technical coordination of unique values sometimes requires accounting for non-technical policy interests:
  - Data privacy protection
    - (WHOIS database)
  - Intellectual property/trademark law
    - (UDRP)
  - Competition law
    - (Registrar accreditation for .com, .net, .org)
What ICANN doesn’t do

• Network security
• Spam
• Web Sites’ Data Privacy Practices
• Censorship & speech restrictions
• Internet Content
  – Pornography
  – Hate speech
  – Copyright violations
  – Deceptive business practices / consumer protection
• Multi-jurisdictional commercial disputes
• Definition of technical standards
  – Network surveillance and traceability
• Internet gambling
What ICANN is NOT

- Technical Standard-Setting Body
- Internet Police Force
- Consumer Protection Agency
- Economic Development Agency
- Legislature or Court
Lessons from the Experiment?

• **Private-sector self-management is possible, if narrowly chartered**

• **Global consensus on policy is difficult to define; even harder to achieve**
  – Consensus is a tradition in the technical community in which ICANN is rooted, because you can test solutions & refer to objective data
  – Consensus on policy questions can be elusive, because it depends upon subjective values
Message to You:

(and to all Internet communities)

GET INVOLVED!!!

Consensus means you have to show up to be heard.

www.icann.org
For Further Information:

Andrew McLaughlin
<ajm@icann.org>

http://www.icann.org