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
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
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
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-Hyun 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](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
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http://www.icann.org