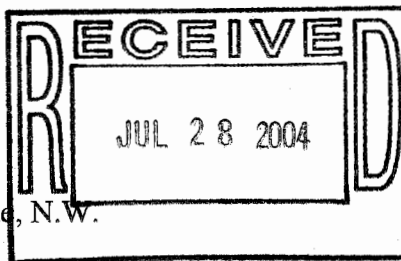


July 20, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20230



Microsoft

Dear Secretary Evans:

Within the next few months the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) will be conducting its process for re-bidding the .net registry contract.

As a long-standing registrant of many names in the .net domain, Microsoft is one of many entities who utilize the domain name addressing system as part of our underlying infrastructure. Our registrations in well-known and trusted top level domains (FLDs), like .net and .com, are essential parts of our business strategies.

In addition, along with other global Internet Service Providers (ISPs), we have tens of thousands of individual and business registrant customers in the .net TLD.

For all of us, stability and continuity of service are very important. Disruptions occasioned by the unavailability of the .net domain, or a protracted transition from the present reliable operation to some uncertain future operating mode, would be unfortunate and would likely have serious adverse consequences.

The administrator of .net, the operator of this registry, should be able to demonstrate financial stability, a strong management history, and the technical expertise to manage such a critical system. For the .net registry operator to be less dependable would harm business growth and could endanger the commerce that runs across the Internet infrastructure.

VeriSign has helped keep the Internet infrastructure stable and secure with tremendous reliability and availability for seven years. As a company reliant on the .net infrastructure, we do not perceive a benefit in transitioning to another operator and we want to avoid any risk to performance that would occur during a transition.

We endorse VeriSign's performance to date, and we hope they will continue to operate the .net registry. We request your leadership in ensuring that the current performance of .net is preserved and extended under VeriSign's leadership.

Respectfully,

Craig J. Mundie
Senior Vice President and
Chief Technical Officer
Advanced Strategies and Policy

cc: Dr. Paul Twomey, President and Chief Executive Officer, ICANN Corporation