ICANN: achievements and challenges of a multi-stakeholder, bottom up, transparent model

Anne Rachel Inné, Giovanni Seppia
Regional Liaisons
Aurelio Peccei Lecture
4 April 2007
Presentation overview

• The domain name market

• About ICANN

• How to participate

• The Global Partnership approach
The domain name market
Domain Name basics

- Registries operate TLD (.com, .org, .uk, .fr, .be, .eu,…)
- Distinction between gTLDs and ccTLDs
- Registrars obtain domain names from Registries, make them available
- Registrants
- Users
ICANN’s role in the market

• ICANN has agreements with registries, registrars
• Introduction of competition
• Addition of new TLDs
• Accreditation of registrars
• Contractual Compliance
• Transfers, Domain Name Disputes, coordination
The Internet in 1996

- 240,000 domain names
- .com, .net, .org, plus ccTLDs such as .pt
- Domain names cost $75 per year
- Only 1 registrar – Network Solutions
- No Google (not until 1998)
The Internet in 1996

- Slow Internet connections
- Increasing amount of information online, but tools for accessing information limited
- Early stages of adoption among business and users
Yahoo! in 1996

- **Arts** - Humanities, Photography, Architecture
- **Business and Economy [Xtra]** - Directory, Investments, Classifieds
- **Computers and Internet [Xtra]** - Internet, WWW, Software, Multimedia
- **Education** - Universities, K-12 Courses
- **Entertainment [Xtra]** - TV, Movies, Music, Magazines
- **Government** - Politics [Xtra], Agencies, Law, Military
- **Health [Xtra]** - Medicine, Drugs, Diseases, Fitness
- **News [Xtra]** - World [Xtra], Daily, Current Events
- **Recreation and Sports [Xtra]** - Sports, Games, Travel, Autos, Outdoors
- **Reference** - Libraries, Dictionaries, Phone Numbers
- **Regional** - Countries, Regions, U.S. States
- **Science** - CS, Biology, Astronomy, Engineering
- **Social Science** - Anthropology, Sociology, Economics
- **Society and Culture** - People, Environment, Religion

Yellow Pages - People Search - City Maps -- News Headlines - Stock Quotes - Sports Scores
Growth of Domain Names

- January 1993 – 21,000
- January 1996 – 240,000
- January 1999 – 4.0 million
- January 2001 – 27.9 million
- January 2004 – 35.3 million
- Nov 2006 – 112 million + (most recent data available)
The Internet today

• 112 million + domain names
• 16 gTLDs plus ccTLDs = more choice for registrants
  • .aero, .asia, .biz, .cat, .coop, .info, .jobs, .mobi, .museum, .name, .pro, .tel, .travel
• 860 + registrars
• Domain names available for as low as $1 (most in the range of $5-15 per year)
Snapshot of domain name marketplace

112 million+ domain names registered globally today
The Internet in 2007

• Immense amount of data available
• Movies, live video, music, news, blogs
• More content available and options for users
• Internet now considered a critical infrastructure and vital commercial, cultural and educational medium
Domain Names sales

• Diamond.com $7.5 million
• Vodka.com $3 million
• Nav.no $717,900
• Chat.de $470,848
• Other examples across all price ranges
• Many domains sell in $100-500 range
About ICANN
What does ICANN do?

• Administration
  – Administer a database in the public trust

• Policy Coordination
  – Facilitate global consensus based decisions on how that database should be administered

20 billion DNS resolutions per day
The history behind

- ARPANET
- National Science Foundation
- Jon Postel
- Open consultation
- ICANN [embryonic – with MoU]
- ICANN with ongoing evolution…
Current structure

Board: 15 voting, 6 non-voting liaisons
Government Advisory Committee

Organisations
Country Code
Generic Names
Address

Committees
At-Large
Root Server System
Security and Stability
Current structure
Joint Partnership Agreement

- MoU expired last September. ICANN will no longer have its work prescribed for it.
- Now only publish one public annual report.
- Joint commitment to strengthening:
  - Transparency
  - Root server security
  - Governmental Advisory Committee
  - Performance monitoring

• The first ICANN Annual Report in accordance to what established in the Joint Project Agreement was released at the end of January 2007 and is available at: http://www.icann.org/annualreport/annual-report-2005-2006.pdf

• The report highlights the achievements and it includes a summary of the JPA with the US DoC

• Comments can be submitted by mail (2006-ar-comments@icann.org) or through the ICANN blog (http://blog.icann.org/)
ICANN Operating Plan

• The Operating Plan is developed with the community between January to June
ICANN Strategic Plan

• The Strategic Plan is developed with the community between July and December.

During this phase, ICANN is performing against the outcomes in the approved Operating Plan and collaboratively developing the draft Strategic Plan.
ICANN 2007-2010 Strategic Plan

• The plan identifies the following strategic targets:
  – Organisational excellence in Operations
  – Organisational excellence in Policy Development
  – Increase international participation in ICANN
  – Increase participation in and efficiency of the ICANN multi-stakeholder environment
  – Successfully transition ICANN to private sector management
Agreements with ccTLD managers

• Since March 2006, 20 EoL/accountability frameworks signed (see: http://www.icann.org/cctlds/agreements.html)

• 9 of them with European registries

• Further negotiations are ongoing at world wide level
Current and Future Issues

• Introduction of IDNs
• Introduction of new TLDs
• Ongoing Security and Stability issues
• IPv6 Policy
• WHOIS services
How to participate
Avenues of participation

• ICANN constituencies and working groups

• Becoming an At Large structure which represents the interests of the end users

• ICANN meetings

• Blog

• Public participation website
Next ICANN meetings

• Next round of ICANN meetings will take place in San Juan, Puerto Rico, 25-29 June 2007

• Website:
  http://www.icann.org/meetings/sanjuan/
ICANN website (www.icann.org)

• Re-styled during the Lisbon ICANN meetings

• More user friendly

• Introduction to ICANN available in several languages
The Global Partnership approach
The Global Partnership team

- The GP is a team of people with different expertise that are in charge of liaising with the world regions – there are so far 7 of them
The GP work so far

• Supported the organisation of and/or participated in regional and international events
• Received inputs and feedback from the various stakeholder communities and conveyed them to ICANN
• Acted as first stop help desk
• Supported multilingual consultations on different topics
• Helped to strengthen the liaisons with the different stakeholders, including ccTLDs, gTLDs, government delegates, international organisations, ISP, end users,…
Thanks for your attention

Anne Rachel Inné
ännerachel.inne@icann.org

Giovanni Seppia
giovanni.seppia@icann.org