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TOP STORY

ICANN Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Amendment 3 to the .COM Registry Agreement

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and VeriSign, Inc. (Verisign), the registry operator of the .COM top-level domain (TLD) announced that they have reached a proposed agreement to amend the .COM Registry Agreement (RA). In addition, ICANN and Verisign announced a new proposed framework for working together on initiatives related to the security, stability, and resiliency of the Domain

Name System (DNS) in the form of a binding Letter of Intent (LOI) between the two organizations. [Read the full announcement.](#)

ICANN org is seeking public comment on the proposed Amendment No. 3 to the .COM RA between ICANN and VeriSign. Read the details and post your public comment submission on or before 14 February 2020 [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS



Register Now for ICANN67

Register now for the ICANN67 Community Forum in Cancún, Mexico, from 7-12 March 2020. [Preregistration](#) is encouraged for all attendees. Email validation is required to complete the registration process. You can find more travel and event details on [the dedicated ICANN67 website](#).



PUBLIC COMMENT

Make Your Voice Heard on ICANN's Future!



Public Comment

ICANN org is seeking input and feedback from the community on the Draft FY21-FY25 Operating and Financial Plan and Draft FY21 Operating Plan and Budget.

ICANN org's FY21-25 Operating Plan and FY21 Operating Plan include descriptions of the major work ICANN org will undertake to achieve its **Strategic Plan**, operate the organization, and implement its mission. The FY21-25 Operating Plan projects this work over a five-year period, while the FY21 Operating Plan focuses only on the single fiscal year 2021.

The Public Comment period is now open and has been extended by 7 days to 58 days (excluding holidays) to give the community more time to review the documents. You can find the full documents and register your feedback on our [Public Comment page](#).



APAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS



PacNOG25 was held in Suva, Fiji, from 2-6 December 2019. Photo credit: PITA

Technical Capacity Development Continues in South Pacific

Over 60 participants from 10 Pacific Island countries gathered in Suva, Fiji, to attend the 25th Pacific Network Operators Group (PacNOG25) in December. The five-day event is a premier event for technical engagement, with engineers representing network operators, academic institutions, and government information technology departments in this subregion.

ICANN org presented on the ICANN ecosystem for newcomers and updated participants on initiatives such as Universal Acceptance, DNS Abuse, and ICANN Learn. There were also discussions about Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) validation for Internet service providers, how to apply for fellowships, and why we need more participation from this subregion's technical community.

PacNOG25 was hosted by the University of the South Pacific, a regional university formed by 12 member countries of the Pacific.

Japanese Community Building a Multilingual Internet

Can you see that "□" and "□" are different? The former is in kanji while the latter is in katakana, scripts used in Japanese. As they are visually similar and may be hard for users to differentiate when used as top-level domains, the Japanese Generation Panel (JGP) is now evaluating such characters to ensure the security and stability of the root zone. This information was shared during the recent ICANN66 Japan Readout session in Tokyo in December.

The Japanese community members that attended the ICANN66 meeting also updated the wider Japanese community on other key topics discussed in Montreal, including the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process, phase 2



Sabrina Lim, Global Stakeholder Engagement Programs Manager for Asia Pacific, attending her first Japan Readout. On her left is Yumi Ohasi,



ICANN's Terry Manderson, Senior Director of Network Engineering and Security (second from right) meeting with the India community to share the importance of cyber hygiene.

The Importance of Cyber Hygiene

What is cyber hygiene? Simply explained, it refers to good preventive practices that users can take to maintain computer system health and improve online security. They could include steps like regularly changing passwords and adopting two-factor authentication.

ICANN org shared these messages with the Indian community, including the leadership of India's National Cyber Security Coordinator's office, Cyber Emergency Response Team, and the Data Security Council of India. Practicing adequate cyber hygiene can help to improve the security of Internet infrastructure, reducing cybersecurity vulnerabilities that could impact almost 600 million Internet users in India.



POLICY UPDATE

Policy Recommendations on the Retirement of ccTLDs

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) continues the policy development process (PDP) related to the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). This third-ever ccNSO PDP aims to develop policy recommendations for the ICANN Board, which will include a review mechanism pertaining to decision on the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs.

Volunteers are needed to launch Phase 2 of the PDP, which will aim to develop the review mechanism. A call for volunteers is scheduled to open later this month. Phase 2 work will begin after the ccNSO Council approves the roster of volunteers. During its **December meeting**, the ccNSO Council reviewed the timeline, including major milestones.

ICANN | ccNSO

Policy Development for IDNs

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) recently initiated a policy development process (PDP) on Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code top-level domain (ccTLD) strings. This PDP will address a limited set of issues related to the selection of IDN ccTLD strings and review the proposal to amend Article 10 of the ICANN Bylaws, which would enable IDN ccTLDs to become members of the ccNSO. The issue report and the proposed timeline are expected by the end of February 2020. A call for volunteers will open soon after. Read more about the ccNSO IDN Preliminary Review Team [here](#).



The EPDP Team Drafts Initial Report

The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team is currently developing the final draft of its Phase 2 Initial Report. The report will include language on the development of a standardized system for the access and disclosure of nonpublic gTLD registration data (SSAD). The Initial Report will include recommendations on a number of topics related to the SSAD, including accreditation, data retention, financial considerations, and auditing. The EPDP Team expects to publish its Initial Report by 7 February 2020.

New Recommendations from the gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group has completed its substantive review of Public Comment submissions on its Initial Report. It has focused on refining final recommendations and other supporting content that should be included in the draft Final Report. The Final Report is also expected to include final decisions related to Work Track 5 on geographic names. A Public Comment proceeding for the draft Final Report is anticipated for early 2020. Learn more [here](#).

Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP Working Group Approaches Publication of Phase 1 Initial Report

The Working Group for the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs Policy Development Process has finished reviewing preliminary recommendations for the RPMs applicable to gTLDs launched under the 2012 New gTLD Programs. These RPMs include: the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure (TM-PDDRP); the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH); Sunrise and Trademark Claims services that are offered through the TMCH; and the Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) dispute resolution procedure. The working group has started the review of the draft Initial Report, which is expected to be published for Public Comment in January 2020. Learn more [here](#).



Post-ATLAS III Activities

In December, the Organizing Committee of the Third At-Large Summit (ATLAS III) met to discuss the next steps for **post-ATLAS III activities**. A post-ATLAS III webinar for the participants was held to set out priorities for the At-Large Ambassadors, including an overview of the main activities, including policy involvement, capacity building, outreach and engagement, and communication.

This month, At-Large Ambassadors began activities in their respective regions. These activities are based on the recommendations that arose from the ATLAS III survey and capacity-building interviews from ATLAS III. Over the next few months, Ambassadors will build knowledge in their respective At-Large Structures (ALSes) and, once complete, leverage that knowledge to engage in local and regional activities.

As part of both post-ATLAS III activities as well as the At-Large Review Implementation, a new At-Large Structure Mobilization Working Party continues to review the criteria for ALSes with the goal of increasing the effectiveness of members.



SPOTLIGHT

Universal Acceptance Continues Momentum During ICANN66

If you weren't able to join the Universal Acceptance (UA) discussions at ICANN66 in Montréal, then don't miss the latest blog by Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) Chair Ajay Data. The blog outlines the highlights and key takeaways from ICANN66, which include the initiation of a Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) working group focused on Universal Acceptance. Read the blog [here](#).



Call for EAI and Measurement Working Group Vice Chairs

Are you passionate about promoting Universal Acceptance? The UASG Email Address Internationalization (EAI) and Measurement Working Groups are in need of experienced Internet community members to serve as vice chairs.

Interested? Find out more [here](#).



GDD UPDATE

Updated Domain Name Marketplace Indicators Released

ICANN has released updated industry metrics as part of its Domain Name Marketplace Indicators initiative. This initiative presents statistics related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) that encompass the below categories:

- Robust competition: registrant choice, registrant domain adoption, service provider marketplace entry, and service provider competition.
- Marketplace stability: service provider contractual compliance.
- Trust: industry safeguards.



These metrics are published twice a year in order to track progress against ICANN's strategic goal of supporting the evolution of the domain name marketplace to be robust, stable, and trusted.

View the updated metrics [here](#).



IANA Engagement Survey Results Are In

Last month, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) published its annual Customer Engagement Survey which measures customer satisfaction with the IANA functions. Leading the survey with a rating of 4.3 (on a 5-point scale) was confidence in the IANA team's ability to achieve its objectives and also satisfaction with the transparency of the Key Signing Key ceremony.

In its sixth year, the annual survey allows the IANA team to evaluate how they manage their relationship with different user groups, and most recently, are able to identify improvements in addition to the regular operational feedback received through the

post-interaction survey.

Read the announcement [here](#) and view to the IANA Customer Engagement Survey [here](#).

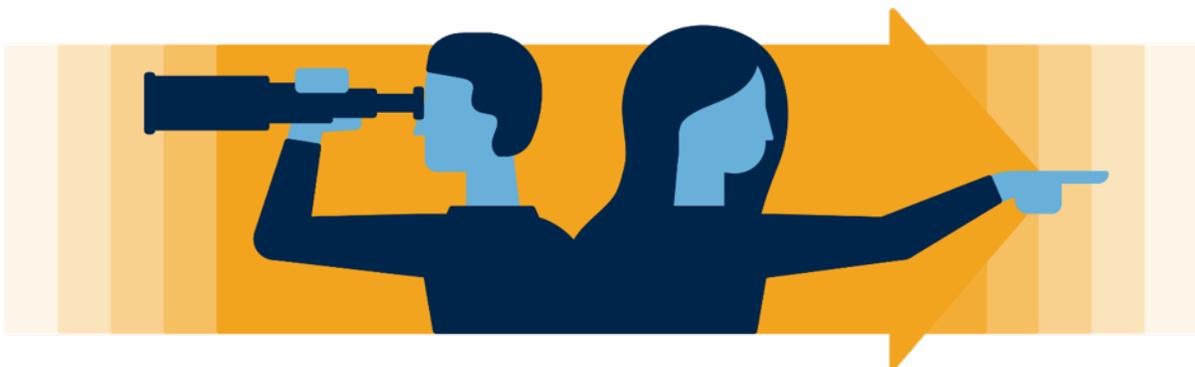
Operational Improvements to the PICDRP

Following recent discussions with the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group, the ICANN organization agreed to make operational improvements to the Public Interest Commitment Dispute Resolution Procedure (PICDRP) which increases transparency without materially changing the procedure. The PICDRP addresses complaints that a registry operator may not be complying with the Public Interest Commitment(s) in Specification 11 of their Registry Agreement.

This [revised version of the PICDRP](#) reflects the agreed upon changes and will be effective 1 February 2020. You can read more to learn about the improvements [here](#).



WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS



Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews

Specific Reviews are led by teams of community volunteers to assess the performance of the ICANN organization and make recommendations for improvement. All Specific Review team plenary meetings are open and available for observers to join. You may share your feedback and input any time to the team's public mailing list. Details of meeting schedules and mailing lists are available on the team wiki pages. Upcoming Specific Review team meetings include:

Comment on the Third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) Draft Report
The ATRT3 seeks to solicit input on its Draft Report which contains findings, suggestions, and recommendations regarding ICANN accountability and transparency in key areas:

- Board
- Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
- Public Input
- Policy Development Process
- Specific and Organizational Reviews
- Accountability Indicators
- Prioritization of Activities, Policies, and Recommendations

The report is available for Public Comment through 31 January 2020. Go to the [Public Comment page](#) to read the report and register your comments.

Visit the [Reviews Status Update Table](#) for the latest progress of Specific and Organizational Reviews and links to additional key resources for each.



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

Mili Semlani

Executive Committee Member, Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC)

Mili Semlani represents the Asia Pacific (APAC) region at the NCUC Executive Committee. She is the founder of Youth4IG, an Internet governance youth coalition for APAC.

Semlani is passionate about Internet governance and focuses on enhancing capacity development for youth in the region. She attended her first ICANN meeting in 2014 as a NetMission Ambassador. Since 2017, she has been involved in organizing the regional Internet Governance Forum as a Multistakeholder Steering Group (MSG) member.



Semlani believes that there should be more APAC participation in the Internet governance process as Asia is where the next billion of Internet users will be. Youth interested in learning more about participating in Internet governance can look up youth4ig.asia or email youth4ig@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ICANN will be participating in these upcoming events:

Date	Event	Location
11 February	APAC Space Web Conference	Online
12-16 February	Asia Pacific Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) Workshop	Melbourne, Australia
18-21 February	Asia Pacific Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) Conference	Melbourne, Australia

Learn more about ICANN at [regional events near you](#).

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South Beach Tower
38 Beach Road, Unit 04-11
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