



Regional Events  
Calendar



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Feedback



## TOP STORY

### ICANN Board Withholds Consent for PIR Change of Control

After a thorough evaluation process, the ICANN Board is withholding consent to the request for a change of control of the Public Interest Registry (PIR). [Read more about the decision](#) from ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman, and find the full Board resolution [here](#).



## ICANN NEWS

### New Learning Opportunities Now Available

[ICANN Learn](#), our online capacity-development platform, now offers new courses for learning about the ICANN ecosystem.

The Policy Development Fundamentals course provides newcomers with a basic, foundational understanding of how policy development works at ICANN.

Policy Development Fundamentals, along with the recently launched Domain Name System (DNS) Fundamentals course, will serve as a cornerstone for developing capacity in the ICANN ecosystem.

The new Registrant Basics course is focused on educating registrants (also known as domain name holders), and the broader end user community about the rights and responsibilities of registrants and some of the ICANN policies that impact them.

Learn more here: <https://learn.icann.org/>.

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### Update from the 2020 Nominating Committee

The 2020 Nominating Committee (NomCom) is working to find the most qualified candidates for open leadership positions. They are working closely with the ICANN Board and org to mitigate issues that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Read [NomCom Chair Jay Sudowski's blog](#) for a full update on their activities.

### Prioritizing the Board's Work and Goals

The ICANN Board is undertaking a number of actions to ensure that it is fulfilling its Bylaws-mandated responsibilities and addressing the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to work effectively together. The Board is working with ICANN org to develop a comprehensive continuity work plan, which will drive and direct the Board's actions and goals in the coming months.

For the plan highlights, read ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman's [blog](#).



## SPOTLIGHT



### Pandemic Effect on the DNS Traffic

Lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have a limited, but noticeable, effect on Domain Name System (DNS) traffic at ICANN Managed Root Servers (IMRS). ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) studied the impact of a nationwide lockdown in France on the DNS. Click [here](#) to read more detail.



## APAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS



### High Attendance at Virtual ICANN67 Readout

China, India, and Japan held their virtual ICANN67 Readouts recently and recorded high turnouts with over 120 attendees in total.

DNS abuse and the proposed sale of .org by the Public Internet Registry (PIR) were topics of interest with the community in all three sessions. The Indian community is closely monitoring the progress of the New gTLD

Subsequent Procedures Working Group. The next round of the New gTLD Program will be especially relevant to India as all nine Neo Brahmi scripts will soon be integrated into the root zone of the Internet. In China, the Internet Society of China will facilitate a discussion on DNS abuse. The Chinese community agreed that the upcoming China Internet Governance Forum will include cybersecurity and geopolitics topics.

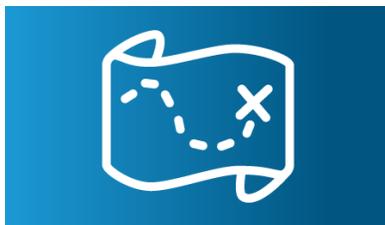
## China DNSSEC Deployment

The University of Science and Technology of China (USTC) has developed a **monitoring site** that regularly checks the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) deployment status among some critical websites in China. DNSSEC is a set of technologies that aim to safeguard an organization's website by signing and validating the domain names.



Originally the monitoring tools were designed to monitor the universities' websites support for IPv4/IPv6 HTTP, HTTPS, and HTTP/2. They were then expanded to monitor DNSSEC in October 2019. The tools and source code have been published on GitHub, so anyone who is interested can build a similar system and examine more websites.

The chosen websites include those of Chinese universities, leading content delivery network providers, and IT companies. Results show that there is still a long way to go before DNSSEC is widely adopted in China.



## APAC Space Web Conference

Mark your calendars to join APAC Space Web Conference on 21 May 2020 to continue the discussion on the **Asia Pacific regional plan**.

This web conference will cover how the APAC regional office aims to contribute to the following objectives:

### Strategic Objective 3

Evolve the unique identifier systems in coordination and collaboration with relevant parties to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base

### Strategic Objective 4

Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single and globally interoperable Internet

If you missed the APAC Space Web Conference on 29 April, you may access the notes and recording **here**.



## POLICY UPDATE

## Consensus Playbook Published

The *Consensus Playbook* has been published for the ICANN community to reference and use in support of ICANN-related work. This *Consensus Playbook* aims to provide community volunteers with practical tools and best practices for building consensus, bridging differences, and breaking deadlocks in ICANN processes. It neither seeks to change the definition of consensus or the methods of decision-making of any community group, nor create any new requirements. Originating from the GNSO **Policy Development Process 3.0**

(**PDP 3.0**) initiative and a subsequent Additional Budget Request, the *Consensus Playbook* was developed by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), an external vendor contracted by ICANN org, with the requirement of broad applicability across the community beyond just GNSO PDP working groups. As part of the development process, CBI interviewed 14 community leaders across ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, who shared their extensive consensus-building experience in leading and participating in working and community groups.

**Download the *Consensus Playbook* here!**





## Initial Report on the Retirement of ccTLDs Now Available for Public Comment

On 5 May, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Phase 1 Working Group of the third ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP3) published its **Initial Report for Public Comment**. The report focuses on the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and specifically

seeks community input on the duration of the retirement process and the procedures leading up to the removal of a ccTLD from the root zone. The Initial Report will become part of the full set of policy recommendations that the ccNSO will present to the ICANN Board.

## At-Large Plans DNS Abuse Discussion and Other Policy Sessions for ICANN68

For ICANN67, At-Large organized sessions on DNS abuse and other policy topics. Sessions utilized features such as polls and quizzes and involved interactive panels that received positive feedback from community leaders. For ICANN68, At-Large will continue discussions related to DNS abuse and its effects on Internet end users. Other sessions will include topics related to cybersecurity and geopolitics in a multistakeholder environment.



## Strategic Outlook Trends Identification Continues

Every year, the ICANN community, Board, and organization participate in trend identification sessions to discuss emerging trends that could affect ICANN. When ICANN67 became a virtual meeting, the org successfully adapted the trend identification work of the **Strategic Outlook Program** to take place virtually. By combining online tools such as Zoom and Google Drive, we were able to hold a series of virtual brainstorming sessions after ICANN67 with several community stakeholder groups across the

globe to help identify new trends, opportunities, and risks. Two public sessions were held, as well as sessions with the Governmental Advisory Committee, Security and Stability Advisory Committee, Generic Names Supporting Organization Council, and the Intellectual Property Constituency. The findings will provide critical update to help inform ICANN's strategy in an ever-changing environment. Approximately 80 community members participated. [Click here](#) to view all the inputs collected during these community sessions.

In the next phase of the program, the ICANN Board will oversee a trend analysis and impact assessment, so that new trends can be factored into the annual iteration of ICANN's strategic and operating plans. For more information on ICANN's Strategic Planning process, [click here](#).



GDD UPDATE

## ICANN

Universal Acceptance  
Case Study

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## ICANN UA Case Study Published

The ICANN org worked with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) to publish a case study outlining the org's ongoing efforts to become Universal Acceptance-ready. The document provides an overview of the process, including the three stages it recommends for achieving Universal Acceptance (UA), and best practices. You can view the case study [here](#), and read an accompanying

ICANN org blog [here](#).

Has your organization updated its systems to accept all domain names and email addresses

regardless of length or script? If so, reach out to talk about developing a case study with the UASG by sending an email to [info@uasg.tech](mailto:info@uasg.tech). The UASG wants to promote the efforts of all UA-ready organizations and share their lessons learned with the larger community.

For a list of all available UA resources, click [here](#).

### Relief for Registrants in Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic may impact the ability of registrants to renew their domain names in a timely manner. In response, ICANN org **announced** that it has approved registrars to defer cancellation of domain names under Section 3.7.5.1 of the 2013 **Registrar Accreditation Agreement** for the **second time**. This clause permits registrars to temporarily forebear from cancelling domain name registrations that were unable to be renewed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on domain name registrants. Read more in the blog published [here](#).



### RDAP Replacement for the WHOIS Protocol

The technology transition from WHOIS-based services to ones using the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) continues. Many contracted parties are already offering RDAP services allowing users to access domain name and other Internet identifier registration data in a secure and structured manner. ICANN also offers a registration data lookup tool based on RDAP –

bookmark [this page](#)!

RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a replacement for the WHOIS protocol. Are you ready for this technology upgrade? Learn more [here](#).



## GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

### Imran Hossen

ICANN Fellow

Imran Hossen was selected as a new ICANN Fellow for ICANN67. However, as the meeting was converted to a virtual meeting, he is now scheduled to attend a future ICANN Public Meeting instead.

Based in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Hossen runs a domain name and web hosting company. This business venture sparked his interest in the Internet and the Domain Name System (DNS). He gained a better understanding of ICANN when he met ICANN org and ICANN Fellows from Bangladesh and India.



Hossen is a member of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS). In September 2018, under his leadership, BASIS helped to host ICANN's first outreach event in Dhaka.

Moving forward, Hossen is keen to explore working with the Commercial Stakeholder Group, Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), and Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

ICANN will be participating in these upcoming events:

Date	Event	Location
21 May	<b><u>APAC Space Web Conference</u></b>	Virtual
15 June (tbc)	Pre-ICANN68 Webinar India	Virtual
22-25 June	<b><u>ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum</u></b>	Virtual

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

### SINGAPORE

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