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Policy Update



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TOP STORY



Register Now for ICANN65!

ICANN65 is coming up 24-27 June 2019. The four-day Policy Forum will bring the global Internet community together to focus on policy development. This will be the twelfth ICANN Public Meeting held in Africa, and the third in Marrakech, Morocco. More details, including registration and travel information, can be found [here](#).



SPOTLIGHT

The Future of the Internet is Multilingual

The next billion Internet users are expected to come from non-English speaking countries, so removing language barriers is imperative to fuel the Internet's growth. The **Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) Program** aims to enable people around the world to use domain names in local languages and scripts, while maintaining their security and stability.

The IDN Program creates a set of label generation rules (LGR) specific to a given script, writing system, or language used by some community of Internet users. The LGRs are developed by Script Generation Panels composed of people with deep experience or interest in the script, writing system, or language as well as Unicode and the Domain Name System (DNS). Once the script LGRs are finalized, they are integrated into the Root Zone LGR for use.



Various Generation Panels are already established across the region. Here are the statuses of current Script Generation Panels across Europe, Middle East, and Africa:

Working	Finalizing	Integrating	Integrated
Greek	Latin	Armenian Cyrillic Hebrew	Georgian Arabic Ethiopic



EUROPE



The Internet Academy in Poland Examines Online Hate Speech

The [Internet Academy](#) in Poland met in Warsaw on 17 April to discuss the theme "Hate Speech on the Internet". The 50 participants heard from speakers including journalists, members of the Polish Office of Electronic Communications, and representatives of groups fighting hate speech.

The key takeaway was the need to properly designate significant resources to fighting hate speech. Major areas of focus should include education and the successful implementation of deterrent measures.

The Internet Academy is an ICANN initiative, supported by local partners, aiming to raise awareness about Internet-related topics in the local community. ICANN would like to thank the local partners, primarily Polish Information Processing Society (PTI) and the Polish Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), for helping maintain and improve the Internet Academy. The next event in June, which is free to attend, will focus on how new EU regulations affect the local Internet end user.



EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

Congratulations to .RU and the Russian Internet Governance Forum

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Russian country code top-level domain (ccTLD) .RU, and the 10th anniversary of the Russian Internet Governance Forum (RIGF). Both anniversaries were celebrated during [RIGF 2019](#) on 8 April in Moscow, Russia. ICANN was a partner of this event.

During the opening ceremony, ICANN Board Member Danko Jevtović presented a congratulatory letter from ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby to the Director of the Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.PФ, Andrei Vorobyov. Jevtović remarked on the Coordination Center's success, stating that "The Coordination Center is running very successful registries - .RU with over 5 million registrations is the 5th biggest ccTLD globally, and .PФ



ICANN Board Member Danko Jevtović presents a congratulatory letter from ICANN President and CEO Göran Marby to the Director of the Coordination Center

IDN with almost 800,000 registrations is the biggest ccTLD IDN in the world." Jevtović added that Center has always been a major partner for ICANN in Russia.

for TLD .RU.PФ, Andrei Vorobyov.

Forum participants discussed the Internet governance ecosystem in Russia and what global governance may look like in the future. The **plenary session**, "Russia in the Global Web," examined how to preserve transparency in Internet governance, the Internet's role in society, network safety, and measures to counteract cybercrime.

A key session at the event was "Women Leaders of the IT industry: Success Stories," where participants discussed e-commerce opportunities, women's entrepreneurship, and shared success stories.

The event concluded with the adoption of a **final recommendation**. You can find out more, and view photos from the event [here](#).



MIDDLE EAST



ICANN Presenters Featured at Hosting Talk in Istanbul

Over 1,000 people took part in the first **Hosting Talk**, a networking event for the hosting and cloud industry, from 12-13 April in Istanbul, Turkey. ICANN was a major sponsor and a key participant at the event with three speaking slots:

- An opening speech by Nick Tomasso, Managing Director for the Middle East and Africa, on ICANN's Istanbul regional office and activities.
- How to become an ICANN-accredited registrar by Fahd Batayneh, Stakeholder Engagement Manager in the Middle East.
- Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) and Universal Acceptance (UA) by Mert Saka, Registry Services and Engagement Manager.

An ICANN booth in the exhibition area of the event attracted over 200 participants to interact with ICANN organization members.

ICANN Participates in the .MA Domains Day Ahead of ICANN65 in Morocco

On 20 May, Baher Esmat, ICANN's Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East, attended .MA Domains Day, an annual gathering organized by the Moroccan country code top-level domain (ccTLD) and the Internationalized

Domain Name (IDN ccTLD operator (.MA and .المغرب)). The event in Rabat, Morocco, was expanded this year to include more participants. The attendees represented the private sector (Internet service providers, hosting companies, and local registrars), as well as government and academia.

Esmat presented on domain names for business, domain name importance, and domain name protections. The presentation covered new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), IDNs, and registrant rights. Participants expressed interest in learning more about trademarks, dispute resolution, WHOIS and data protection, IDNs, and how to become an ICANN-accredited registrar.

Esmat also took the opportunity to invite the participants to ICANN65 in Marrakech, coming up next month.



Discussing DAAR at MENOG19 in Lebanon

ICANN's Stakeholder Engagement Manager in the Middle East, Fahd Batayneh, was in Beirut, Lebanon from 3-4 April, for the 19th Middle East Network Operators Group (**MENOG19**) meeting. He presented on **Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR)**, ICANN's system for reporting on domain name registration and abuse data across top-level domain registries and registrars. In addition, Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) Ambassador Abdalmonem Galila presented on **Universal Acceptance and top-level domains**. ICANN was one of the event sponsors.

The event, which was attended by 236 in-person participants from 34 countries, updated the format this year to include three remote hubs: Ramallah (Palestine), Sana'a (Yemen), and Khartoum (Sudan). The MENOG Program Committee announced the decision to formally establish themselves as the peering forum for the region. You can read more about the changes at MENOG [here](#).



AFRICA

ICANN Raises Awareness About Universal Acceptance in Benin, Ghana, and South Africa

ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team members organized workshops across Africa to build capacity and raise awareness of Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDN). The workshops, namely in Benin, Ghana, and South Africa, were organized in collaboration with local Internet Society chapters in Benin and Ghana and the Tertiary Education and Research Network (TENET) in South Africa.



Participants learned about the impact of the new generic top-level domain label lengths and about the required community actions to ensure Universal Acceptance of all email addresses and domains names.



ICANN Supports WACREN Annual Conference

The West and Central Africa Research and Education Network (WACREN) Conference has been a key regional event for ICANN that supports the activities of the regional research and education networks in Africa. The **5th WACREN Annual Conference** was held from 14-15 March in Accra, Ghana. It was

hosted by the Ghanaian Academic and Research Network (GARNET), and ICANN was among the sponsors.

ICANN's GSE team members in Africa were on the ground to deliver a presentation on Identifier Technology Health Indicators (**ITHI**) to an audience that included academia, operators, and Internet service providers.

ICANN Africa Team in Congo for OSIANE 2019

The International Exhibition of Information Technologies and Innovation (**OSIANE**) is a key regional event in Central Africa. ICANN's GSE team members from Africa attended the third OSIANE from 16-18 April in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, to talk about the digital ecosystem in Africa, Universal Acceptance, and cybersecurity. They took part in the following activities throughout the event:



- **Business Roundtable on 15 April.**
- **Keynote at the Ministerial Roundtable on 16 April.**
- **Panel on cybersecurity on 16 April.**
- **ICANN workshop on 17 April.**

The event was organized by the Association for Promotion, Reflection, Analysis of Information and Communication Technologies (PRATIC), supported by Congo Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, and ICANN was among the sponsors. Government Ministers from Gabon and Republic of Congo were among the participants.



Communication Regulators from Southern Africa Learn About Internationalized Domain Names

ICANN's Government Stakeholder Engagement Africa team discussed Internationalized Domain Names and Universal Acceptance with high-level government delegates at the Annual General Meeting of Communications Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (**CRASA**) in March. The event in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, brought together nearly 120 communication regulators

from Southern Africa to discuss Internet-related issues, with a focus on cybercrime.

ICANN's Nairobi Engagement Center Partners with KENIC for Kenya Domain Day

From 10-12 April, ICANN's Engagement Center in Nairobi hosted the inaugural Kenya Domain Day in partnership with the Kenya Network Information Centre (**KENIC**). The event was officially opened by the Chairman of KENIC, Professor Meoli Kashorda, and attended by 46 registrars.



The event consisted of three parts:

Day 1:

- Updates from the Industry: ICANN64 Readout Session and Updates from ICANN and KENIC.

Day 2:

- DNSSEC Refresher Training
- KENIC Annual Registrar Awards Ceremony.

ICANN org representatives delivered presentations on the African domain name industry, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and how to become ICANN-accredited registrar.



DNS in Spotlight at Industry Events in Thailand

ICANN's Global Domains Division Industry Summit

Attendees from across the world gathered at the fifth annual GDD Industry Summit in Bangkok, Thailand to discuss topics of interest to ICANN-accredited registrars and registries. The three-day event featured sessions on a wide range of topics including data privacy, operational processes, implementation updates, gTLD use cases, and an overview of recent activity in the Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group. If you missed the event, recordings are archived [here](#).



ICANN Domain Name System (DNS) Symposium

Also in Bangkok, the ICANN Domain Name System (DNS) Symposium 2019 focused on issues around DNS security, stability, and resiliency. The two-day event was sponsored by ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) and featured discussions around DNS abuse and the effect of emerging technologies and protocols on the DNS.



Evolving ICANN's Multistakeholder Model of Governance

Please participate in the open [Public Comment period](#) on Evolving ICANN's Multistakeholder Model of Governance. The Public Comment seeks input on a draft [Issues List](#) that identifies areas the community believes hamper the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model. The Issues List reflects community input from [ICANN64](#), where the community engaged in a facilitated conversation about how to improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model. Comments will be reviewed, incorporated, and an updated Issues List will be published prior to ICANN65 in Marrakech, Morocco. Continue to

check [this site](#) for updates on activities and the Evolving MSM process. If you want to share your thoughts on any of these materials, you can post them to this [publicly archived email list](#), which you can subscribe to [here](#).



Transitioning ICANN's Remote Participation Platform to Zoom

ICANN organization (org) is transitioning its official remote participation platform from Adobe Connect to Zoom and is planning to complete the switchover in time for ICANN65 in Marrakech, Morocco. ICANN org is committed to providing the community with the safest tools that scale globally. Our testing shows that Zoom handles information security better, while providing nearly all of the same features as Adobe Connect. Click [here](#) to learn more about the transition.

Priorities for Capacity Development

The ICANN org recognizes that capacity development remains important to the regional communities. The Global Stakeholder Engagement team recently carried out a survey to gather data on specific priorities for capacity development among stakeholder groups. The results will inform strategic planning and resource allocation.

Among the most striking conclusions: "Increasing ICANN and DNS Knowledge" was the highest priority across all of the respondent categories. "Personal Skill Building," especially as it relates to drafting policy, was the second highest priority. In addition to this research, surveys will follow each training opportunity to assess effectiveness.

Read more about the survey results [here](#) from Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to the President and SVP of Global Stakeholder Engagement.



POLICY UPDATE

EPDP Update

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council submitted to the ICANN Board a [Recommendations Report](#) on the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The EPDP team was chartered to consider whether the Temporary Specification should become an ICANN Consensus Policy, as is or with modifications, while complying with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other relevant privacy and data protection law. The GNSO report contains an analysis of affected parties, anticipated time to implement recommendations, and other pertinent information that will assist the Board's deliberations on the EPDP Phase 1 policy recommendations.



ICANN org established an informal Pre-Implementation Review Team (pre-IRT) to assist with the implementation planning of the EPDP Phase 1 policy recommendation until the formal IRT is convened. The pre-IRT is comprised of current and former EPDP Team members who are expected to eventually transition to the IRT.

On 18 April, the GNSO Council approved the appointment of Janis Karklins, currently the Latvian Ambassador to the United Nations at Geneva, as the chair for the EPDP Team Phase 2.

GNSO Council Update

ICANN | GNSO

The GNSO Council recently:

- Adopted the GNSO [Review](#) of the ICANN64 Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Communiqué. The GNSO has transmitted the review to the ICANN Board and informed the GAC.
- Approved suggested amendments to the GNSO's [Fellowship Selection Criteria](#).
- Approved four out of the total five recommendations of the Final Report from the GNSO Policy Development Process Working Group on the International Governmental Organizations (IGO) and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms. [Learn More](#)

ICANN | RSSAC

RSSAC Workshop Held in Reston, VA

From 23-25 April, the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) held its seventh workshop in Reston, Virginia focusing on the work of the recently launched work party studying expectations of the Root Server System (RSS) and related metrics. The [work party is charged](#) with defining metrics which demonstrate that the RSS as a whole is online and serving correct and timely

responses to end users. They will also define measurements to ensure Root Server Operators are meeting a minimum level of performance. The RSSAC and the work party will focus on this effort in the coming weeks and months.

At-Large: Advisory and Activity Updates

- The At-Large community via the Consolidated Policy Working Group (CPWG) submitted **advice** to the ICANN Board regarding the GNSO Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Policy Recommendations.
- John Laprise, Vice Chair of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), is developing an **At-Large pilot** for multitier Internet end user outreach and activation on Universal Acceptance. Laprise will present the pilot during ICANN65.
- The **application process for the Third At-Large Summit (ATLAS III)** launched on Monday, 15 April. Applicants for this policy-focused summit should be active members in At-Large and must complete preparatory courses on ICANN Learn or participate in At-Large webinars to qualify for selection.
- The At-Large Review Implementation Working Group (ARIWG) asked community leaders to continue their work on the priorities identified by the ICANN Board.
- All regional At-Large organizations have begun the nomination process for **At-Large 2019 Elections, Selections, and Appointments** to be held later this month.

ccNSO Adopts IDN Roadmap

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO)

Council adopted a roadmap to replace the 2013 **Fast Track**

Process and help implement policy recommendations for Internationalized Domain Names (IDN) among country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). This roadmap was pending until the Extended Process Similarity Review Panel (**EPSRP**) and the **Risk Mitigation Panel** were complete.

The Council will now:

- Seek agreement with the ICANN Board on the closure of the Fast Track Implementation Plan.
- Convene the IDN ccTLD Policy Review Working Party and start the preliminary review of the recommended policy on the selection of IDN ccTLD strings.
- Review proposed necessary steps, including possible changes to the ICANN Bylaws to enable IDN ccTLDs to become ccNSO members. Membership is currently only open to all ccTLD managers responsible for managing an ISO3166 ccTLD.

ICANN | ccNSO



GDD UPDATE



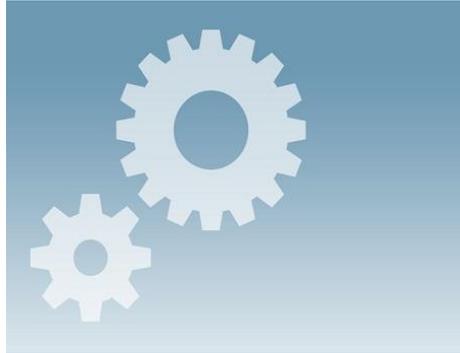
Expanded Report Now Includes Coverage of ccTLDs

Learn what's new in the Domain Name Marketplace Indicators report, which ICANN publishes to help support the evolution of the domain name marketplace. The report presents statistics related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and now includes information pertaining to country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). View the first wave of the report [here](#).

IANA Functions Audit Validates ICANN System Controls

For the sixth consecutive year, an audit of key systems used to

deliver IANA functions shows that the ICANN organization has the appropriate controls in place to ensure the security, availability, and integrity of IANA **request processing**. **Read here** for more information.



Calling All RDAP Implementers!

Did you know gTLD registries and registrars must implement a Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) service by 26 August 2019? To help contracted parties implement this service, ICANN org's Technical Services held two webinars interpreted in multiple languages and provided technical information to registries and registrars. More resources for RDAP implementers and the webinar recordings can be found **here**.



WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS

Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has several opportunities for community input and participation.



Specific Reviews are led by teams of community volunteers to assess the performance of the ICANN organization and make recommendations for improvement.

- **Read the third Accountability and Transparency Review Team's (ATRT3) latest blog** to learn about the team's priorities, progress, and how to become an observer.
- **Observe the second Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review Team's (SSR2) upcoming meeting.** The team will meet in Brussels, Belgium on 17-19 May 2019. Learn more **here**.

Organizational Reviews are led by independent examiners to assess the extent to which ICANN's Supporting Organizations (SOs), Advisory Committees (ACs), and the Nominating Committee (NomCom) fulfill their purpose, are accountable to their stakeholders, and whether any changes in structure or operations are needed.

- **Bookmark the wiki page for the Nominating Committee Review Implementation Working Group (NomCom RIWG).** The NomCom RIWG is developing a detailed implementation plan of the recommendations detailed in the Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan (**FAIIP**).

Visit the **Reviews Status Update Table** for the latest progress of Specific and Organizational Reviews and links to additional key resources for each.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join ICANN at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:

- 23 May, **iForum2019**, Kiev, Ukraine
- 3-4 June, **ENOG16**, Tbilisi, Georgia
- 9-21 June, **Africa Internet Summit'19**, Kampala, Uganda
- 11-14 June, **RightsCon**, Tunis, Tunisia
- 19-20 June, **EuroDIG 2019**, The Hague, Netherlands
- 20-21 June, **International Cybersecurity Congress**, Moscow, Russia
- 24-27 June, **ICANN65**, Marrakech, Morocco
- 22-24 July, **7th Africa DNS Forum**, Gaborone, Botswana

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

ISTANBUL

Hakki Yeten Cad. Selenium
Plaza No:10/C K:10
34349 Istanbul, Turkey



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