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**Update on the Root KSK Rollover Project**
Matt Larson, VP of Research, Office of Chief Technology Officer

The ICANN organization will not roll the root zone key signing key (KSK) in the first quarter of 2018.

We have decided that we do not yet have enough information to set a specific date for the rollover. We want to make clear, however, that the ICANN org is committed to rolling the root zone KSK and we will continue to discuss this important process with the community, gather their feedback, and give all interested parties advance notice of at least one calendar quarter when we set the date for the rollover.

[Read more...](#)
Internet Community Gathers at 2017 IGF in Geneva
More than 2,000 participants from 142 countries attended this year’s Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 21 December. Members of the global Internet community came together to discuss some of the most pressing issues impacting the Internet, such as cybersecurity, data protection, privacy, surveillance, and encryption. ICANN held three workshops and participated in the Open Forum, which gave us an opportunity to touch on key topics, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its effect on the ICANN community. The IGF continues to be one of the most important venues for discussing critical Internet-related matters.

Watch Videos on ICANN in Africa and the Middle East
Learn about ICANN’s outreach activities in Africa and in the Middle East, and why participation in ICANN is important for further development in these regions.

Pierre Dandjinou, ICANN’s VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in Africa, discusses ICANN’s outreach efforts in Africa.
Watch the video.

Baher Esmat, ICANN’s VP of Global Stakeholder Engagement in the Middle East, discusses ICANN’s outreach efforts in the Middle East.
Watch the video.

ICANN Signs an MoU with the Ministry of Transport, Communication and IT of Armenia
On 19 December, Göran Marby, ICANN's President and CEO, and Vahan Martirosyan, the Minister of Transport, Communication and IT (MTCIT) of Armenia, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the global IGF in Geneva, Switzerland. This MoU reflects the ongoing cooperation with the .am and հայ registries, which are managed by the Internet Society of Armenia, and celebrates years of active participation by the Armenian community in the ICANN ecosystem.

Both sides have expressed a desire to work together to further develop already established platforms for raising awareness and understanding about ICANN’s mission, as well as increasing participation by Armenian stakeholders in the ICANN ecosystem with events such as the Armenian IGF and Armenian School of Internet Governance.

.ua Celebrates 25 Years at UADOM2017
On 1 December, the UADOM conference was held in Kiev, Ukraine, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the delegation of .ua. On the night of 1 December 1992, Jon Postel delegated the .ua domain to the Ukrainian Internet pioneers who had started negotiations for the ccTLD right after Ukraine declared its independence in 1991. Alexandra Kulikova, Head of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Eastern Europe And Central Asia, took part in the conference and presented the Hostmaster LTD team and .ua’s registry manager with a congratulatory letter signed by Göran Marby, ICANN’s President and CEO. With just over 550,000 domains registered under .ua, the zone is one of the leaders in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and has been DNSSEC-signed since 2012. The .ua ccTLD has proven itself as a brand, and is an important part of the Ukrainian community’s online identity.

Continuing Our Regional Engagement Efforts in Turkey
On 21 November, ICANN's Baher Esmat, Vice President of Stakeholder Engagement for the Middle East, and Mert Saka, Registry Services and Engagement Manager, participated in the annual Cybercrime Workshop, which was held in Antalya, Turkey. They provided an overview of ICANN's role in securing the DNS, and the work of ICANN's Security, Stability, and Resiliency (SSR) team in areas related to DNS security and abuse. We also covered our engagement work, including the capacity-development workshops we hold for law enforcement authorities.
Throughout 2017, we held 23 different activities with 20 different universities, 2 of which were in Istanbul. As part of ICANN's ongoing efforts to strengthen its engagement with the academic community, on 23 November, ICANN's regional office in Istanbul held 2 events with 2 universities in Istanbul. We are currently working with the Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Turkey on organizing a training during Q1 2018.

A LOOK BACK AT OUR AFRICAN ENGAGEMENT IN 2017
Pierre Dandjinou, VP, Stakeholder Engagement, Africa
As the year comes to an end, we wanted to reflect on the milestones achieved thanks to the support our community has provided. Your dedication, relentless effort, and collaboration with us has ensured that the 2017 flagship events and meetings were incredibly successful. Read more...

Two Weeks of Internet Governance Events in Africa
In late November and early December, ICANN’s Global Stakeholder Engagement teams from Africa and the Middle East participated in three events in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt:

- **African School on Internet Governance (SIG) 2017.** ICANN’s Bob Ochieng and Fahd Batayneh covered topics such as ICANN and its role in the Internet governance (IG) ecosystem, domain names, and both national and regional IG initiatives.
- **Inaugural North Africa Internet Governance Forum (IGF).** Fahd Batayneh and Baher Esmat were panelists on two different sessions. Fahd sat on a panel entitled "Internet Governance Processes in North Africa and Globally," while Baher participated in a panel titled “Catalyzing an Inclusive Digital Economy in North Africa.”
- **Africa IGF.** Pierre Dandjinou was part of the high-level discussion on "Policy Implications of Digitalization to Enable an Inclusive Digital Transformation of Africa."
ITU Cyberthreat Intelligence Workshop in Cotonou, Benin
ICANN's Yaovi Atohoun, Stakeholder Engagement Manager for Africa, was asked to present at a workshop on cyberthreat Intelligence, which took place on 13 December in Cotonou. Yaovi spoke about "Cybersecurity and Cybersafety in the ICANN World," and educated participants on ICANN's role in maintaining the Internet's system of unique identifiers. Participants were also encouraged to have their country code top-level domain (ccTLD) zone signed by implementing Domain Name Security Extensions (DNSSEC), and were also provided information about hosting an L-Root instance within the organization.

Get Ready for ICANN61
Register now for ICANN61! The Community Forum will take place from 10-15 March 2018 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Come and network with your peers, engage in face-to-face discussions, ask questions, and help develop and implement Internet policies.

Before booking your travel, check the travel and visa requirements for Puerto Rico. Foreign nationals generally need a visa to enter the United States. U.S. citizens do not need a passport to enter Puerto Rico, but starting in January 2018 must present a driver's license that complies with the REAL ID Act. Find out more.

Nomination Period Opens for ICANN Multistakeholder Ethos Award
Award Targeted for ICANN62 | Nominations Close 19 March 2018

ICANN has opened the nomination period for ICANN's Multistakeholder Ethos Award, which will be presented at ICANN62. The award recognizes ICANN participants who have invested deeply in consensus-based solutions, acknowledged the importance of ICANN's multistakeholder model of Internet governance, and contributed substantively to the ICANN organization and community.

Read the full announcement.

Kim Davies Appointed VP, IANA Functions, and President, PTI
In this role, Davies will be ensuring that the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions are performed in a secure, stable, and efficient manner with a commitment to operational excellence. As VP of IANA Services, he will report to Akram Atallah, President of ICANN's Global Domains Division. As President of PTI, Davies will also serve as one of the five directors on the Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) Board.

Read the full announcement.

ICANN60 By the Numbers Now Available
ICANN has published the ICANN60 By the Numbers report, which includes technical, demographic, and attendance statistics of the recent Annual General Meeting in Abu Dhabi. This report is part of ICANN's commitment to transparency and to improving your meeting experience.

Download ICANN60 By the Numbers.
ICANN Publishes Updated gTLD Marketplace Index

Produced twice annually since July 2016, the gTLD Marketplace Health Index (Beta) presents statistics related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs). These statistics track progress against the goal of supporting the evolution of the domain name marketplace to be robust, stable and trusted. View the Health Index to learn more, see the worldwide regional distribution data and graphical representations for each category.

Data Protection/Privacy Activities

In December, we published details on how to submit a proposed model for providing registration directory services and meeting other data retention requirements while remaining compliant with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The most recent legal analysis from law firm Hamilton is also available - visit ICANN’s data protection/privacy page regularly to stay up to date.

Follow the Latest Progress of the Nominating Committee (NomCom) Review

The assessment report of the NomCom Review was published on 8 January 2018. See "Key News and Updates" on the NomCom wiki page. The Analysis Group, which is conducting the review, will hold a webinar in mid-January. Find out how you participate or access the recording.

For the current status and links to additional information about all Specific and Organizational Reviews, see: https://icann.org/resources/reviews.

ccNSO Council Elections

At its 7 December meeting, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council adopted the Council Election Report FY 2018. The Council decision took effect seven days later. These ccNSO Councilors will begin their three-year terms after ICANN61:

- Abdalla Omari (Africa)
GNSO Council Updates

- The GNSO (Generic Names Supporting Organization) Council submitted its review of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) ICANN60 Communiqué to the ICANN Board. The review covers topics such as intergovernmental organization protections, enhancing participation in ICANN, General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and applications for .amazon and related strings.
- The Council directed the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Implementation Review Team (PPSAI IRT) to consider the issue of privacy/proxy registration and the implementation of Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP) Part C. The Council has concerns about whether the addition or removal of a privacy/proxy service potentially triggers the 60-day inter-registrar transfer lock. The IRTP recommendations did not address this issue, and the potential harms were not brought to the attention of the ICANN organization. Registrars and other affected parties are encouraged to work with PPSAI IRT to put forward recommendations.
- Heather Forrest, the GNSO Chair, was confirmed as the GNSO representative on the Empowered Community Administration until the end of ICANN63. She had been fulfilling this role on a temporary basis since the end of ICANN60.

ccNSO Looks to ICANN61

ccNSO sessions will be limited to five days at ICANN61 and will start on 11 March. The full schedule for ICANN61 will be posted on 19 February. In the meantime, you can consult the draft ccNSO Members Meeting agenda.

At-Large Activity at Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2017

IGF 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland, marked the first time the At-Large community held a community-wide approach to workshop and outreach activity. For a number of years, through At-Large, the end-user community has been represented at the IGF. New this year were community-organized At-Large/ICANN-specific workshops, roundtables, and "lightning talks" focusing on end-user issues. They also introduced an At-Large Booth, where community volunteers answered questions and recruited newcomers. Learn More.

New At-Large Working Group Activity

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) has renewed its focus on its nearly 20 working groups with the aim of streamlining the policy, process, and outreach activities of the At-Large community. Examples of these efforts are verifying that the At-Large wiki workspace and website are complete and up to date. Also, to ensure a more cohesive approach to At-Large policy development, several existing policy working groups were merged. The goal of merging these working groups was to improve the effectiveness of new and continuing At-Large activities - including At-Large Review Implementation, At-Large Structures Criteria and Expectations, and ICANN policy issues.
Encountering Issues Transferring Your Domain Name?

Read Part III of our Domain Name Registrant educational series, “Do You Have a Domain Name? Here's What You Need to Know.” This blog offers detailed information about why you might be having issues transferring your domain name and what you can do to resolve them.

Read more...

No New gTLDs Were Delegated in December 2017

See the full list here.

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