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Policy Update



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TOP STORY

From Vision to Reality: .istanbul and .ist



Launch of .istanbul and .ist

Because of its highly strategic location, the city of Istanbul has, for nearly two millennia, served as both a hub and a conduit for commercial, cultural and knowledge exchange between the East and the West. Today, a thriving metropolis of more than 14 million people, Istanbul is a global brand, evoking strong and appealing connotations to visitors and residents alike.

The city's unique characteristics and an interest in technology motivated Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM), to champion the application for two generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The two gTLDs - .ist and .istanbul - would represent the city, its residents, businesses, municipal government entities and online brands. The mayor reinforced this sentiment at the launch event for these two gTLDs: "It is a privilege to live in Istanbul. Now it will be a privilege to have an Istanbul-branded domain name. Individuals, organizations as well as international brands will contribute to the marketing efforts for Istanbul."

ICANN processed the application for the .ist and .istanbul gTLDs, and IMM became the registry operator for both in mid-2014. In January 2016, through the Trademark Clearing House, registrations opened to trademark owners for a period of one month. In March, a limited registration period allowed local

organizations such as government institutions to register their domain names. In April 2016, the landrush period for the .ist and .istanbul domains began. Both gTLDs became generally available for registration in May 2016.

Both the registry and registrar communities supported a widespread marketing campaign in Turkey that included print, billboard, online and social media advertising. The efforts were a success and helped generate interest in the .ist and .istanbul domains. Since the launch, the domains now number more than 20,000.

The future for both gTLDs looks promising. According to Burkey Yapagcioglu, Director of Marketing at Turkish registrar Nics Telekomunikasyon: "Registrants see the .ist and .istanbul extensions as an investment opportunity for local search and believe they reflect Turkey's prestige on Internet."



ICANN NEWS

Watch Wrap-Up of First Policy Forum in Helsinki

ICANN's Duncan Burns speaks with Board Chair Steve Crocker and ICANN CEO Göran Marby. Crocker and Marby look back on ICANN56, discussing how the policy focus changed the dynamics of the meeting. They also give an update on the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Transition in light of the recent report from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Watch the [video](#).



2016 Multistakeholder Ethos Award Recognizes Two Members of the Global Internet Community

ICANN is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2016 Multistakeholder Ethos Award. This year, the community evaluation panel recognized two long-time members of the ICANN community: **Chuck Gomes** and **Keith Davidson**. The awards were presented on 27 June at ICANN56 in Helsinki, Finland.

The Multistakeholder Ethos Award honors members of the ICANN community who have made outstanding contributions to ICANN's multistakeholder model of Internet governance.

[Read more...](#)

Celebrating 200 At-Large Structures

On 23 June, ICANN celebrated an exciting milestone in the history of the At-Large Community - the At-Large Advisory Committee has accredited the 200th organization as an At-Large Structure (ALS).

From the Arctic to the Cook Islands, ALSes form the basis of the At-Large Community, which represents the best interests of Internet users in ICANN's multistakeholder model. Across the world's five geographic regions, 92 countries and territories now have ALSes, with 42 in Africa, 44 in Asia Pacific, 37 in Europe, 50 in Latin America and the Caribbean Islands, and 27 in North America.

[Read more...](#)



Call for Volunteers for SSR2 Review Team

ICANN is looking for volunteers to serve on the Second Security, Stability and Resiliency of the DNS Review Team (SSR2-RT). The [Call for Volunteers for SSR2-RT](#) will open on 30 June 2016 and will close on 15 August 2016.

We are seeking a diverse team that reflects gender and geographic diversity. We've developed a [presentation](#) that describes the team, its work and the expertise needed. Please help spread the word!



EUROPE



Participants at the Polish Internet Academy

Polish Internet Academy Concludes Successfully

The first Polish Internet Academy, with biweekly sessions running from April through June 2016, has come to an end. ICANN initiated and led the project. However, the academy was largely powered by volunteers from the Polish Internet community who shared their time and expertise on Internet-related topics.

Each meeting's agenda included two 45-minute presentations on topics suggested by community experts, followed by discussions. The topics ranged from human rights issues to privacy protection to intellectual property rights on the Internet. Presenters also shared a case study on how an electric power plant was compromised via cyberattacks. ICANN gave an

update on the New gTLD Program to increase the awareness of this initiative in Poland.

Sessions accommodated both in-person and remote attendees, and a key group of participants attended multiple sessions. The feedback for the project was overwhelmingly positive, despite inconvenient evening hours. The academy's organizing committee will complete an initial evaluation of the program, and based on the feedback, will organize another event with new topics and speakers.

The idea behind the Polish Internet Academy is to offer Polish Internet enthusiasts a forum for learning about Internet-related issues, including the possibilities and the downsides of Internet usage. The organizers hope to begin cooperating with established Polish Internet organizations and to reach out to the broader public.

EuroDIG 2016 Draws Record Numbers

As an institutional partner of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (**EuroDIG**), ICANN contributed to the preparation of the 2016 EuroDIG, held in Brussels from 9-10 June 2016. This year's theme was "Embracing the digital (r)evolution." EuroDIG 2016 attracted over 600 participants from many stakeholder groups, the largest number of participants ever for an EuroDIG event.

ICANN CEO Göran Marby led ICANN's Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) teams from Western and Eastern Europe. They participated in several sessions and met with the European Internet governance community.



ICANN CEO Göran Marby Speaking at EuroDIG 2016

Marby introduced himself at the opening session and joined the main panel on "Fragmentation of the Internet," sharing his commitment to lead ICANN through the Internet Assigned Named Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition. He reinforced ICANN's role in supporting the community.

ICANN also led a "flash session" on the IANA Stewardship Transition. The GSE teams participated in sessions on cybersecurity, Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6), Internet access and the "Internet of Things" in Europe.



EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA



Group photo of ICANN's Michael Yakushev; Nurudin Mukhitdinov, Director General of the Regional Commonwealth of Communications; with Representatives of the Government Regulatory Agencies of Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine and Belarus

Kyrgyzstan Hosts the First Central Asian IGF

On 21-22 June, the **First Central Asian Internet Governance Forum (CAIGF)** took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The event was truly representative, with over 150 local and foreign stakeholders from Central Asia, Eastern Europe and beyond (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, U.K., U.S., Ukraine, Uruguay and Uzbekistan).

In his opening remarks, Muhammetkaly Abylgaziev, First Vice Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, praised the level of interaction with ICANN. He also expressed an interest in developing stronger connections between ICANN and Central Asian stakeholders. The forum's chair was Ernis Mamyrganov, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic. Mamyrganov also represents the Kyrgyz Republic on ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee.

Michael Yakushev - ICANN's VP for Eastern Europe, Russia and Central Asia - spoke at the opening plenary and participated on several panels. Sessions covered many topics of interest in the region: global Internet governance projects, regional DNS industry, digital divide, cybersecurity, national IT strategies, critical infrastructure, freedom of information, and domestic and regional legislation related to the Internet.

ICANN was a co-organizer of the CAIGF.



MIDDLE EAST

Three Years into ICANN's Middle East Strategy

The ICANN Middle East Stakeholder Engagement Team has posted a blog summarizing the key achievements of the strategy, along with an infographic highlighting the relevant metrics.

Over three years ago, ICANN stakeholders in the Middle East came together to develop a regional engagement strategy for

2013-2016. The strategy affirmed the need to foster:

- Two-way engagement between ICANN and the Internet community
- Strong and competitive domain name industry
- Mechanisms for multistakeholder Internet governance The timeframe of the strategy ends on 30 June 2016.

The timeframe of the strategy ends on 30 June 2016.

[Read more...](#)



AFRICA



Participants at the Africa Internet Summit

ICANN Day at the Africa Internet Summit 2016

This year's Africa Internet Summit (**AIS'16**) was held from 29 May to 10 June 2016 in Gaborone, Botswana. On 4 June, ICANN held the second ICANN Day, which attracted 100 participants, even on a Saturday!

Introduced last year in Tunisia during AIS'15, ICANN Day is now part of the AIS tradition. ICANN Day is an opportunity for ICANN and the global community to engage and exchange the latest information. It gives ICANN a chance to get feedback from the Internet community.

Presenters at ICANN Day included ICANN staff, Board and community leaders and local information and communications technology organizations. ICANN Day's officiator was Dr. Jeff Ramsay - Botswana's Deputy Permanent Secretary for Media at the Ministry of Communications, Science and Technology. He emphasized the importance of Botswana (and the entire African continent) becoming part of the ICANN debate. He also stressed the need for Africa to engage in high-level dialogue about the future of the Internet as a critical development tool for the continent. Read Dr. Jeff Ramsay's [op-ed about ICANN Day](#).

On 10 June, the ICANN team briefed participants on two activities in ICANN's Africa Strategy: Africa's Internet history project and the Africa Domain Name System (DNS) market study.

ICANN was a Diamond sponsor for AIS'16. AIS was launched in the Gambia in 2012 as a forum for sharing knowledge of information and communications technology in the African region. The program consists of seminars, workshops, tutorials, conference sessions, birds-of-a-feather sessions and other forums.



IANA STEWARDSHIP NEWS

NTIA Report Update

In last month's [IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal Assessment Report](#), NTIA evaluated the transition proposals against the COSO internal control framework. The COSO framework aligned with the U.S. Government Accountability Office's recommendation for how NTIA could enhance its review.

NTIA's [COSO Assessment](#) was favorable. Of the 70 areas assessed, only 11 received a yellow rating (partial compliance), and there were no red ratings (noncompliance).

[Read more...](#)

Preserving the Security, Stability and Resiliency of the Internet

ICANN and Verisign have completed discussions and negotiations for the Root Zone Maintainer Services Agreement (RZMA).

The RZMA is intended to maintain stable, secure and reliable operations of the root zone for direct root zone management service customers (registry operators, registrars and root server operators). The security and stability of the Internet's domain name system is also maintained, due to an extension of the .com Registry Agreement that coincided with the term of the new RZMA.

- The RZMA has been posted for a **30-day public review period**.
- The Proposed Amendment to the .com Registry Agreement has been posted for a **43-day public comment period**.

[Read more...](#)

CCWG-Accountability Launches Work Stream 2 in Helsinki

Over 70 individuals met in Helsinki for a full-day meeting of the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) to begin introductory discussions on Work Stream 2. Joined by many other participants via Adobe Connect, the group started conversations on each of the nine **Work Stream 2 topics**, ranging from diversity across ICANN to the role and function of the Ombudsman. Many participants presented their views on specific topics of their choosing by hosting five-minute "lightning talks," which sparked many healthy debates throughout the day. Co-Chair Thomas Rickert concluded the meeting by praising the group's accomplishments and recognizing that it had a clearer path to developing its Work Stream 2 Report.

If you are interested in becoming a participant or observer of the CCWG-Accountability, please send an email to acct-staff@icann.org.

Read the **Co-Chairs' blog leading into ICANN56**.

Open Public Comment and Public Review Periods

Public Comment Periods:

- **Proposed Amendment to .COM Registry Agreement** (30 June-12 August 2016)
- **Draft Post-Transition IANA Articles of Incorporation** (1 July- 31 July 2016)
- **Draft Post-Transition IANA Bylaws**(8 July-7 August 2016)
- **Draft Post-Transition Governance Documents**(8 July-7 August 2016)

Public Review Period:

- **Root Zone Maintainer Agreement** (30 June-30 July)



POLICY UPDATE

Introducing the RIPE Forum

The Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC) has developed a new way to participate in RIPE community discussions. The **RIPE Forum** is a web-based interface for reading and sending emails to RIPE Working Group mailing lists.

The RIPE Forum was developed in-house based on feedback from RIPE community members who wanted an option to share information in a more interactive way. The new interface is completely optional - those who prefer the established mailing list system can continue as they always have and will not notice any difference.

Read the Post-ICANN56 Policy Forum Report!

To learn about the cross-community sessions and accomplishments of the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees at ICANN56, read the [Post-ICANN56 Policy Forum Report!](#) This new effort captures the important work of the ICANN community on key issues and tracks progress from ICANN Public Meetings in a simple, accessible format.



GDD UPDATE

Now Available! New Findings About the gTLD Market

A global study has found that awareness and trust of generic top-level domains (gTLDs) continue to increase. Wave 2 of the Global Consumer Research Study measured current consumer attitudes towards the gTLD landscape and the Domain Name System (DNS). The study also assessed changes in consumer attitudes from the first wave of the study in 2015. Nielson conducted the research for ICANN. The results will inform the work of the Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review Team. For key findings, [read the report](#).

Global Consumer Research Study



Amending the New gTLD Registry Agreement

On 31 May 2016, ICANN announced that it had posted for public comment a proposed amendment to the base New gTLD Registry Agreement. Like other business contracts, the Registry Agreement needs to be modified occasionally to clarify responsibilities and update terms. We encourage all members of the ICANN community to provide feedback. Comments close on 13 July 2016. [Read the blog](#) to learn more, or [comment](#) on the proposed amendment.

DNSSEC Validation: What's It All About?

When you've used the Internet to look up something, you've relied on the Domain Name System, or DNS, to give you the information you requested. A security technology called Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) protects Internet users against attacks that can result in forged DNS responses.

DNSSEC validation ensures that DNS information hasn't been modified during transit. To learn more about this technology and important updates that will be implemented in the coming year, [read the blog](#).

DNSSEC



DELEGATED TLDs

Forty-Three New gTLDs delegated in May 2016

dunlop
airbus
ericsson
itv

farmers
games
now
fire

For the full list of new gTLDs delegated in June 2016, click [here](#).



UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:

- 18-20 July | [ITU Annual Regional Human Capacity Building Workshop for Sub-Saharan Countries in Africa](#) | Lilongwe, Malawi
- 19-21 July | [Connect to Connect Summit](#) | Pretoria, South Africa
- 26-28 July | [GSMA - Mobile 360 Series](#) | Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- 8-12 August | [Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance](#) | Beirut, Lebanon

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

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