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TOP STORY



Culmination of a Two-Year Effort by the Global Internet Community

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Board Chair Dr. Stephen D. Crocker submitted to the U.S. Government a plan developed by the international Internet community that, if approved, will lead to global stewardship of some key technical Internet functions.

"This plan is a testament to the hard work of the global Internet community and the strength of the multistakeholder model," said Crocker, who transmitted the plan on behalf of the global community. "The plan has now been sent to the U.S. Government for its review, and assuming it meets the necessary criteria, we will have reached an historic moment in the history of the Internet."

The plan provides a comprehensive package to transition the U.S. Government's stewardship of these technical functions, called the IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority), which are critical to the Internet's smooth operation. It also proposes ways to enhance ICANN's accountability as a fully independent organization. The transition is the final step in the long-anticipated privatization of the

Internet's Domain Name System (DNS), first outlined when ICANN was incorporated in 1998.

The ICANN Board received the package from the community during its 55th public meeting in Morocco, and transmitted it to the U.S. National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA).

[Click here to read more.](#)



ICANN NEWS



ICANN's Luna Madi sat down with interim ICANN President & CEO Akram Atallah and ICANN Board Chair Steve Crocker to talk about ICANN's historic week. They discussed the community's extraordinary effort in developing the plan to Transition Stewardship of Key Internet Functions that was sent to the U.S. Government. They also discussed plans for the transition to the new CEO Göran Marby, the new gTLD program and IDNs.

Click the picture or visit [ICANN's YouTube Channel](#) to watch the interview.



EUROPE

Exploring the Potential of the Digital Economy in Africa

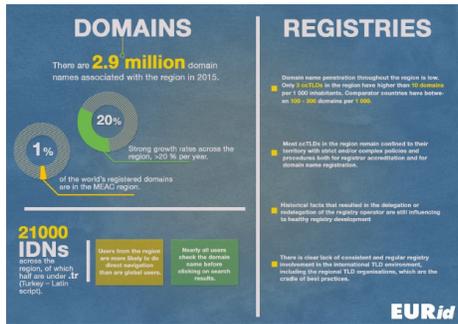
On the periphery of the GMSA Mobile World Congress held last month in Barcelona, Spain, ICANN hosted a successful breakfast roundtable on the topic of "Digital Opportunities for African Economies." Africa's population will make up a quarter of the next four billion people to be connected globally. The interactive discussion focused on the economic and social aspects of Africa's digital opportunities - and the hurdles that Africa needs to overcome to meet its digital potential. Session participants also heard success stories from the region.



The event was hosted by Pierre Dandjinou, VP of Stakeholder Engagement in Africa for ICANN, and included a presentation by Dr. David Dean from the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and an interactive discussion moderated by Alan Marcus from the World Economic Forum (WEF). Read David Dean's [article on the digital opportunities in Africa](#).



MIDDLE EAST



Middle East DNS Report Is Available

Last month, ICANN published the final report on the Domain Name System (DNS) for the Middle East and Adjoining Countries (MEAC), called the "[Middle East DNS Study](#)." The report was also the subject of the ICANN55 session "DNS Industry in the Middle East."

Join Us this Month in Istanbul

The Middle East Network Operators Group (MENOG) will host its 16th meeting in Istanbul from 19-24 March 2016. The six-day event will consist of four days of training (two workshops running in parallel) and a two-day plenary.



The workshop on DNS Operations and DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) will be led by ICANN's Rick Lamb, with Kadir Erdogan of NIC.tr as a co-trainer. During the plenary, ICANN will share the findings of the MEAC DNS Study.

ICANN is a Training Sponsor of this event. Learn more about [MENOG 16](#).



AFRICA



ICANN to Open Office in Africa

ICANN was pleased to announce at ICANN55 that later this year, it will open an engagement office in Nairobi, Kenya. The Nairobi office will act as the main engagement center for Africa and will give ICANN a physical presence on the continent. The office will support three staff members, and will be the focal point for engagement in the region in the region. The location and opening date will be announced soon.



Nominating Committee Seeks Candidates

The Nominating Committee invites interested individuals to submit applications and/or to recommend candidates for key leadership positions: three members of the ICANN Board of Directors, two At-Large Advisory Committee representatives (one each from the European and North American regions), one member of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council, and one member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council. Apply for these positions by completing the [online application](#) or by emailing nomcom2016@icann.org. All applications are confidential and should be received by 20 March 2016 (23:59 UTC) for full consideration. Selections will be announced in August or September 2016.



Visit the New At-Large Website!

The new [At-Large Community website](#) is now live. Over the past year, the At-Large Community and ICANN staff have worked to create a more engaging website for both newcomers and experienced members. The new website features simple navigation, dynamic features and accessible content. You can search policy advice statements, follow news and events, find regional activities and participate in the At-Large Community.

Start exploring now!

SSAC Publishes Two Advisories

The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) has published [SAC079](#), "SSAC Advisory on the Changing Nature of IPv4 Address Semantics." In this advisory, the SSAC considers the changing role of IPv4 addresses caused by the increasing scarcity, and subsequent exhaustion, of IPv4 addresses. The SSAC also published [SAC078](#), "SSAC Advisory on Uses of the Shared Global Domain Name Space." This advisory informs the ICANN Board and community that SSAC has formed a work party to study the security and stability issues associated with multiple uses of the domain name space.

Launch of Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP

Following the publication of the [Final Issue Report](#), the GNSO Council unanimously voted to launch a Policy Development Process (PDP) to review all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all generic top-level domains (gTLDs). This PDP will be a two-phased effort: the first phase will review the RPMs for the new gTLD program, including the Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS), and the second phase will focus on a review of the Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP). For more

Join TLD-OPS, the ccTLD Incident Response Community!

The goal of the TLD-OPS community is to enable country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators worldwide to collaboratively strengthen their incident response capabilities. The TLD-OPS mailing list serves as a contact repository for ccTLDs. Subscribers regularly receive an automated email that contains an overview of all subscribed ccTLDs (170 of 293 ccTLDs have joined) and their incident response contact information. ccTLD operators also use the list to share security alerts with their peers and receive alerts from the Internet Assigned Names Authority (IANA) and the ICANN security team. TLD-OPS is open to every ccTLD - [find out how to join](#).

At-Large Outreach Activities Engage Africa

The At-Large Community held a series of exciting outreach events at ICANN55 to engage African end users and NGOs. Invited by the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), representatives of African NGOs participated in the [daily capacity building sessions](#) to deepen their understanding of ICANN and the At-Large Community. For the first time, sixty university students from Rabat [immersed themselves in ICANN55](#). At-Large leaders also traveled to Université Cadi Ayyad to discuss the multistakeholder model with the students.



*Soufia Bellamkirab, Yaovi Atohou,
Gisella Gruber, Noura Znaidi, Heidi
Ullrich and Alan Greenberg*

MENOG16: Registration Now Open

The Middle East Network Operators Group (MENOG) is a forum for network operators in the region to discuss core operational issues and share knowledge and expertise relating to growing the Internet in the region. [MENOG16](#) will take place 23-24 March in Istanbul, Turkey. Registration is now open. There are also optional [tutorials](#) before the start of the meeting, running on 22-23 March. Attendance at MENOG16 and the tutorials are free and anyone may attend.

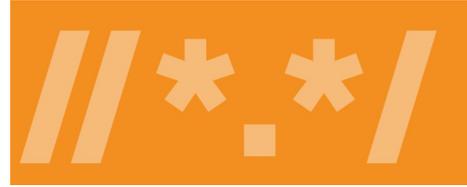
IPv4 Policy Proposals in AFRINIC Region

Policy discussions in the AFRINIC region have focused on the management of the last /8 IPv4 address block. There are two proposals: 1) [Soft Landing bis](#) revises the maximum and minimum allocation sizes during Phases 1 and 2 of IPv4 Exhaustion as defined in the current "IPv4 Soft Landing" policy. The proposal also introduces an IPv6 deployment prerequisite to members that will need to acquire IPv4 space during the exhaustion phases. Lastly, the proposal outlines provisions for reserving an IPv4 block for critical Internet infrastructure. 2) [Soft Landing Overhaul](#) stipulates a reserve for new resource requestors and does not stipulate a minimum value. The intent of the proposal is to accelerate IPv4 consumption and consequently encourage IPv6 uptake and adoption. The two proposals have conflicting objectives on extending the lifetime of IPv4 space, with the former prolonging IPv4 lifetime, while the



GDD UPDATE

Universal Acceptance Fact Sheet and Quick Guide



Have you heard the term "Universal Acceptance" recently, but aren't quite sure what it's all about? The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) has published a [fact sheet](#) that provides a high-level overview of Universal Acceptance, as well as a [quick guide](#) for developers that includes definitions of key terms and recommended steps for becoming Universal Acceptance-Ready. Learn the basics with these handy documents.



First Version Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone Released

On 2 March 2016, ICANN released the first version of Label Generation Rules (LGR-1) for the Root Zone, which has support for the Arabic script. This is a significant step to achieving a truly multilingual Internet. [Find out](#) how the community achieved this exciting milestone and what it means for current and future Arabic script Internet users.



DELEGATED TLDs

Twenty-seven new gTLDs and two ccTLDs delegated in February 2016

eю	yahoo
tunes	flickr
song	gallup
store	pwc
chase	jpmorgan

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



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Conference Digital economy: chances and challenges](#) | 17 - 18 March 2016 | Prague, Czech

Republic

- **DIDS 2016: Living the Internet... Globally - Securely - Locally**, organized by the Serbian National Internet Domain Registry Foundation (RNIDS) | 15 - 16 March 2016 | Belgrade, Serbia
- **ICANN as Training Sponsor at MENO G 16** | 19 - 24 March 2016 | Istanbul
- **Connected East Africa: Bridging the Service Gap** | 21 - 24 March 2016 | Mombasa, Kenya
- **RightsCon Silicon Valley 2016** | 30 March - 1 April 2016 | San Francisco, California, USA
- **7th Russian Internet Governance Forum** | 7 April 2016 | Moscow, Russia

Look at [complete list of ICANN engagements](#) here.

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