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**TOP STORY**

**Mandy Carver Appointed Senior Vice President of ICANN's Government & IGO Engagement Team**

Mandy Carver has been appointed to the position of Senior Vice President, Government & Intergovernmental Organization (IGO) Engagement. Carver, whose 30 years of experience includes 13 years of global engagement work at ICANN, is a seasoned international consensus-builder with deep roots in multistakeholder processes. She will lead the Government & IGO Engagement function that identifies and works to address the opportunities and risks governments and IGOs pose to ICANN's mission.

Read the full announcement [here](#).

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**.ORG Update**

ICANN stakeholders have questions about the proposed acquisition of Public Interest Registry (PIR) by Ethos Capital, and what it means for .ORG.

Read ICANN’s latest blog by President & CEO Göran Marby and Board Chair Maarten Botterman that explains ICANN’s role and where we are in the process.

Click here to read the [blog](#).
IGF 2019 in Berlin: Toward an Open and Inclusive Internet

Internet stakeholders from around the world met to discuss Internet policy at the fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Berlin, Germany, from 25 to 29 November. Hosted by the German government, the IGF attracted over 3,500 participants this year, reflecting more interest in the challenges and opportunities of an open and inclusive Internet.

With the theme "One World. One Net. One Vision.", attendees examined data governance, digital inclusion, and ensuring the security, safety, stability, and resiliency of the global Internet. Members of the ICANN community, Board, and organization actively participated in the dialogue. Also, the ICANN booth provided an opportunity for ICANN org members to interact with Forum participants and raise awareness of ICANN and its constituencies. More information on ICANN's participation, can be found here.

Session transcripts, videos, and output documents from the event are available here. Digital Watch from the Geneva Internet Platform also provided daily briefs and session reports from the event.

Poland will host the next IGF Annual Meeting in 2020, and ICANN looks forward to participating.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ICANN COMMUNITY

Raïhanath B. Adjokè Gbadamassi Tells Her ICANN Story

How are you involved in ICANN?
I am involved in ICANN as an African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) member. I contribute and participate in the implementation of policies for the benefit of the community's general interests, especially those of users. Also, being a lawyer by profession, I participate and work in constituencies related to digital rights and other legal aspects of the Internet.

How have you been involved in ICANN?
I have been involved with ICANN since 2016. I started with the online courses and then I was selected as
an ICANN Fellow for the ICANN59 meeting in Johannesburg. Later, I joined the Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC) and continued with the online courses, the webinars, the AFRALO monthly meetings, and attending ICANN meetings both in person and remotely. I often participate in calls that fit my interests and can help me learn more and be better involved in ICANN.

What are the most challenging things about being a part of the ICANN community?
From my modest experience of belonging to the ICANN community, the most challenging things are:

- Understanding ICANN's acronyms.
- Navigating the ICANN organizational structure and finding my area of interest in the many constituencies of the ICANN community.
- Finding ways to truly learn at ICANN Public Meetings and to make sure my participation contributes effectively to community development.

What are the rewarding things about being a part of the ICANN community?
There are so many rewarding things about being part of the ICANN community. I will just name a few:

- Contributing to the decisions that influence the development of the global Internet.
- Defending the interests of stakeholders.
- Discovering and learning about social and economic realities of the Internet ecosystem.
- Establishing friendships, professional relationships, or business partnerships with people or structures from many other countries around the world.
- Taking advantage of the several learning and travel opportunities.

What would you suggest to the newcomers at ICANN?
My only suggestion to the newcomers is that they should truly engage and be active while participating and contributing to the ICANN community.

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Senior DNS Leaders Attend the 4th Eastern European DNS Forum in Armenia

The fourth Eastern European Domain Name System Forum (EEDNSF) took place on 11-12 October 2019 in Yerevan, Armenia. This year's Forum, jointly organized by ICANN, the .am/.հայ Registry, and the Internet Society of Armenia, welcomed around 180 participants.

For the first time, the EEDNSF program was designed by the regional community. The Forum was part of a series of events under the umbrella of the first N2 Forum, which aims to bring together key players of the regional and global Internet community. Senior ICANN leadership including CEO and President Göran Marby, Board member Danko Jevtović, and Chief Technology Officer David Conrad, participated on-site.

If you missed this year's EEDNSF, check out the links below:
The 7th Middle East DNS Forum Registration is Now Open

The seventh Middle East DNS Forum (MEDNSF) will be held on 24-25 March 2020 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The Forum, the first ICANN-led event in Saudi Arabia, will be hosted by the Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC).

It will feature international and regional field experts and industry stakeholders who will discuss the latest developments and hot issues in the domain name marketplace. The agenda features a variety of panel discussions and presentations covering topics of interest to the regional community aimed at unlocking the full potential of the DNS industry in the Middle East.

For more information and registration details, visit the MEDNSF event page here.

ICANN66: Helping the Africa Strategy Become Aligned with the ICANN Strategy

The Africa Strategy Session during ICANN66 in Montréal took place on 6 November. Sally Costerton, Senior Advisor to President and Senior Vice President of Global Stakeholder Engagement, and Nick Tomasso, Managing Director of the Middle East & Africa Regional Office and Vice President of Global
Meeting Operations, made introductory remarks at the session.

Nick Tomasso outlined plans to recruit a new technical engagement manager and GSE analyst for the region in the upcoming months. Sally Costerton shared ICANN efforts to support and maximize participation from the region. She encouraged the community to help prioritize the target outputs in the alignment of the Africa Strategy with the global ICANN strategy.

Nathalie Vergnolle, Strategic Planning Director, was also among the speakers at the session, presenting key focus areas in the ICANN Fiscal Years 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Pierre Dandjinou, Vice President of Global Stakeholder Engagement in Africa, kicked off the discussion with the community, collecting the participants' initial feedback toward the drafting of ICANN's new strategic plan for Africa.

The session wrapped up with details on the next steps for the Africa Strategic Plan drafting process, the first of which will be a webinar scheduled for 18 December 2019. An Africa Strategy working group will also be formed by the end of January 2020 to start drafting the document.

Stay tuned for our updates on the Africa Strategy!

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**ICANN Participates in the First Africa Geospatial Data and Internet Conference**

ICANN org in Africa participated in the first Africa Geospatial Data and Internet Conference from 22-24 October in Accra, Ghana. The event, themed “Shaping Africa’s Digital Future,” focused on the need to adopt geospatial data to contribute to solutions for the continent's complex issues. Attended by over 1,200 participants, ICANN org participated in several sessions and engaged with attendees at the ICANN booth in the exhibition area.

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**Africa Hosts Several Academic Outreach Activities by ICANN**
ICANN org in Africa engaged in a series of academic outreach activities during October and November. These activities included:

- 10 October: YouthCom Workshop at Bugema University in Uganda
- 24 October: Public lecture at the University of Nairobi in Kenya
- 25 October: Academic outreach activity in collaboration with the ISOC Chapter in Ghana at the University of Ghana
- 1 November: A remote presentation during the UbuntuNet 2019 Conference
- 14 November: A YouthCom Workshop at the Technical University of Kenya

These activities have helped raise awareness of ICANN, the DNS ecosystem, and Universal Acceptance.

**Zimbabwe Hosts ICANN for Presentations on the Root Server System, and the ccTLD Industry**

From 4-8 November, ICANN org in Africa participated in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Capacity Building Workshop on Regional Internet Exchange Point (IXP) and National IXP Connectivity Project in Harare, Zimbabwe. The event was hosted by the Government of Zimbabwe, through the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), and the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ). ICANN was invited by the SADC Secretariat to deliver two presentations, one on "Root Servers and the Root Server System" and the other on "The State of the Country Code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs) Industry in Southern Africa."

The meeting was opened by Dr. Jenfan Muswere, the Deputy Minister of ICT, Postal and Courier Services of Zimbabwe, and attended by 50 delegates from the 16 SADC member states, IXP operators, Southern Africa Telecommunications Association (SATA), AFRINIC, ISOC, and Packet Clearing House (PCH).

**AfricaCom Brings Together Thousands of Participants in Cape Town, South Africa**

Featuring thought leaders from across the information technology industries, more than 14,000 people attended AfricaCom in Cape Town, South Africa from 12-14 November. ICANN org representatives participated on several panels, discussing issues pertaining to security, data privacy, and the ICANN ecosystem. Other events including AfricaTech and Africarena took place on the sidelines, providing an opportunity for ICANN org to boost engagement with the regional private sector.

**Domain Abuse Activity Reporting System Expands**

Country code top-level domain (ccTLD) operators will now be able to actively participate in the Domain Abuse Activity Reporting (DAAR) system. ICANN’s DAAR system is used to study and report on domain name registration and security threat behavior across top-level domain (TLD) registries. The data is obtained from a curated list of Domain Name System (DNS) reputation providers.

Now, ccTLD operators can pull their own aggregated DAAR data via the Monitoring System Application Programming Interface (MoSAPI). The MoSAPI interface allows registry operators to retrieve information collected by the ICANN Service Level Agreement Monitoring (SLAM) system. While ccTLD operators will not be subject to the SLAs the SLAM system monitors, using MoSAPI will allow a consistent interface for all registries participating in DAAR. The aggregated data counts security threats broken down by threat type (e.g., phishing, botnet command and control, malware distribution, and spam) per TLD. These data sets will be similar to those of the generic top-level domains (gTLDs) that are currently provided via MoSAPI. Having access to such data will enable ccTLD operators to monitor the DAAR security threat
levels per threat type per month in the same way as gTLD operators.

The ICANN organization invites all ccTLD operators to participate in the DAAR project to promote a greater understanding of abuse across the global DNS. To participate, ccTLD operators should send a request to globalsupport@icann.org to begin the process.

Register Now for ICANN67

Registration for the ICANN67 Community Forum in Cancún, Mexico, from 7 to 12 March 2020 is now open. Click here to register now. You can find travel and visa information on the ICANN Meetings website.

ICANN66 Post-Policy Report

The Post-ICANN66 Policy Report captures updates from the more than 200 sessions at ICANN66 dedicated to community policy development and advisory work by Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and Empowered Community. ICANN66 featured three plenary sessions and the third At-Large Summit. Also, 58 community leaders were recognized upon conclusion of their terms of service.

ICANN68 Fellowship Application Round Now Open

The application round for the ICANN68 Fellowship Program is open for the 22-25 June 2020 Policy Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This round is open only to those who have previously completed an ICANN Fellowship because ICANN68 is a Policy Forum. The deadline to apply is 15 December 2019, 23:59 UTC. Successful candidates will be announced on 24 February 2020 on https://icann.org/.

The Fellowship Program seeks out individuals who are interested in, or already engaged in, the various aspects of ICANN's work in policymaking, the operation of the Domain Name System (DNS), and the security and stability of the global Internet. The goal of the ICANN Fellowship Program is to strengthen the diversity of the multistakeholder model by fostering opportunities for individuals from underserved and underrepresented communities to become active participants in the ICANN community.

For more information, please visit this page.

Prioritizing Areas of Improvement in the ccNSO

At ICANN66, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) held a workshop to begin prioritizing areas of improvement for the ccNSO. The ccNSO Triage Committee will lead this initiative and is developing a work
plan to guide prioritization efforts over the next few months. Recommendations for improvement include topics related to diversity, good faith, and accountability mechanisms. The recommendations for improvement were gathered from the Final Report of the Second ccNSO Organizational Review and the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability Work Stream 2 recommendations. By February 2020, the Triage Committee will present its recommended implementation plan to the ccNSO Council for next steps.

PDP 3.0 Webinar Reflects on Recent Implementation Efforts

On 27 November 2019, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) held a public webinar to review the Policy Development Process 3.0 (PDP 3.0) and related implementation efforts. PDP 3.0 is a GNSO Council initiative designed to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the GNSO policy development process. This webinar provided details on the proposed implementation of PDP 3.0 improvements, including potential changes to how the ICANN community participates in GNSO working groups and mechanisms to review working group leadership. Learn more.

Revised ASO MoU Signed

ICANN, the Number Resource Organization (NRO), and the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) - African Networking Information Centre (AFRINIC), American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC), Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC), and Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC) - signed a revised Address Supporting Organization (ASO) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday, 7 November 2019. Over 20 members of the numbers community and ICANN Board members Chris Disspain, Ron da Silva, Lito Ibarra, Akinori Maemura, and Kaveh Ranjbar attended the signing ceremony at the Palais des congrès de Montréal. The revised MoU addresses multiple recommendations from the most recent organizational review of the ASO. The revised ASO MoU affirms and strengthens the relationship between the names and numbers communities.

Successful ATLAS III Summit Held

During ICANN66, the At-Large community held its third At-Large Summit (ATLAS III), an assembly of future policy and outreach ambassadors. The participants will implement outcomes from the At-Large Review, such as the participation of At-Large members in the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) policy advice process.

The Summit consisted of a series of plenary sessions and six breakout groups which provided training and interactive, hands-on practice of key skills. A case study on Phase 1 of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data served as the focus for the training. Current At-Large leaders served as coaches and facilitators of the breakout sessions. ATLAS III also included networking events for participants to get to know At-Large members from around the globe as well as other members of the ICANN community.

At the conclusion of the four-day Summit, At-Large participants were presented with the At-Large Ambassador Journey, a pathway for greater participation within the At-Large community going forward. The journey incorporates activities ranging from At-Large communications to policy advice development, with a focus on capacity building and increased participation in At-Large policy activities. As successful participants of ATLAS III, the At-Large Ambassadors will assume greater roles within their community, At-Large, and ICANN.

Sánchez Nominated for Second Board Term

León Sánchez was nominated by the At-Large community to the ICANN Board Director seat (#15) for a second term. Sánchez will begin his second three-year term as ICANN Board Director at the end of ICANN69 (17-22 October 2020). He also assumed a new role as Vice Chair of the ICANN Board at the conclusion of the ICANN66 Annual General Meeting in November.

The At-Large Community’s ICANN Board Director nomination process for the 2019-2020 cycle began in
September 2019, and started with the formation of two committees (BCEC and BMSPC) tasked with managing the timeline, calling for and evaluating candidates, and organizing the final election. The Chair of the Board Member Selection Process Committee (BMSPC) Alan Greenberg, and the Chair of the Board Candidate Evaluation Committee (BCEC) Yrjö Lansipuro, led the two working groups.

As the sole applicant, Sánchez was evaluated by the BCEC and identified as the only candidate on the BCEC slate. According to the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) Rules of Procedure, a single candidate is declared the winner by acclamation. The nomination process officially concluded on 14 November 2019. The ICANN Empowered Community formally designated Sanchez to a second term on 26 November 2019.

Click here for detailed information about the At-Large Board Seat 15 nomination process.

Click here for a biography and photo of León Sánchez.

GDD UPDATE

Have You Tried the Lookup Tool?

Earlier this year, ICANN launched an updated version of its lookup tool that makes use of Registration Data Access Protocol, known as RDAP, to query, parse, and display domain name registration data in a human-friendly format. If you haven't tried it yet, you have the ability to look up publicly available contact and other information related to a domain name. RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as an eventual replacement for the WHOIS protocol. More information on the new tool is available here.

PRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Roskomsvoboda Interview with Samaneh Tajalizadehkoob: ICANN Specialist on DNS Registrar Initiative Against Cybercrime (Russia)
Read here.

BBC Interview with David Conrad:
"Russia's new internet firewall" (UK)
Listen here.

Itel.am Interview with David Conrad:
"In the future we will see the internationalization of domain names and the Internet" (Armenia)
Read here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join ICANN at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:
- 24-27 February 2020, Mobile World Congress, Barcelona, Spain
- 19-20 March 2020, WACREN Meeting, Cotonou, Benin Republic
- 24-25 March 2020, Middle East DNS Forum, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
22-24 April 2020, OSIANE 2020, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Learn more about ICANN participating in regional events near you.

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