Welcome to the April 2016 issue of our regional newsletter.

In this issue, we highlight the importance of community participation in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Strategic Plan.

It's been almost three years since the LAC Steering Committee presented the LAC Strategic Plan at ICANN46 in Beijing. We are pleased to see how this regional strategy has evolved in the interim. Some of our projects are already helping our communities, and we anticipate that the projects starting this year will have a big impact. Last but not least, we have around 70 LAC community members involved in one or more projects.

In September 2015, the LAC Strategy Steering Committee met in Montevideo for a two-day workshop to review the plan. We looked at results achieved so far and aligned our objectives with the new ICANN Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. The renewed LAC Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 includes both ongoing and new projects.

Noteworthy projects are: LAC Domain Name System (DNS) marketplace study, LAC-i (LAC Internet) roadshow, internship program for country code top-level domains (ccTLDs), capacity-building programs, LAC DNS observatories, outreach support and the LAC SPACE at ICANN Public Meetings.

The LAC Strategic Plan is a community-driven effort. People and communities are at the heart of the effort, which is why I think it's so important for community members to get involved.
This year we are implementing new projects from the LAC Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. Now is a great time to get involved - if you are interested in one or more projects, please contact me: rodrigo.saucedo@icann.org.

Rodrigo Saucedo
Project Manager, Latin America and the Caribbean, ICANN

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**IANA STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

On 10 March 2016, the ICANN Board transmitted the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Stewardship Transition Package to the U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Since then, NTIA has been reviewing the proposals to ensure that they meet the criteria of their 14 March 2014 announcement. This review period is expected to last 90 days, and will be guided by recommendations from the U.S. Government Accountability Office. In addition, the U.S. Congress has a strong interest in the proposals; it is expected that they will closely monitor and review the proposal as a part of NTIA’s evaluation. The current contract with ICANN expires on 30 September 2016, but NTIA has the authority to extend the contract if needed.

While the community was working to finalize the IANA Stewardship Transition Package, ICANN’s implementation team has been diligently preparing for the “implementation phase” of the IANA Stewardship Transition. Significant preplanning for implementing changes to the Root Zone Management System, elements proposed in the ICG Proposal, as well as the Post-Transition IANA and Customer Standing Committee, are underway. These activities will continue to develop over the coming weeks and months.

ICANN’s legal team is coordinating with the two external law firms that have provided support to the CCWG-Accountability and CWG-Stewardship to prepare proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws to implement the changes outlined in the IANA Stewardship Transition Package. The draft Bylaws will be put out for public comment prior to Board approval, and once adopted, ICANN will notify NTIA of the adoption. NTIA has stated that the Bylaws must be adopted before NTIA can issue a report on the transition proposal.

For updates on all implementation work, visit: https://www.icann.org/stewardship-implementation.

Once the Bylaws work is complete, the CCWG-Accountability will turn its focus to its inventory of Work Stream 2 items (outlined in Annex 12 of the CCWG-Accountability Work Stream 1 Report):

- Considering improvements to ICANN’s standards for diversity
- Focusing efforts to enhance ICANN’s transparency
- Improving and clarifying expectations of ICANN staff accountability
- Enhancing the accountability of ICANN’s Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees
- Addressing jurisdiction-related questions, focused on applicable law for contracts and dispute settlements
- Developing a Framework of Interpretation for ICANN’s Human Rights commitment and proposed draft Bylaw (more information in Annex 6 of the Work Stream 1 Report)
- Considering enhancements to the Ombudsman’s role and function

The CCWG-Accountability is open to anyone who wishes to join, and the group has issued a Call for Volunteers for anyone interested in the Work Stream 2 efforts.
Interested in ICANN Reviews?

Do you know what ICANN reviews are and why they are important? Reviews are crucial to evaluating what happens when ICANN processes and policies from the multistakeholder model meet the real world. Reviews enable us to assess ICANN's performance toward our commitments, much like a report card. This process is a tool for continuous improvement - it helps us look at the past so we can do better in the future. We have several new reviews planned for this year.

Now is a great time to learn more about them and get involved! Sign up here.

Join us for the Quarterly Stakeholder Call!

ICANN will hold its next Quarterly Stakeholder Call on 27 April at 15:00 UTC. Learn more about ICANN's activities, progress and financials for the quarter ending 31 March 2016. The call is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Register here.

LAC ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Internet Governance Workshop in the Turks and Caicos Islands

ICANN and the Internet Society (ISOC) cohosted an Internet Governance Workshop on 1-2 March. Stakeholders from across the Caribbean region attended, both in person and remotely. Albert Daniels (ICANN) and Shemon Osepa (ISOC) alternated as session chairs, gave presentations and participated on panels. Watch highlights from the event.

SSIG Held in Washington, D.C

The eighth South School on Internet Governance (SSIG) took place from 29 March to 1 April 2016, at the Organization of American States (OAS) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. More than 180 fellows attended the intensive four-day training. ICANN was well represented at the event. Learn more about this event.

ICANN staff shared expertise on five different panels:

- IANA Transition, Present and Future Perspectives - Theresa Swinehart,
Senior VP of Multistakeholder Strategy and Strategic Initiatives

- Internet Governance Forum: Perspectives for the Next 10 Years - Veni Markovski, VP of UN Engagement
- Internet Infrastructure, Present and Future - Carlos Alvarez, Senior Manager of Security Engagement (Security, Stability and Resilience)
- Present and Future Perspectives of Domain Names - New gTLDS - Daniel Fink, Senior Manager of Stakeholder Engagement, Brazil
- Multistakeholder Model in Cybersecurity - Rodrigo de la Parra, VP of Stakeholder Engagement, Latin America and the Caribbean

LAC STRATEGIC PLAN NEWS

LAC SPACE* at ICANN55 in Marrakech

Held on 7 March, the LAC SPACE at ICANN55 attracted more than 40 participants. Topics of discussion were:

- African DNS Initiatives - Bob Ochieng, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement, East Africa, ICANN
- New gTLD Program Auction Funds - Marika Konings, Senior Director of Policy Development Support and Team Leader for the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), ICANN
- Comments on the New gTLD Program Auction Funds - Anthony Harris, CABASE; Dev Anand Teelucksingh, LACRALO
- LAC DNS Marketplace Study and LAC DNS Entrepreneur Center - Daniel Fink, Manager of Stakeholder Engagement, Brazil, ICANN

Listen to recordings and view presentations.

*As part of the LAC Strategic Plan, ICANN public meetings now have a permanent space called LAC SPACE. This community project is led by Vanda Scartezini, Gabriela Szlak, Celia Lerman, Esteban Lescano and Harold Arcos.

POLICY UPDATE

Draft Framework of Principles for Cross-Community Working Groups

The Cross-Community Working Group on Principles for Cross-Community Work seeks community feedback on a draft framework of uniform principles to guide the initiation and operations of future cross-community working groups. The public comment period closes 16 April 2016. Submit your comments today!
Capacity building webinars for At-Large members' knowledge of ICANN, the At-Large community launched a series of capacity-building webinars. Under the leadership of Tijani Ben Jemaa, Vice Chair of the ALAC, the At-Large Working Group on Capacity Building selected topics ranging from best practices for participating in ICANN and At-Large to specific policy issues, such as the Competition, Consumer Trust, and Consumer Choice Review; country code top-level domain (ccTLD) delegation and relegation; and registrar responsibilities toward new generic top-level domain (gTLD) development. The webinars incorporate interactive learning elements. Review the webinar schedule and participation details.

Call for Volunteers to Review All gTLD Rights Protection Mechanisms

The GNSO Council seeks volunteers for a new working group. This Policy Development Process Working Group will review all Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in all gTLDs in two phases, as defined in the approved charter. Phase One will focus on a review of all the RPMs developed for the New gTLD Program (e.g., Trademark Clearinghouse and Uniform Rapid Suspension procedure). Phase Two will focus on a review of the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy. Join online or complete the form and send to gnso-secs@icann.org.

ccNSO Prepares for Potential IANA Stewardship Transition Implementation

As part of the IANA Stewardship Transition process, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) community expects to appoint members to new committees and groups. The ccNSO Guideline Review Committee (GRC) will propose procedures and processes to implement these provisions before ICANN56. Learn more about the ccNSO GRC Watch an interview with new ccNSO Council Chair, Katrina Sataki, who describes the upcoming work of the ccNSO.

Successful High-Level Governmental Meeting Concludes

Nearly 100 government and 22 international government organization delegations attended the High-Level Governmental Meeting on 7 March 2016, hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco. The meeting was held during ICANN55 - ministers, senior government officials, and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and ICANN leadership offered remarks and presentations throughout the day. The GAC also welcomed six new members and one new observer during ICANN55. Listen to audio recordings or watch the meeting.

Stay Current on PDP Efforts

Get updates about ongoing PDPs.
DNSSEC Root Zone KSK Rollover Recommendations Published

A design team consisting of seven independent DNS experts along with representatives from ICANN, Verisign, and NTIA has completed a report with recommendations for changing, also known as rolling, the DNSSEC root zone Key Signing Key (KSK). Rolling the root zone KSK means generating a new cryptographic public and private key pair and distributing the new public component to parties, including Internet service providers, DNS resolver operators, DNS resolver software developers, integrators and distributors. Read the report.

Open for Public Comment: Safeguards to Mitigate DNS Abuse

In March, ICANN published a report that explores how to measure the effectiveness of safeguards against DNS abuse. These protections are part of the New gTLD Program. The report defines the activities that constitute DNS abuse, and assesses indicators of the rate of abuse in new gTLDs and the DNS as a whole. The report's findings are based on analytics and user feedback. The comment period closes 25 April 2016. Read the report and comment now.

Twenty-nine new gTLDs delegated in March 2016

Avianca
Vuelos
Passagen
You

Talk
Gallo
Stream
Total

See the full list here https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/delegated-strings

Andrés Piazza
Andrés Piazza holds a law degree from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina and has a decade-long career managing and coordinating Internet-related issues.

Within the ICANN community, Piazza served as President of the Latin American and Caribbean At-Large Organization (LACRALO) from 2009-2011. Starting in 2011, he served for five years as Head of Strategic Relations and Internet Governance at the Latin American Internet Addresses Registry (LACNIC). Recently, the Latin American and Caribbean Top-Level Domain Association (LACTLD) announced the appointment of Piazza as its General Manager. He will formally take the position on 1 April 2016.

"I am committed to sustaining and deepening LACTLD's participation in Internet names governance, primarily in those cases that pose challenges for the LAC regional Internet community."

**PRESS HIGHLIGHTS**

**SPANISH:**

"ICANN presenta al gobierno de EEUU plan de transición para manejo de funciones clave de Internet"

"ICANN adopta plan de transición para salir de gestión estadounidense"

"Internet se independiza de la tutela de EE.UU. - Edicion Impresa - ABC Color"

**PORTUGUESE:**

"Palestras do Future ISP discutem as perspectivas dos provedores de internet"

**ENGLISH:**

WATCH: "Caribbean Tackles Cyber Security Challenges"

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**LACNIC 25.** May 2-6, Havana, Cuba

LAC-i-Roadshow Mexico / Central America, April 20, Honduras (more information soon)