Dear Friends,

I want to make a prediction - 2016 will be filled with great enthusiasm and confidence. Thanks to the support and advice of our regional leaders, we begin this year equipped with scientific and market expertise, which will enable us to conduct a thorough study on our domain name marketplace. We are united in creating a healthy, stable and resilient unique identifier ecosystem, and your stories, facts and data are an important part of this effort. We count on your support and, in return, we hope to acquire the necessary confidence to plan new and sustainable journeys into unexplored markets.

Daniel Fink, Senior Stakeholder Engagement - Brazil, ICANN

Versión en español: http://conta.cc/1OgVrId
Versão em português: http://conta.cc/1OgVALM
Version française: http://conta.cc/1OgVvYB

Who will be the 2016 ICANN Multistakeholder Ethos Award Recipient(s)?

Nominations Close 12 March 2016

The nomination period for ICANN's Multistakeholder Ethos Award is now open and closes on 12 March 2016. Community members interested in submitting a nomination are invited to send an email to ethosaward2016@icann.org and include:
Award recipient(s) will be announced in June 2016 at ICANN56 Panama City. The award was launched in June 2014 to recognize long-standing community members who have served in leadership roles in multiple ICANN working groups or committees and demonstrated collaboration with different Supporting Organizations and/or Advisory Committees.

For more information, please visit the ICANN Community Wiki.

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**Meet the ICANN55 Fellows in Marrakech**

Forty-five fellows from 35 countries have been selected to participate in ICANN's Fellowship program at the 55th Public Meeting in Marrakech, 5-10 March 2016. Twenty-seven of them are returning fellows; seven are alumni who will act as coaches to the 22 first timers. The fellows represent all sectors of society including civil, government, academia, business, technical, security and end user groups. The country code names supporting organization is also represented.

Seven fellows are from Latin America and the Caribbean! Click here to see the candidates list and learn more about the fellowship program: [http://www.icann.org/en/about/participate/fellowships](http://www.icann.org/en/about/participate/fellowships)

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**Visa and Registration information for ICANN55 Marrakech (5-10 March 2016)**

ICANN55 is just around the corner and ICANN and our hosts are working hard on the preparations and arrangements. In the meantime, we want to remind you that some participants may need a visa to visit Morocco. It's important to determine whether you need a visa and to obtain one as quickly as possible to secure entry.

Visit Morocco's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation website for a complete list of exempt countries. If you need a visa, click here to request formal invitation letters for the meeting. You'll also need to contact your nearest Moroccan diplomatic mission to apply for a visa. If Morocco does not have diplomatic representation in your country, please submit your application directly to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Consular and Social Affairs via email to visa@maec.gov.ma with the following attached documents:

- Copy of valid passport (at least six month of validity).
- Copy of the invitation letter.
- Flight details (if available).

Don't forget to register for ICANN55 here and see you in Marrakech!
A father of the Internet visits a growing Casa de Internet

On 3 December, LACNIC and all the organizations at the Casa de Internet welcomed Vint Cerf, Google's Global Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, who is widely credited as a "Father of the Internet".

Cerf delivered a lecture titled "The Future of the Internet, Challenges and Opportunities." His visit provided us with an invaluable opportunity to learn more about the outlook for the Internet's growth over the next decade.

We also welcomed ALAI, the Latin American Internet Association, which will be based in the Casa de Internet. Gonzalo Navarro, previous ICANN Board Member, will serve as its Executive Director. Members of ALAI include Facebook, Google, Yahoo!, MercadoLibre, Despegar.com, Workana, Restorando, as well as a number of startups. Learn more about the Casa de Internet:

http://www.lacnic.net/en/web/lacnic/casa-de-internet

Read EFE's news (Spain's world news agency) about ALAI (in Spanish):

Strengthening ties with the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (COM/CITEL)*

The CITEL 31 event was held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on 7-8 December. Albert Daniels, ICANN's Senior Stakeholder Engagement Manager for the Caribbean, participated in this event to engage the COM/CITEL executive, demonstrate ICANN's continued interest in the important work
ICANN makes accreditation easier, learn how!

On 15 December, ICANN conducted an important webinar highlighting our improvements with the recent registrar insurance requirement waiver. The session gathered prospective contracted parties in LAC, with over 40 people participating. The event was supported by regional ISP and IT associations to spread the word to interested parties.

Read more about the registrar waiver: [https://www.icann.org/news/blog/icann-waives-registrar-insurance-requirement-levels-playing-field-for-registrars-globally](https://www.icann.org/news/blog/icann-waives-registrar-insurance-requirement-levels-playing-field-for-registrars-globally)

Access the webinar: [https://icann.adobeconnect.com/p7n4impx9np/](https://icann.adobeconnect.com/p7n4impx9np/)

New Community Leaders Begin Work

**RSSAC** is pleased to welcome **Brad Verd**, Vice President of Production Operations at Verisign as its co-chair. He joins co-chair Tripti Sinha, Assistant Vice President and Chief Technology Officer within the Division of Information Technology at the University of Maryland.

The **GNSO Council** elected **James Bladel**, Vice President of Policy for GoDaddy, as chair and **Donna Austin**, Policy and Industry Affairs Manager at Neustar, and **Heather Forrest**, Associate Professor of...
Law at the University of Tasmania, as vice chairs.

Congratulations!

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Join a new GNSO Working Group!

The GNSO Council seeks volunteers for its new policy development process working group on a "Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service to Replace WHOIS." Interested parties are invited to visit the workspace or email gnso-secs@icann.org for more information on how to join.

Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Working Group Publishes Final Report

The Final Report containing recommendations to guide the creation of an accreditation program for privacy and proxy service providers is now available. The report contains over 20 consensus recommendations. The recommendations are pending approval by the GNSO Council and the Board of Directors before implementation.

RSSAC Publishes Advisory on Service Expectations of Root Server Operators

In RSSAC001: Service Expectations of Root Servers, the RSSAC defines a set of service expectations that root server operators must satisfy. RSSAC001 was published concurrently with RFC7720, which specifies DNS root name service protocol and deployment requirements.

The RSSAC
Make your voice heard!

There are five public comment proceedings currently open that require your input. Please see the list below and share your contributions.

CLOSING SOON

**Proposed Implementation of GNSO Thick WHOIS Consensus Policy Requiring Consistent Labeling and Display of RDDS (WHOIS) Output for All gTLDs**

Public Comment Period Closes: 18 January 2016, 23:59 UTC

**Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) Operational Profile for gTLD Registries and Registrars**

Public Comment Period Closes: 18 January 2016, 23:59 UTC

**Launch of Supplementary Registration Proxy Service for gTLDs Operated by XYZ.com LLC**

This public comment period is to gather community input on the proposed amendments to .XYZ, .COLLEGE, .RENT, .THEATRE, .PROTECTION, and .SECURITY Registry Agreements to allow XYZ.COM LLC, the Registry Operator of these six TLDs, to offer a new registry service, which is a proxy service that will provide secondary gateway access to SRS/EPP, RDDS (via WHOIS - port 43, web-based Directory Service, RDAP, or any combination of the three), or both for the purposes of operating these TLDs in local domain name markets.

Public Comment Period Closes: 22 January 2016, 23:59 UTC

PROVIDE INPUT

**Label Generation Ruleset for the Root Zone Version 1 (LGR-1)**

The Integration Panel (IP) successfully evaluated the finalized Proposal for Arabic script Root Zone Label Generation Rules (LGR) submitted by the Arabic Script Generation Panel (GP), following the release of the proposal for public comments. The IP has integrated this proposal by the Arabic script GP into the first version of the Root Zone LGR. As per the Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels, LGR-1 is being released for public comments before finalization.

Public Comment Period Closes: 27 January 2016, 23:59 UTC

**Continuous Data-Driven Analysis of Root Server System Stability (CDAR) Study Plan**

This study has been commissioned to examine the technical impact of the New gTLD Program on the root server system. As the first step, The Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO) and its partners SIDN and NLnet Labs will publish the draft study plan for public comment. Feedback from the larger DNS community is critical to ensure a comprehensive approach to data gathering and analysis. Comments may be incorporated into the final study design.

Public Comment Period Closes: 3 February 2016, 23:59 UTC
The Public Comment page contains a full list of issues open for public comment and recently closed and archived public comment proceedings.

The Upcoming Public Comment page provides information about potential public comment opportunities. This page is updated after every ICANN public meeting to help individuals and the community set priorities and plan workloads.

IANA Functions Customers Give ICANN High Marks

Ninety-four percent of IANA functions customers who participated in an annual, third-party survey reported being "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with services they received between September 2014 and August 2015. In regard to accuracy, which customers have identified as the most important performance indicator for the past three years, ICANN's IANA department earned a 98 percent satisfaction rate. The IANA Functions Customer Survey measures satisfaction across seven performance indicators, provides valuable feedback and helps drive process improvements. Learn more.

Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice Review Team Seated

In December 2015, seven people were selected to serve on the team of volunteers that will review the New gTLD Program in regard to Competition, Consumer Trust and Consumer Choice (CCT). Review team members represent a wide array of geographic regions and areas of expertise. Some are representing ICANN supporting organizations and advisory committees and others are serving as independent experts. Find out who was selected here: https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2-2015-12-23-en

Sixty-nine new gTLDs were delegated in December 2015!

Click here to see the list of delegated strings:
http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/program-status/delegated-strings

Join us for the FY16 Q2 Quarterly Update on 28 January 2016 at 1500 UTC. Watch this space for registration details.
I arrived in Argentina in 2011 from Europe, to work at the Packet Clearing House (PCH). But, as early as 2000, I became interested in the development of the Internet in the LAC region.

With a passion for freedom of speech, free software, open standards and security, I have been travelling around the region to work on challenging and interesting Internet projects. My Spanish skills have helped me understand the culture and the different challenges faced here in Latin America.

Focused on Internet infrastructure, my emphasis is to improve existing and establish new IXPs, giving advice to IXPs, ISPs and governments, as well as DNS and DNSSEC advice for TLDs.

Lastly, ICANN helped us with a project for implementing a DNSSEC solution for the Paraguay ccTLD. In December 2015, I had the opportunity to spend five days in Asunción, Paraguay where key concepts for registry operations and DNSSEC key management were discussed. The implementation has begun and it is expected to go live early 2016.

Robert Martin-Legene, Internet Infrastructure Specialist

In Spanish

Los nuevos dominios, una alternativa para atraer a potenciales clientes | @scoopit http://sco.lt/8fySif

CNC pretende dar mayor seguridad a sitios .py | @scoopit http://sco.lt/6Og3Yv

Centro implementará sistema para evitar hackeos a dominios paraguayos | @scoopit http://sco.lt/7vVCGf

2015 cierra con 11 millones de nuevos dominios registrados | @scoopit http://sco.lt/8n4z4L

In Portuguese

ICANN realiza Webinar “A Acreditação na ICANN está cada vez mais fácil, aprenda como” | @scoopit http://sco.lt/8hApJh
Port-au-Prince, Haiti
31 January - 4 February

http://canto.org/2015/10/21/canto-to-focus-on-inspiring-ict-innovations/

ENGAGEMENT CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN

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