



TOP STORY

Register For ICANN64 Community Forum in Kobe

ICANN64 is going to feature the multistakeholder participation model in action! The ICANN64 Local Host Committee (LHC) has some of the broadest multistakeholder participation for an ICANN Meeting host. It comprises 18 organizations from registries, registrars, Internet associations and Internet Service Providers in Japan, all of whom engage with ICANN on a regular basis. Additionally, the LHC has two supporting organizations, the Ministry for Internal Affairs and Communications and the Kobe Convention Bureau, generously contributing to ICANN64.



The LHC is working hard to make sure the community enjoys their time in Kobe, including a Gala Event highlighting Kobe's many cultural offerings. See you in March!

[Register for ICANN64 here.](#)



NORTH AMERICA ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS



New York Community to Learn About ICANN

How does ICANN, an organization that few have heard of, help keep the Internet running smoothly? That is the question that will focus a discussion at New York City's Civic Hall on 31 January 2019.

The panel, aimed at introducing the uninitiated to ICANN, will include:

- **Chris Mondini**, ICANN's Vice President of Global Stakeholder Engagement for North America.
- **Avri Doria**, a member of the ICANN Board. She is also a research consultant working with industry, nongovernmental organizations, and the technical community.
- **Greg Shatan**, a Partner in Moses & Singer's Intellectual Property group and a member of the Internet & Technology practice.

Registration for the noon event is [here](#).

If You Are Headed to Vegas for NamesCon, Get There Early!

The ICANN organization will be holding a day-long registrar workshop on 26 January, the day before NamesCon in Vegas begins. The workshop will include sessions covering operational advice around domain renewals, transfers, data escrow, and other best practices.

Who should attend?

- Registrars newly accredited by ICANN or interested in ICANN accreditation.
- New staff at established ICANN-accredited registrars, particularly those involved in ICANN's compliance processes and policy work.
- Registrars interested in ICANN accreditation.
- Domain name resellers.



How to register:

- There is no fee required for attendance. However, space is limited. Register early, it will be first come, first serve.
- To register for this event, please click [here](#).



POLICY UPDATE

ARIN 43 Registration Now Open

Registration is now open for the ARIN 43 Public Policy and Members Meeting, which will take place 7-10 April 2019 at the Hilton Barbados Resort in Bridgetown, Barbados. ARIN holds open, biannual Public Policy and Members Meetings so that attendees may gather to discuss draft Internet number resource policies, network with colleagues, learn more about ARIN services and operations, and attend workshops and tutorials.

[CaribNOG 17](#) will immediately follow ARIN 43 in the same location from 10-12 April.

To learn more about the meeting, find travel details, and register either in-person or remotely, please visit the [ARIN 43 website](#).

Share Your Input on the Draft Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025

ICANN published the FY21 - FY25 Draft Strategic Plan for Public Comment at the end of December 2018. Please [click here](#) to share your input to help shape the future of ICANN as it sets out long-term strategic objectives that reflect the ICANN mission and vision. The Public Comment will be open until 11 February 2019.

To prepare for the development of this plan, ICANN initiated a process to identify internal and external trends that impact ICANN's future, mission, and operations. The ICANN community, Board, and ICANN org all provided extensive input to this effort.

Strategic Planning

After this Public Comment period, ICANN org will revise the draft. A strategic planning session is scheduled at ICANN64 in Kobe to further refine the plan. Following ICANN64, the ICANN organization will incorporate any last revisions to the draft Strategic Plan. The Board will then finalize and adopt the new FY21 - FY25 Strategic Plan.

To learn more about the strategic planning process and to stay up-to-date on progress, please visit the [ICANN Strategic Planning page](#).

ICANN | GAC

GAC Creates New Operating Principles Working Group

The Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Chair has created a new committee working group. The purpose of the GAC Operating Principles Evolution Working Group is to study, develop, and recommend to the GAC membership changes to the current [GAC Operating Principles](#). Potential recommendations will help the GAC improve the organization, scope, clarity, and specificity of the committee's operations, processes, and

GNSO Council Update

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council:

- Adopted the GNSO **Review** of the ICANN63 Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Communiqué. The GNSO has transmitted the Review to the ICANN Board and informed the GAC.
- Confirmed Heather Forrest to serve a two-year term as the GNSO representative to the ICANN Fellowship Program Selection Committee and nominated Andrew Mack to serve as an ICANN Fellowship Program mentor for a period of one year.

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EPDP Update

On 21 December 2018, the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Team on the Temporary Specification for Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Registration Data closed the Public Comment proceeding on its Initial Report. The EPDP Team has been actively reviewing all comments received and preparing its Final Report.

From 16 to 18 January, the EPDP Team will meet in Toronto, Canada with the goal of finalizing its Final Report.

At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)/At-Large Update

At-Large Review Implementation

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) unanimously endorsed the **At-Large Review Detailed Implementation Plan**. The plan outlines eight activities raised during the At-Large Review and includes timeline and resource implications. The document will be reviewed by the ICANN Board Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) shortly, and the ICANN Board will review it in January.

At-Large Appointments

- Justine Chew will be serving as the At-Large liaison to the New Generic Top-Level Domains Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group. Chew will also replace Maureen Hilyard on Work Track 5.
- The ALAC Appointee Selection Committee (AASC) reviewed expressions of interest for the position of At-Large mentor for the ICANN Fellowship Program. The AASC selected Amrita Choudhury as mentor and Sarah Kiden as alternate. The ALAC endorsed the AASC selections.

Approach of the Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains

At ICANN63, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Study Group on the Use of Emoji as Second Level Domains received feedback that its charter is too risk averse by focusing too closely on the ICANN Board request to inform the community about risks identified in **SAC 095 | Security and Stability Advisory Committee Advisory on the Use of Emoji in Domain Names**. However, the study group and the ccNSO Council reiterated that the study group is not just focusing on SAC 095 but is also seeking the perspectives from ccTLDs. As part of this balanced approach, the study group has approached individual ccTLDs who have the capacity to accept the registration of emoji domain names to solicit their views and perspectives and present those to the community. In addition, the study group reached out to the ccTLD community to seek broader input. The responses received will be discussed by the study group and included in a report that is expected by ICANN64.





We want your comments!

The ICANN org has posted its Draft FY20 Operating Plan and Budget for Public Comment. We want and need your feedback in this important process! Please share your comments by the 8 February deadline.

[Get Started Now!](#)



GDD UPDATE



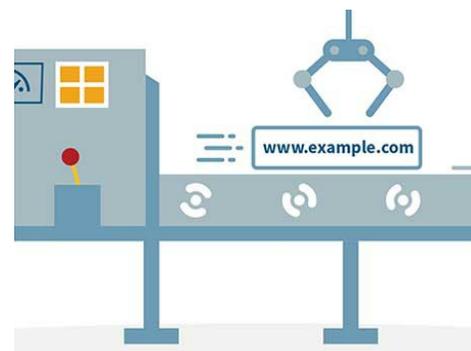
New Technical Study Group Begins Work

The Technical Study Group on Access to Non-Public Registration Data met to start exploring technical solutions for providing third parties access to non-public data via Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP). Read more about the invited members and their background [here](#).

New Registrant Infographic: Renew Your Domain Name!

New registrant content has been published in multiple languages across the ICANN websites.

Check out the new infographic: [Renew Your Domain Name Before It Expires!](#)



WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS



Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has several opportunities for community input and participation to announce below.

Organizational Reviews are led by independent examiners to assess the extent to which ICANN's Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees, and the Nominating Committee (NomCom) fulfill their purpose; and examine whether any changes in structure or operations are needed.

- **The Nominating Committee (NomCom2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available [here](#).**

- The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC2) Review Feasibility Assessment and Initial Implementation Plan is finalized and available [here](#).

Visit the [Review Status Update Table](#) for the latest status on Specific and Organizational Reviews and additional key resources.

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