North America Newsletter
YOUR SOURCE FOR ICANN NORTH AMERICA NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021

Feedback

North America Events

Global Website www.icann.org

TOP STORY

Register Now for the ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum

ICANN 70 VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FORUM

ICANN70 will be held **virtually** due to the continuing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In consultation with community leaders, the dates have been modified slightly to 22-25 March 2021. Those interested in attending ICANN70 must **register** to participate.

To learn more about the meeting time zone and language interpretation options, visit **https://70.schedule.icann.org**.

Update on ICANN Public Meeting Innovation

Read **this blog** about several actions and improvements that will be implemented for ICANN70 as a result of the community engagement process to innovate ICANN org's support for Public Meetings.

ICANN70 Internet Access Reimbursement Program

ICANN will be continuing financial assistance for ICANN70 for community members who have limited Internet capacity. The goal is to facilitate participation in ICANN Virtual Public Meetings during the pandemic. The application deadline is Friday, 5 March 2021.

Details on the application process are available **here**.

SPOTLIGHT

Apply Now for ICANN Leadership Positions

The ICANN Nominating Committee (NomCom) is **inviting applicants** for key

leadership positions within ICANN, including:

- Three members of the ICANN Board of Directors
- Three regional representatives to the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) – one each representing the Africa region, Asia, Australia, and Pacific Islands region, and Latin America and Caribbean region
- Two members of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council – one representing the Contracted Parties House and one representing the Non-Contracted Parties House
- One member of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Council

The deadline to submit applications is **18 March 2021** at 23:59 Universal Coordinated Time (UTC).

Find more information on the positions and application process at the **NomCom webpage**.

NORTH AMERICA ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

Be a Part of ICANN's North America Engagement Planning

Three years ago, ICANN's community of North America stakeholders developed the first engagement plan for the region. Participants spanned across various groups, from business and civil society, to government, end users, and the technical community. Now, the process has begun with the community to develop the next iteration of the engagement plan.

Community members will be joining this effort, in the form of a short-term regional advisory group that will help advise the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) North America team. This effort seeks community input to enhance the important work of stakeholder engagement across the region by actively soliciting input into ICANN policy and work processes.

The team will keep the community continuously updated on progress being made toward the development of the plan, and a draft will be put out for Public Comment later in the year. If you have any questions about this effort, we invite you to send an email to Naela Sarras (**naela.sarras@icann.org**) or Joe Catapano (**joe.catapano@icann.org**).

ARIN to Host Virtual Fellowship Program Ahead of ARIN 47

The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) is hosting a **Virtual Fellowship Program** in conjunction with ARIN 47. This four-week virtual experience will provide focused interaction for ten fellows, with the aim to develop relationships with seasoned technology professionals in the community as well as ARIN staff and leadership. It will take place between 25 March and 15 April 2021.

During weekly sessions fellows can expect to participate in breakout discussions, dialogue about the ARIN policy development process, and networking opportunities. Fellows will be fully prepared to attend and participate in ARIN 47 and beyond. **Applications are now open** and due

by 12 February 2021.

The ARIN Fellowship Program is open to all individuals, including past eligible ARIN fellows, interested in Internet number resource policy in the ARIN region. Special consideration will be given to those new to the organization, who have never attended an ARIN meeting before, and present a compelling case for being a part of this virtual program.

To learn more about the ARIN Virtual Fellowship Program and selection process, please visit the **website** or **apply now.**

If you have questions or need additional information, please email **fellowships@arin.net**.

ICANN NEWS

Listen to the ICANN Board's Open Session

The ICANN Board of Directors held its first workshop of 2021. During the Open Session, the Board shared details of its progress on its 2021 Priorities.

If you missed the Open Session, listen to the recording **here.**

Read Board Chair Maarten Botterman's blog on the workshop **here.**

ICANN | **BLOG**

Read Now

Maarten Botterman
ICANN Board Chair

Changes Coming to Registry Reports on the ICANN Open Data Platform

OPEN DATA

ICANN's **Open Data platform** will become the permanent home of Registry Reports beginning on 15 March 2021. With this change, these reports will no longer be available on **https://icann.org** as of 15 March 2021.

Read more **here** about which Registry Reports will be available and how to register for the Open Data platform.

ICANN Perspectives on EU Digital Initiatives

On 27 January, ICANN Europe hosted a stakeholder assembly for the European regional stakeholders presenting ICANN org reflections on current European Union initiatives, including:

- Digital Services Act (DSA)
- Digital Market Act (DMA)
- Network and Information Security (NIS2) Directive

The recorded webinar and presentations can be found **here**.

ICANN Org Audit of Registrar Compliance with DNS Security Threat Obligations

ICANN org has launched an audit program aimed at reviewing how registrars are fulfilling their contractual obligations related to addressing reports of potentially abusive domains. On 11 January 2021, ICANN Contractual Compliance sent pre-audit notifications to the registrars selected for the audit. The selected registrars received a **Request for Information** (RFI) on 25 January 2021 containing the audit questions.

For more information, read this **announcement**.

POLICY UPDATE

Nominations Now Open for 2021 ICANN Community Excellence Award

The nomination period for the 2021 ICANN Community Excellence Award is now open. Each year, the ICANN Community Excellence Award recognizes ICANN community participants who substantively contribute to policymaking within the ICANN ecosystem and who are deeply invested in developing consensus-based solutions within the ICANN multistakeholder model. The recipient will be recognized at ICANN71.

Learn more about the **nomination process** and submit your nomination(s) **here**. The nomination deadline is 29 March.

GNSO Council Confirms EPDP Intent to Modify Thick WHOIS Transition Policy

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council confirmed that the intent of **Recommendation 7** from the Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data (EPDP) is to modify the Thick WHOIS Transition Policy. The confirmation comes in response to a question from the Registration Data Policy Implementation Review Team.

The GNSO Council additionally recommended that this excerpt of the EPDP Team's original language – "must be transferred from registrar to registry provided an appropriate legal basis exists and data processing agreement is in place"– should be included in the text of the Registration Data Policy.

Learn more.

GNSO Council Adopts Phase 1 Final Report of GNSO Review of All RPMs in All gTLDs PDP

On 21 January 2021, the Generic Names Supporting

Organization (GNSO) Council **approved** the Phase 1 Final Report from the Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group on the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs.

Prior to its vote, the GNSO Council held a **webinar** to discuss the details of the 35 final PDP Phase 1 recommendations. The RPM Working Group reached full consensus on 34 recommendations and consensus on 1 recommendation.

The GNSO Council expects to approve a Recommendations Report in February 2021 and transmit it to the ICANN Board for consideration.

Learn more.

---

ccPDP4 Begins Important Work on IDN ccTLD Variant Management

A new subgroup within the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Working Group on the deselection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings (ccPDP4) started its work on variant management this month. The 2013 ccNSO policy proposals for IDN ccTLD string selection criteria, processes, and required documentation did not include variant management. The ICANN Board requested the ccNSO address variant management in coordination with the Generic Names Supporting Organization. The results of ccPDP4 will replace the 2009 IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process.

The ccPDP4 Working Group and the subgroup will work in parallel; each group will meet on alternate Tuesdays. In the future, ccPDP4 may form two additional subgroups related to confusing similarity and the deselection of IDN ccTLDs.

Learn more about the work of ccPDP4 **here**.

New GNSO Representatives

On 21 January 2021, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council made several appointments.
- Heather Forrest was appointed to the Community Representatives Group that will nominate the Independent Review Process (IRP) Standing Panel.
- Milton Mueller was appointed as the GNSO Non-Registry Liaison to the Customer Standing Committee.
- Farrell Folly was appointed as the GNSO mentor to the ICANN Fellowship Program for three consecutive ICANN Public Meetings, beginning with ICANN72.

Learn more.

🔔 **GDS UPDATE**

Planning Ahead for Supporting a Diverse and Global Internet

2020 was a year unlike any other. At a time when we've been more physically distant than ever, it's important to continue to make sure that the Internet becomes more inclusive, diverse, and multilingual for users around the world.

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) is committed to advancing UA-readiness in the year ahead, and 2021 is already proving to be a busy and productive year. Check out the most recent UASG content that includes a look at planned work in 2021, exciting Email Address Internationalization (EAI) developments, new working group leadership, and a special video on what UA means to its members.

Follow **@UASGtech** on Twitter to stay up to date all year long.

- **Looking Back and Planning Ahead for Supporting a Diverse and Global Internet Universal Acceptance (UA) Readiness** (Blog)
- **UASG Finds Promising Results for Internationalized Email Support Among Global Systems** (Blog)
- **UASG Announces New Working Group Leadership for 2021** (Announcement)
- **What does Universal Acceptance Mean to You?** (Video)

New Second-Level Reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs)

Additional second-level reference Label Generation Rules (LGRs) have been published, totaling 30 language-based reference LGRs and 13 script-based reference LGRs.

These rules help improve the transparency and consistency of the Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) table review process that facilitates the registry operations of new generic top-level domains (gTLDs).The remaining languages and scripts will be included in future releases as relevant community input becomes available.

Click here for more.

ICANN Teams with APTLD to Launch Regional Program to Promote Universal Acceptance

Last month, ICANN launched the first of its regional Universal Acceptance (UA) training programs, which are collaborative efforts between ICANN and regional top-level domain (TLD) organizations to raise awareness of UA.

Each program will provide a series of trainings on the technical aspects of UA and serve as a forum to discuss how to effectively address UA issues specific to each region. The first program was started in partnership with the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association (APTLD) for the APAC region; **view the training schedule here**.

ICANN is looking to expand the program and collaborate with more regional top-level domain organizations. Interested in this opportunity? Contact **uaprogram@icann.org** for more.

WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS

Specific Reviews

The **second Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review** (SSR2) Final Report is now available for **Public Comment**.

The **Final Report** contains 63 full consensus recommendations in the following areas: SSR1 implementation and intended effects.

- Key stability issues within ICANN.
- Contracts, compliance, and transparency around Domain Name System (DNS) abuse.
- Additional SSR-related concerns regarding the global DNS.

The SSR2 Review Team will host a webinar to brief the community on its final recommendations. Please see the **wiki page** for webinar details.

Per the ICANN Bylaws (**Section 4.6(a)(vii)(C)**), the Board shall consider the SSR2 Review Team Final Report within six months of receipt, by 25 July 2021.

Organizational Reviews

The **Nominating Committee Review Implementation Working Group** (NomComRIWG) **submitted its second implementation report** on progress to the Organizational Effectiveness Committee (OEC) of the ICANN Board.

This report provides an update on the implementation of the 27 recommendations and highlights two main areas of focus and activity during the past six months: Proposed changes to the ICANN Bylaws and a proposed charter for the NomCom Standing Committee.

Find out more about the NomComRIWG work **here**.

The **second Organizational Review of the Root Server System Advisory Committee Review Implementation Work Party** (RSSAC2 RWP) submitted its **second implementation report on progress** to the OEC. RSSAC2 RWP reported that of the six recommendations, two have been implemented, two are ongoing, and two are dependent on the progress of Root Server System Governance Working Group.

Find out more about RSSAC2 RWP work **here**.

The **second Organizational Review of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee Review Working Party** (SSAC2 RWP) submitted its **second implementation report on progress** to the OEC. SSAC2 RWP reported that all 24 recommendations have now been either completed or integrated into ongoing SSAC processes, as documented in the SSAC Operational Procedures.

Find out more about SSAC2 RWP work **here**.

ICANN AROUND THE WORLD

Regional Offices:
Los Angeles, U.S.A. (Headquarters)
Brussels, Belgium
Istanbul, Turkey
Montevideo, Uruguay
Singapore

Engagement Centers:
Beijing, China
Geneva, Switzerland
Nairobi, Kenya
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

For address and contact information, visit:
icann.org/contact

Twitter English

@chrismondini

Facebook

Youtube

Flickr

Linkedin

Slideshare

Soundcloud