



Feedback



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## EDITORIAL

The activities covered in this edition of the ICANN North America Newsletter have two things in common. They support a scalable, global Internet *and* they require dedicated, hardworking volunteers.

We try to use plain, accessible language in producing the newsletter, but as many of you know, the topics can become complex very quickly.

One challenge for 2017 will be to continue to facilitate active and effective work on these complex issues by volunteers, while helping newer participants discover how the Internet's unique identifier systems affect their interests - and their lives.

For all of you reading this report, we offer our sincere thanks and best wishes for the year ahead. Whether you are a seasoned ICANN volunteer or new to the issues, we welcome your questions and ideas.



**Christopher Mondini**

*VP Stakeholder Engagement, Global Business and North America*



## TOP STORY

### Register Now for the Next Quarterly Stakeholder Call

In the second call in our new format, we'll continue to focus on how ICANN has implemented community policy, with a Board update and news from a specific region. This quarter's call features Africa and the Middle East. ICANN's Istanbul hub office will host the call at the end of the first day of the Turkey DNS Forum.

Everyone is welcome. [Register here.](#)

### 15 February 2017 at 15:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC)

Live interpretation is offered in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The call will be recorded and posted in all languages on the [Quarterly Reports page](#). Read the [full announcement](#).



## ICANN NEWS

**Register Now for ICANN58 in Copenhagen**

Registration is open for ICANN58. This first ICANN Public



Meeting of 2017 will take place from 11-16 March 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. If you attend, you can network with your peers in the community, engage in face-to-face discussions, ask questions and help develop and implement Internet policies. **[Register now for ICANN58.](#)**

Before you book your travel, check the **[ICANN58 home page](#)** to find out if you need to obtain a visa to travel to Denmark. Our page has links to the relevant pages on Denmark's official website, which gives detailed information about visa requirements, the application process and deadlines. If you determine that you do need a visa, you can request the Danish host letter through the ICANN58 page. Please check as soon as possible so you don't miss any deadlines.

## Jamie Hedlund Takes on Senior Contractual Compliance and Consumer Safeguards Role at ICANN

On 4 January 2017, ICANN announced that Jamie Hedlund, Vice President of Strategic Programs for ICANN's Global Domains Division, will take on Allen Grogan's role as Senior Vice President (SVP), Contractual Compliance and Consumer Safeguards, following Grogan's **[previously announced](#)** departure.

"Contractual compliance, consumer safeguards and public responsibility are areas of central importance to ICANN," said CEO Göran Marby. "Jamie has years of ICANN and legal experience, which he will be using to build upon the great work already done by Allen and the rest of the global Contractual Compliance team." **[Read more...](#)**



## GDD UPDATE



## New Report Presents Accuracy of WHOIS Data in gTLDs

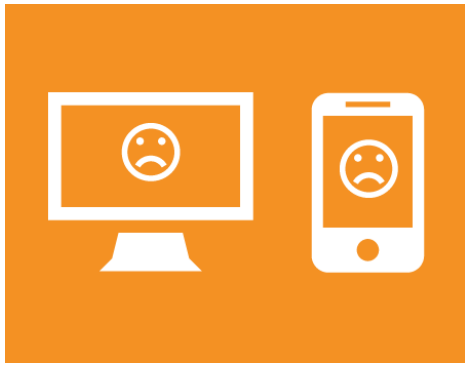
In December 2016, ICANN published the latest WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System (ARS) report. WHOIS data is information about registered domains. The data is publicly available and includes the name, address, email and phone number of the registrant or registrar. Because WHOIS data connects individuals or organizations with domain names, registrants are required to provide accurate and reliable contact details. The WHOIS ARS project tests syntax and operability accuracy of WHOIS records in generic top-level domains (gTLDs). A report of findings is published quarterly. **[Read the](#)**

**[key findings](#)** or **[listen to a recording](#)** of the webinar about the latest report.

## Two-Character Second-Level ASCII Domain Names Authorized for Release

On 13 December 2016, ICANN authorized the release of all letter/letter two-character ASCII labels at the second-level for registry operators that implement "Measures for Letter/Letter Two-Character ASCII Labels to Avoid Confusion with Corresponding Country Codes." The measures - adopted by the ICANN Board during ICANN57 - provide a standardized framework to help Internet users avoid confusion between country codes and corresponding letter/letter two-character domain names. This change is the result of more than two years of work by members of the Internet community and the ICANN organization. **[Read the measures.](#)**





## Help Make Universal Acceptance a Priority!

Universal Acceptance addresses technical issues that prevent Internet users from successfully completing online transactions. Problems can arise when applications reject or don't treat all parts of domain names correctly, which can occur when domain names are longer than three characters or are in different languages and scripts. Worldwide adoption of Universal Acceptance will enable a truly multilingual Internet, which will help bring the next billion users online.

If you've found an application or system that's not Universal Acceptance-ready, **report the issue**. Our Global Support Center will track and work to resolve all reported issues.

Interested in learning more about Universal Acceptance? Visit [uasg.tech](http://uasg.tech).

## Updated gTLD Marketplace Health Index Published

On 21 December 2016, ICANN published an update to the gTLD Marketplace Health Index (Beta), which presents statistics and trends related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs). The index was first published in July 2016. ICANN plans to publish these statistics twice a year to track progress against its goal of supporting the evolution of the domain name marketplace to be robust, stable and trusted. A community advisory panel is working with ICANN to refine the index in preparation for publishing version 1.0. Read the [gTLD Marketplace Health Index \(Beta\)](#).



 HOME



## DELEGATED NEW GTLDS

### Ten New gTLDs Were Delegated in December 2016

[See the full list here.](#)

.catholic

.phone

.hair

.data

.hospital

.fun



## POLICY UPDATE

### GNSO and ccNSO Approve Final Framework for Future Cross-Community Working Groups

In October 2016, the Council of the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) **approved** the Final Framework of Operating Principles for Future Cross-Community Working Groups (CCWGs), followed by the Council of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) approval in November 2016. This Final Framework was developed by the **Cross Community Working Group to Develop a Framework of Principles for Future CCWGs (CWG Principles)**, which was jointly chartered by the GNSO and

the ccNSO. The adoption by the GNSO and ccNSO Councils marks the official completion of work on the CWG Principles. A CCWG is a mechanism that allows two or more of any of ICANN Supporting Organizations (SOs) and Advisory Committees (ACs) to work together to address issues that are of common interest and do not fall within the sole remit of one SO or AC. The Final Framework intends to provide a general outline for the establishment, operations and closure of CCWGs, and will highlight certain principles that are considered fundamental to the effective functioning of a CCWG. [Read the Final Framework here.](#)

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## **CCWG on New gTLD Auction Proceeds Calls for Volunteers**

To date, over 230 million USD has been accrued through ICANN's authorized auction services to resolve string contention in the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program. A Cross-Community Working Group has been formed and will be tasked with developing one or more proposals on a mechanism to allocate these auction proceeds. Once the proposal is developed, its Chartering Organizations and the ICANN Board will consider the proposals. The CCWG is open to anyone interested. If you would like to volunteer for this effort, you can become an individual participant or a mailing list observer, or can respond to public consultations when these are held. In addition, each Chartering Organization will appoint up to five members to keep its respective group up to date on progress and deliberations. The CCWG is expected to convene for its first meeting the week of 23 January 2017. [Learn how to join here.](#)

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## **Customer Standing Committee Begins Monthly Reporting on PTI**

Byron Holland, Chair of the Customer Standing Committee (CSC), provided the country code top-level domain (ccTLD) community with the first monthly reports (October 2016 and November 2016) on how Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) is performing the IANA naming function. The CSC concluded that overall PTI performance was satisfactory - that PTI met its service level agreements. The CSC is aware of minor issues, but noted no trends. The CSC is in an ongoing discussion with PTI on how to remediate these issues. No persistent problems were identified, so no further action is needed. More background on the CSC and other useful information, including the full PTI reports, can be found [here](#).

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## **GNSO Council Approves Review Implementation Plan**

On 15 December 2016, the GNSO Council [approved](#) the plan developed by the [GNSO Review Working Group](#) to implement the 34 recommendations in the [GNSO Review Final Report](#). The Implementation Plan suggests a three-phased prioritization approach and specifies for each recommendation its dependencies, owner, resource requirements, budget effects and implementation steps. The ICANN Board will now consider adopting the proposed implementation plan. Following approval by the ICANN Board, the GNSO Review Working Group will execute and oversee the implementation, provide the GNSO Council with regular status updates, and identify any questions or concerns. [Learn more about the Implementation Plan.](#)

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## **Two Candidates Proceed to Next Stage in Selection of At-Large Board Director**

On 16 December 2016, the Board Candidate Evaluation Committee (BCEC) concluded its evaluation of the six applicants who submitted their expressions of interest for the ICANN Board Director position selected by the At-Large Community. The BCEC named Alan Greenberg and Leon Felipe Sanchez Ambia to proceed to the next stage, which is managed by the Board Member Selection Process Committee. The selection process will conclude by Friday, 21 April 2017, with the announcement of the successful candidate on that date. [Learn more about the process.](#)

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## **ICANN Academy Begins a Pilot Program for Enhancing Chairing Skills**

The ICANN Academy Working Group started a new course this month - the Chairing Skills Program. This course aims to help ICANN community leaders improve their effectiveness when chairing a working or community group. The program has two sessions: skills for chairing teleconferences, which began in January 2017, and skills for chairing in-person meetings, which will take place around the time of ICANN58. A professional coach from Incite Learning and multiple ICANN community coaches will facilitate this program. Besides providing a general framework and guidelines on developing chairing skills, coaches will observe their trainees during teleconferences and in-person meetings and provide targeted feedback. [Learn more.](#)

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## GNSO Council Submits Review of the GAC ICANN57 Communiqué

On 15 December 2016, the GNSO Council **adopted** the GNSO Review of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) ICANN57 Communiqué. Subsequently, the GNSO Council submitted the Review to the ICANN Board. The Review provides feedback on gTLD-related issues in the GAC Communiqué. The issues include future gTLDs policies and procedures, mitigation of domain name abuse, and two-letter country/territory codes at the second-level. The Review specifies whether those issues are within the remit of the GNSO, whether they are subject to existing or ongoing GNSO policy development work, and how the GNSO will deal with them. This Review aims to promote coordination and information-sharing among the GAC, GNSO and ICANN Board on gTLD-related policy activities. [Read the Review here.](#)

## GAC Looks to 2017

On 15 December 2016, the GAC and the ICANN Board had a conference call relating to the GAC ICANN57 Communiqué. The call was organized by the ICANN Board-GAC Implementation Working Group. The purpose of the call was to make sure that the interpretation of the GAC Advice in the ICANN57 Communiqué is coherent and that both parties have a common understanding of what the GAC intended and can expect in terms of answers from the ICANN Board. Furthermore, following positive initial comments from GAC members at ICANN57, the GAC is considering participating as a chartering organization in the Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds. Looking ahead to ICANN58, a survey has been launched within the GAC to help prioritize which matters must be addressed at ICANN58, and which topics can be handled through intersessional calls or email exchanges.

## Catch Up with ARIN in 2017

It's a new year, and the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) has a host of events planned to keep you informed about the latest developments in the Internet community. Events in 2017 include two Public Policy and Members Meetings: ARIN 39 in New Orleans, Louisiana, from 2-5 April, and ARIN 40 in San Jose, California, from 5-6 October. ARIN will also take its one-day educational program on the road throughout its service region. Those already scheduled include [ARIN on the Road: Houston](#), which is in just a few days on 19 January; ARIN on the Road: Little Rock on 7 March; and an ARIN + NANOG on the Road: Las Vegas on 2 May. More ARIN on the Road events will be added as the year goes on, so be sure to watch the [meetings page](#). To learn more about any of these free events, email [meetings@arin.net](mailto:meetings@arin.net).



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