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TOP STORY



ICANN Board Withholds Consent for PIR Change of Control

After a thorough evaluation process, the ICANN Board is withholding consent to the request for a change of control of the Public Interest Registry (PIR). [Read more about the decision](#) from ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman, and find the full Board resolution [here](#).




ICANN NEWS

Prioritizing the Board's Work and Goals

The ICANN Board is undertaking a number of actions to ensure that it is fulfilling its Bylaws-mandated responsibilities and addressing the impact of COVID-19 on the ability to work effectively together. The Board is working with ICANN org to develop a comprehensive continuity work plan, which will drive and direct the Board's actions and goals in the coming months.

For the plan highlights, read ICANN Board Chair Maarten Botterman's [blog](#).

ICANN | BLOG



Maarten Botterman
ICANN Board Chair

[Read Now](#)



New Learning Opportunities Now Available

ICANN Learn, our online capacity-development platform, now offers new courses for learning about the ICANN ecosystem.

The Policy Development Fundamentals course provides newcomers with a basic, foundational understanding of how policy development works at ICANN.

Policy Development Fundamentals, along with the recently launched Domain Name System (DNS) Fundamentals course, will serve as a cornerstone for developing capacity in the ICANN ecosystem.

The new Registrant Basics course is focused on educating registrants (also known as domain name holders), and the broader end user community about the rights and responsibilities of

registrants and some of the ICANN policies that impact them.

Learn more here: <https://learn.icann.org/>

Update from the 2020 Nominating Committee

The 2020 Nominating Committee (NomCom) is working to find the most qualified candidates for open leadership positions. They are working closely with the ICANN Board and org to mitigate issues that arise as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Read [NomCom Chair Jay Sudowski's blog](#) for a full update on their activities.



Pandemic Effect on the DNS Traffic

Lockdowns due to the COVID-19 pandemic are expected to have a limited, but noticeable, effect on Domain Name System (DNS) traffic at ICANN Managed Root Servers (IMRS). ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) studied the impact of a nationwide lockdown in France on the DNS. Click [here](#) to read more detail.



GDD UPDATE

ICANN UA Case Study Published

The ICANN org worked with the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) to publish a case study outlining the org's ongoing efforts to become Universal Acceptance-ready. The document provides an overview of the process, including the three stages it recommends for achieving Universal Acceptance (UA), and best practices. You can view the case study [here](#), and read an accompanying ICANN org blog [here](#).

ICANN Universal Acceptance Case Study

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Has your organization updated its systems to accept all domain names and email addresses regardless of length or script? If so, reach out to talk about developing a case study with the UASG by sending an email to info@uasg.tech. The UASG wants to promote the efforts of all UA-ready organizations and share their lessons learned with the larger community.

For a list of all available UA resources, click [here](#).



Relief for Registrants in Response to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic may impact the ability of registrants to renew their domain names in a timely manner. In response, ICANN org [announced](#) that it has approved registrars to defer cancellation of domain names under Section 3.7.5.1 of the 2013 [Registrar Accreditation Agreement](#) for the second time. This clause permits registrars to temporarily forebear from cancelling domain name

registrations that were unable to be renewed as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on domain name registrants. Read more in the blog published [here](#).

RDAP Replacement for the WHOIS Protocol

The technology transition from WHOIS-based services to ones using the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) continues. Many contracted parties are already offering RDAP services allowing users to access domain name and other Internet identifier registration data in a secure and structured manner. ICANN also offers a registration data lookup tool based on RDAP – bookmark [this page!](#)



RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a replacement for the WHOIS protocol. Are you ready for this technology upgrade? Learn more [here](#).



POLICY UPDATE



Consensus Playbook Published

The *Consensus Playbook* has been published for the ICANN community to reference and use in support of ICANN-related work. This *Consensus Playbook* aims to provide community volunteers with practical tools and best practices for building consensus, bridging differences, and breaking deadlocks in ICANN processes. It neither seeks to change the definition of consensus or the methods of

decision-making of any community group, nor create any new requirements. Originating from the GNSO **Policy Development Process 3.0 (PDP 3.0)** initiative and a subsequent Additional Budget Request, the *Consensus Playbook* was developed by the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), an external vendor contracted by ICANN org, with the requirement of broad applicability across the community beyond just GNSO PDP working groups. As part of the development process, CBI interviewed 14 community leaders across ICANN Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, who shared their extensive consensus-building experience in leading and participating in working and community groups. [Download the *Consensus Playbook* here!](#)

Initial Report on the Retirement of ccTLDs Now Available for Public Comment

On 5 May, the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) Phase 1 Working Group of the third ccNSO Policy Development Process (ccPDP3) published its **Initial Report for Public Comment**. The report focuses on the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) and specifically seeks community input on the duration of the retirement process and the procedures leading up to the removal of a ccTLD from the root zone. The Initial Report will become part of the full set of policy recommendations that the ccNSO will present to the ICANN Board.





Other Policy Sessions for ICANN68

For ICANN67, At-Large organized sessions on DNS abuse and other policy topics. Sessions utilized features such as polls and quizzes and involved interactive panels that received positive feedback from community leaders. For ICANN68, At-Large will continue discussions related to DNS abuse and its effects on Internet end users. Other sessions will include topics related to cybersecurity and geopolitics in a multistakeholder environment.

ARIN 45 To Take Place Remotely in June

In light of the rapidly evolving coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak, the American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) announced that its 45th Public Policy and Members Meeting will be held remotely in June as a one-day public policy consultation. ARIN will publish the date and details in the coming weeks.

This decision was made with input from ARIN staff and the ARIN Advisory Council, and upon close review of the development of the pandemic throughout the region ARIN operates. The ARIN Board of Trustees decided to postpone the ARIN 45 meeting scheduled for April and hold the virtual meeting in June given the safety concerns surrounding COVID-19. ARIN commits to make more information available as soon as possible.

Questions about ARIN 45 and its remote format can be sent to meetings@arin.net.



ONE MORE THING

Strategic Outlook Trends Identification Continues

Every year, the ICANN community, Board, and organization participate in trend identification sessions to discuss emerging trends that could affect ICANN. When ICANN67 became a virtual meeting, the org successfully adapted the trend identification work of the **Strategic Outlook Program** to take place virtually. By combining online tools such as Zoom and Google Drive, we were able to hold a series of virtual brainstorming sessions after ICANN67 with several community stakeholder groups across the globe to help identify new trends, opportunities, and risks. Two public sessions were held, as well as sessions with the Governmental Advisory Committee, Security and Stability Advisory Committee, Generic Names Supporting Organization Council, and the Intellectual Property Constituency. The findings will provide critical update to help inform ICANN's strategy in an ever-changing environment. Approximately 80 community members participated. [Click here](#) to view all the inputs collected during these community sessions.



In the next phase of the program, the ICANN Board will oversee a trend analysis and impact assessment, so that new trends can be factored into the annual iteration of ICANN's strategic and operating plans. For more information on ICANN's Strategic Planning process, [click here](#).

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