

## TOP STORY

### Register Now for ICANN71

Join us 14-17 June 2021 for the ICANN71 Virtual Policy Forum! ICANN71 will feature plenary sessions selected by the community. A community selection panel will also announce the recipient of the ICANN Community Excellence Award.

You can register for the Virtual Policy Forum [here](#).

Participants can register for ICANN71 Prep Week, which will take place from 1-3 June 2021. Prep Week helps improve community preparation for ICANN Public Meetings.

You can view the schedule [here](#).

If you're interested in information and metrics about the ICANN70 Virtual Community Forum, check out the ICANN70 By the Numbers report, available [here](#).



## ICANN NEWS



### ICANN Domain Name System Symposium 2021 Will Address DNS Ecosystem Security

The fourth ICANN Domain Name System (DNS) Symposium (IDS 2021) will be held virtually from 25 to 27 May 2021 in the +2 UTC time zone.

The theme for 2021 is "DNS Ecosystem Security: We're All in This Together." As the DNS protocol and its ecosystem have matured, the threat landscape and the risks and tradeoffs have also evolved. IDS 2021 will focus on measuring and mitigating risk, which is the result of the significant work by the ICANN community.

You can register [here](#) or visit our IDS page [here](#).

### Strengthening ICANN Technical Engagement Around the



*Members of the Technical Engagement team. From left to right: David Huberman covers Europe and North America; Nicolás Antoniello covers Latin America and the Caribbean; Yazid Akanho and Paul Muchene cover Africa and the Middle East, and Champika Wijayatunga covers the Asia Pacific region.*

*By Adiel Akplogan, VP, Technical Engagement*

Since the beginning of 2020, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) and its Technical Engagement team have begun a transformation with the objective of reinforcing ICANN's engagement on technical topics globally.

In a [blog](#), highlighted the publication of an OCTO series of papers intended to promote best practices and new research to further understand the trends in the unique identifier system, which ICANN helps coordinate. In parallel to these publications, we have also started restructuring our team to focus more on how we engage on technical topics with the community. One of our first conclusions was that the type of engagement and level of resources needed are not uniform across the globe; hence, we need a regional approach to our engagement activities.

Continue reading the blog and access ICANN's Technical Engagement course catalogue, [here](#).

**For more of the latest research and analysis from OCTO, check out their Publications page [here](#).**



## NORTH AMERICA ACTIVITIES & HIGHLIGHTS

### Reimagining Engagement in North America

On 6 April 2021, the North America Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team organized a webinar on creating the North America Regional Engagement Plan that aligns with the ICANN Strategic Plan FY21-25.

Creating a regional engagement plan for North America provides an opportunity for the

community and ICANN org to develop regional priorities and customize its goals and engagement activities to focus on those priorities. During this webinar, ICANN org members explained the timeline and process that will be used to create the plan.

If you could not participate in the webinar, you can still access the recording [here](#). The North America Regional Engagement Plan will be effective starting 1 July 2021.

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## New Webinar Series on Key ICANN Topics from North America Regional Team

As part of ICANN organization's effort to strengthen engagement in North America, a new webinar series will bring timely topics to the community for discussion. This series will offer learning opportunities and facilitate meaningful participation in a virtual environment.



[Read the latest blog](#) by Naela Sarra, ICANN's Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement, North America.

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## Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency Launches Webinar Series on DNS Responsibility and Security

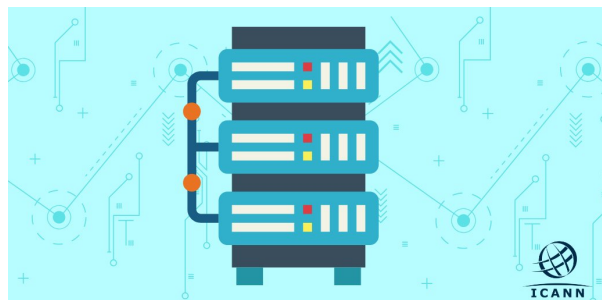
The webinar series introduces the topic of operational concerns in the Domain Name System (DNS). The series is aimed at members of the Not-for-Profit Operational Concerns Constituency (NPOC) and other not-for-profit organizations interested in gaining a better understanding of the DNS and how to responsibly and securely manage domain names. Topics will include how the DNS is managed and organized, the steps organizations and individuals should take to manage and protect their domain names, and how and why they can participate in ICANN policy processes.

Interested in joining one of these webinars? Click [here](#) for more information.

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## The Root Zone from A to Z

On 21 April 2021, the North America Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team organized a webinar highlighting different aspects in creating, securing, and publishing the Domain Name System (DNS) Root Zone.



The webinar, attended by more than 90 participants, was delivered by ICANN's foremost experts on the topic, including:

- Kim Davies described the IANA operations to generate and secure the DNS root zone.
- Terry Manderson outlined the work done to operate the ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS).
- ICANN Chief Technology Officer David Conrad explained ICANN's strategy for the IMRS and operating the ICANN Root Zone Service.
- Roy Arends, who discussed the concept of hyperlocal, a term used for using the root zone data locally.

If you missed this session, you can find links to the presentations and the recordings [here](#).

Check out other upcoming ICANN events on our event calendar [here](#).



## POLICY UPDATE

### Contracted Parties House DNS Abuse Working Group Briefs GNSO Council

The Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council seeks to better understand community definitions of Domain Name System (DNS) abuse and where gaps remain in the community's ability to combat DNS abuse in an effective manner.

**ICANN | GNSO**

As the first step of this educational and level-setting exercise, the GNSO Council invited the Contracted Parties House (CPH) DNS Abuse Working Group to provide an update during the GNSO Council meeting on 22 April 2021. Serving as a fact-finding mission, this briefing helped the GNSO Council understand what the contracted parties have been voluntarily doing to combat DNS abuse and inform GNSO Council decision regarding the possible next steps.

Find more information [here](#).

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### At-Large Community Launches Two New ICANN Learn Courses



Two new courses about the At-Large community are now available on ICANN Learn. The first course provides an introduction to the At-Large community and the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), how they function within the ICANN community, and how end users can start and continue their involvement.

The second course, "ICANN Policy Development: A Guide for At-Large Participants" provides a deeper dive into how the ALAC develops policy advice and forms policy positions.

[Find out more and enroll here!](#)

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### ccNSO Policy Development Efforts

The latest Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) policy development process (ccPDPs) updates include:

**ICANN | ccNSO**

- Following closure of the Public Comment proceeding on the Initial Report, the proposed policy for ccPDP3 on the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) will be presented to the ccNSO Council and ccNSO members for decision-making. The ccTLD and broader communities will have an opportunity to learn more about the proposals before voting begins.
- The ccPDP3-RM Working Group, which develops a review mechanism for decisions regarding the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs, will present its results to date and seek feedback. The working group has identified which decisions

- should be subject to a review and explored the requirements for the review mechanism.
- The ccPDP4 Working Group is advancing the process for the selection of Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) ccTLD strings. The results of this ccPDP will eventually replace the IDN ccTLD Fast Track Process. The working group has made considerable progress and intends to seek feedback and input from the broader community.

For the latest information on ccNSO work, please check out their [website](#).



## SPOTLIGHT

### Making the Internet Work for All Users

The Domain Name System (DNS) has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. There are now more than 1,200 active generic top-level domains (gTLDs) some of which include domain names in different scripts and with varying length. Despite this growth, a large number of global systems and applications don't support these internationalized and long domain names and email addresses.

But ICANN organization and the Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) are working to change that. Check out the latest updates below and get involved if you're interested in helping to make the Internet work for all global users.

#### Latest Universal Acceptance (UA) News and Resources

- LACRALO Leads the Promotion of Universal Acceptance in the LAC Region - [read announcement](#).
- ICANN70 Showcases Universal Acceptance (UA) Progress - [read blog](#).
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): UA Readiness of Programming Languages and Email Tools ([UASG031](#)).

#### Recent Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Developments

- Second-level Reference Label Generation Rules for the Arabic, Hebrew, and Sinhala Scripts, and Hebrew Language are Published - [read announcement](#).
- Maximal Starting Repertoire Version 5 (MSR-5) Public Comment - [read announcement](#).

For more information on ways you can get involved in supporting an #Internet4All, visit <https://uasg.tech/>, and follow, like, and share with the UASG on social media ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)).



## ONE MORE THING



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## WASHINGTON, D.C.

801 17th Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006  
USA



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