



TOP STORY



ICANN Seeks Public Comment on Proposed Amendment 3 to the .COM Registry Agreement

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and VeriSign, Inc. (Verisign), the registry operator of the .COM top-level domain (TLD) announced that they have reached a proposed agreement to amend the .COM Registry Agreement (RA). In addition, ICANN and Verisign announced a new proposed framework for working together on initiatives related to the security, stability, and resiliency of the Domain Name System

(DNS) in the form of a binding Letter of Intent (LOI) between the two organizations. [Read the full announcement.](#)

ICANN org is seeking public comment on the proposed Amendment No. 3 to the .COM registry agreement between ICANN and VeriSign. Read the details and post your public comment submission on or before 14 February 2020 [here.](#)



ICANN NEWS

Make Your Voice Heard on ICANN's Future!

ICANN org is seeking input and feedback from the community on the Draft FY21-FY25 Operating and Financial Plan and Draft FY21 Operating Plan and Budget.

ICANN org's FY21-25 Operating Plan and FY21 Operating Plan include descriptions of the major work ICANN org will undertake to achieve its [Strategic Plan](#), operate the organization, and implement its mission. The FY21-25 Operating Plan projects this work over a five-year period, while the FY21 Operating Plan focuses only on the single fiscal year 2021.

The Public Comment period is now open and has been extended by 7 days to 58 days (excluding holidays) to give the community more time to review the documents. You can find the full documents and register your feedback on our [Public Comment page](#).



Register Now for ICANN67

Register now for the ICANN67 Community Forum in Cancún, Mexico, from 7-12 March 2020. [Preregistration](#) is encouraged for all attendees. Email validation is required to complete the registration process. You can find more travel and event details on [the dedicated ICANN67 website](#).



Evolving ICANN's Multistakeholder Model: The Work Plan and Way Forward

By Brian Cute

Over the years, ICANN's multistakeholder model (MSM) has evolved, addressed important issues, and developed policies for the Internet's domain name and numbering resources. During the development of ICANN's Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2021-2025, the ICANN community raised a number of challenges concerning its effectiveness, efficiency, and overall functioning. That community feedback was the basis for development of the strategic objective on governance, which led to the Evolving ICANN's MSM process.

Read Brian's full blog on the work plan and next steps [here](#).



POLICY UPDATE

Register for ICANN67 Prep Week Webinars

Mark your calendars! Ahead of ICANN67, there will be a series of webinars during the week of 18-24 February 2020 to help the ICANN community prepare for Community Forum in Cancún, Mexico. Please register [here](#) by 14 February to receive your calendar invitation.



ICANN | ccNSO

Policy Recommendations on the Retirement of ccTLDs

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) continues the policy development process (PDP) related to the retirement of country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). This third-ever ccNSO PDP aims to develop policy recommendations for the ICANN Board, which will include a review mechanism pertaining to decision on the delegation, transfer, revocation, and retirement of ccTLDs. Volunteers are needed to launch Phase 2 of the PDP, which will aim to develop the review mechanism. A call for volunteers is scheduled to open later this month. Phase 2 work will begin after the ccNSO Council approves the roster of volunteers. During its [December meeting](#), the ccNSO Council reviewed the timeline, including major milestones.

Policy Development for IDNs

The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) recently initiated a policy development process (PDP) on Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code top-level domain (ccTLD) strings. This PDP will address a limited set of issues related to the selection of IDN ccTLD strings and review the proposal to amend Article 10 of the ICANN Bylaws, which would enable IDN ccTLDs to become members of the ccNSO. The issue report and the proposed timeline are expected by the end of February 2020. A call for volunteers will open soon after. Read more about the ccNSO IDN Preliminary Review





The EPDP Team Drafts Initial Report

The Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team is currently developing the final draft of its Phase 2 Initial Report. The report will include language on the development of a standardized system for the access and disclosure of nonpublic gTLD registration data (SSAD). The Initial Report will include recommendations on a number of topics related to the SSAD, including accreditation, data retention, financial considerations, and auditing. The EPDP Team expects to publish its Initial Report by 7 February 2019.

New Recommendations from the gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP Working Group

The New gTLD Subsequent Procedures Policy Development Process Working Group has completed its substantive review of Public Comment submissions on its Initial Report. It has focused on refining final recommendations and other supporting content that should be included in the draft Final Report. The Final Report is also expected to include final decisions related to Work Track 5 on geographic names. A Public Comment proceeding for the draft Final Report is anticipated for early 2020. Learn more [here](#).

ICANN | GNSO

Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP Working Group Approaches Publication of Phase 1 Initial Report

The Working Group for the Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs Policy Development Process has finished reviewing preliminary recommendations for the RPMs applicable to gTLDs launched under the 2012 New gTLD Programs. These RPMs include: the Trademark Post-Delegation Dispute Resolution Procedure (TM-PDDRP); the Trademark Clearinghouse (TMCH); Sunrise and Trademark Claims services that are offered through the TMCH; and the Uniform Rapid Suspension (URS) dispute resolution procedure. The working group has started the review of the draft Initial Report, which is expected to be published for Public Comment in January 2020. Learn more [here](#).

Post-ATLAS III Activities

In December, the Organizing Committee of the Third At-Large Summit (ATLAS III) met to discuss the next steps for **post-ATLAS III activities**. A post-ATLAS III webinar for the participants was held to set out priorities for the At-Large Ambassadors, including an overview of the main activities, including policy involvement, capacity building, outreach and engagement, and communication.

This month, At-Large Ambassadors began activities in their respective regions. These activities are based on the recommendations that arose from the ATLAS III survey and capacity building interviews from ATLAS III. Over the next few months, Ambassadors will build knowledge in their respective At-Large Structures (ALSes) and, once complete, leverage that knowledge to engage in local and regional activities.

As part of both post-ATLAS III activities as well as the At-Large Review Implementation, a new At-Large Structure Mobilization Working Party continues to review the criteria for ALSes with the goal of increasing the effectiveness of members.

Fellowship Applications Now Open for ARIN 45

The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) Fellowship Program is currently accepting applications to attend its next Public Policy and Members Meeting, ARIN 45 in Louisville, Kentucky, 26-29 April 2020. As part of the ARIN Fellowship, selected fellows will attend ARIN 45 at no charge, including hotel accommodations at the meeting venue, round-trip economy class airfare, and a small stipend to assist with travel incidentals and meals.

ARIN's Fellowship Program offers fellows a unique opportunity to learn more about ARIN's policy

development process (PDP), participate in current policy discussions, and vote on key policy drafts. Fellows are paired with a seasoned ARIN mentor throughout the meeting and are able to network with ARIN's Board of Trustees, Advisory Council, staff, and community members throughout the region. As a result of the program, fellows gain a more in-depth exposure to ARIN's operations and services. The deadline to [apply](#) to ARIN's Fellowship Program is Thursday, 13 February 2020, 17:00 ET. The application process is open to individuals from ARIN customer organizations or people who have a direct connection to the ARIN community and reside in the ARIN region. ARIN Fellow alumni may apply but will only be considered for one more ARIN Fellowship. For more information about ARIN's Fellowship Program and the selection process, please visit [ARIN's website](#).



GDD UPDATE



Universal Acceptance Continues Momentum During ICANN66

If you weren't able to join the Universal Acceptance (UA) discussions at ICANN66 in Montréal, then don't miss the latest blog by Universal Acceptance Steering Group Chair Ajay Data. The blog outlines the highlights and key takeaways from ICANN66, which include the initiation of a Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) working group focused on Universal Acceptance.

Read the blog [here](#).

Call for EAI and Measurement Working Group Vice Chairs

Are you passionate about promoting Universal Acceptance? The UASG Email Address Internationalization (EAI) and Measurement Working Groups are in need of experienced Internet community members to serve as vice chairs. Interested? Find out more [here](#).

Updated Domain Name Marketplace Indicators Released

ICANN has released updated industry metrics as part of its Domain Name Marketplace Indicators initiative. This initiative presents statistics related to generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) that encompass the below categories:

- Robust competition: registrant choice, registrant domain adoption, service provider marketplace entry, and service provider competition.
- Marketplace stability: service provider contractual compliance.
- Trust: industry safeguards.

These metrics are published twice a year in order to track progress against ICANN's strategic goal of supporting the evolution of the domain name marketplace to be robust, stable, and trusted.

View the updated metrics [here](#).

IANA Engagement Survey Results Are In

Last month, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) published its annual Customer Engagement Survey which measures customer satisfaction with the IANA functions. Leading the survey with a rating of 4.3 (on a 5-point scale) was confidence in the IANA team's ability to achieve its objectives and also satisfaction with the transparency of the Key Signing Key ceremony.

In its sixth year, the annual survey allows the IANA team to evaluate how they manage their relationship with different user

groups, and most recently, are able to identify improvements in addition to the regular operational feedback received through the post-interaction survey.

Read the announcement [here](#) and view to the IANA Customer Engagement Survey [here](#).



Operational Improvements to the PICDRP

Following recent discussions with the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group, the ICANN organization agreed to make operational improvements to the Public Interest Commitment Dispute Resolution Procedure (PICDRP) which increases transparency without materially changing the procedure. The PICDRP addresses complaints that a registry operator may not be complying with the Public Interest Commitment(s) in Specification 11 of their Registry Agreement.

This [revised version of the PICDRP](#) reflects the agreed upon changes and will be effective 1 February 2020. You can read more to learn about the improvements [here](#).



WHAT'S NEW IN REVIEWS

Opportunities to Participate: ICANN Reviews

[Specific Reviews](#) are led by teams of community volunteers to assess the performance of the ICANN organization and make recommendations for improvement. All Specific Review team plenary meetings are open and available for observers to join. You may share your feedback and input any time to the team's public mailing list. Details of meeting schedules and mailing lists are available on the team wiki pages. Upcoming Specific Review team meetings include:
Comment on the third Accountability and Transparency Review Team ([ATRT3](#)) Draft Report



The ATRT3 seeks to solicit input on its Draft Report which contains findings, suggestions, and recommendations regarding ICANN accountability and transparency in key areas:

- Board
- Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)
- Public Input
- Policy Development Process
- Specific and Organizational Reviews
- Accountability Indicators
- Prioritization of Activities, Policies, and Recommendations

The report is available for Public Comment through 31 January 2020. Go to the [Public Comment page](#) to read the report and register your comments.

Visit the [Reviews Status Update Table](#) for the latest progress of Specific and Organizational Reviews and links to additional key resources for each.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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



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