

ICANN UPDATE

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New IANA Template System

Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

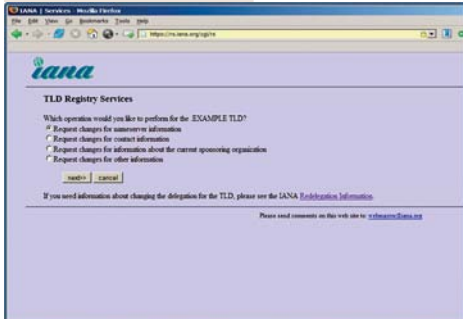


figure 1

IANA is previewing an online TLD Request Template System for use by TLD managers. Demonstrated at the recent CENTR meeting in Trondheim, Norway, this new system will allow TLD managers to confirm the existing information for the TLD zone as they request changes. The improvements are intended to clarify requests and speed processing for IANA.

The TLD Request Template System is accessed via a password protected login. In Figure 1 you can see the change options available to the TLD manager, in this case for the TLD .EXAMPLE. In selecting one of these options, the TLD manager is directed through various clarifying questions to determine exactly what type of change they wish to make to their zone information.

If the TLD manager chooses to modify existing nameserver information, they will see a screen similar to Figure 2. The Template System pre-fills the fields with the current nameserver information for all the nameservers the TLD lists, and allows them to modify information for any of those nameservers. Adding or deleting a nameserver is done through different interfaces in the Template System.

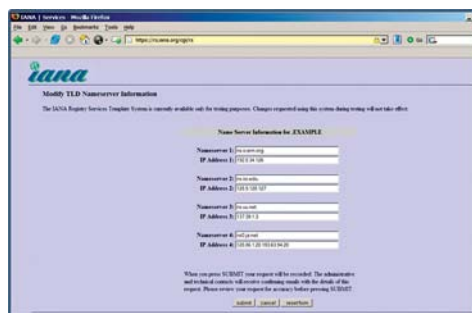


figure 2

Once the information has been changed, a confirmation message detailing the change requested is generated, both onscreen (Figure 3), and via email (Figure 4). For implementation after the test period, a preview of changes will be added for the TLD manager to verify that they have changed the appropriate fields.

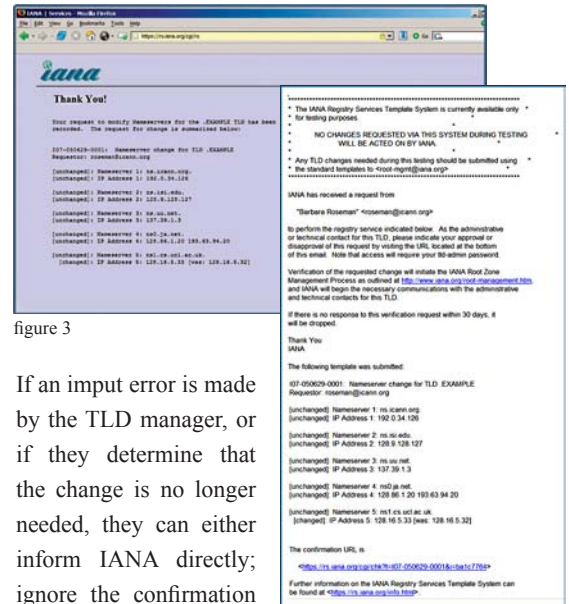


figure 3

figure 4

If an input error is made by the TLD manager, or if they determine that the change is no longer needed, they can either inform IANA directly; ignore the confirmation and the change request will be closed administratively after 30 days; or go to the link included in the email and reject the change. If conflicting change requests were submitted, and both confirmed, IANA would communicate directly with the TLD manager to clarify what was intended.

Similar change forms are available for administration and technical contact information, supporting organisation information, and changes to Whois or contact URL information. Redlegation requests must still be communicated directly to IANA.

IANA has already received several helpful comments from test users of the Template System. The test period is expected to run through July 2005. The release of the fully operational Template System is planned to commence in September 2005.

If you have any questions regarding the online TLD Request Template System, or would like to have a demonstration, please contact Barbara Roseman, Operations Manager, IANA, or Doug Barton, General Manger, IANA.

During the testing period all requests submitted using the Template System are being treated as test requests only. To have a TLD change request implemented during the test period, TLD managers are reminded to use the existing email template process.



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Welcome to the World of ICANN!

A special introduction from Olof Nordling:

For a newcomer to ICANN, there is a steep learning curve to climb in addition to the sheer honour and enthusiasm that comes with joining such an interesting organisation with a unique mission.

Fortunately, there is a great team of people already in place willing and able to assist a rookie with all the essentials of ICANN life - from resuscitating a dead hard disk drive to explaining the timelines in the GNSO PDP!

So does anyone else have trouble understanding all the different organisations?

ICANN has got its special crop of acronyms- enter GAC, ALAC, ccNSO etc... all terms to get acquainted with and understand, but also, and

more importantly, to realise that they consist of people you need to know, from many trades, as it should be in a multi-stakeholder organisation. All devoted to the future of the Internet, and with more or less corresponding visions of that future.

Getting to know the wider ICANN community, anybody coming from a particular sector would find that they recognise fewer people than they thought they would. In my case, there were occasional familiar faces from the telecom operator crowd, but that was the exception rather than the rule. The whole ICANN environment and decision-making structure is unique and given ICANN's global mission, structure and organisation, it only makes sense that you really have to live it to realise it fully.

On arrival, I was endowed with a title - "Manager of Policy Development Coordination" - anyone may wonder over its inner meaning while realising that it's a Good Thing the ICANN business cards have a horizontal layout with sufficient space for something like that. Otherwise, there would be a need for another acronym, MPDC (Hmmm, that sounds pretty impressive, coming to think of it!). What's the inner meaning, then? Well, as based in the ICANN Brussels office, simply to assist the Vice President of Policy Development wherever need be in the policy development kitchen of all the ICANN Supporting Organisations and Advisory Committees. This is a bit overwhelming at first, but truly interesting in all its complexity.

On that note, Vint Cerf, the ICANN chair himself, once said in an interview that, "The Internet is a mirror of the

world with all its good and bad parts". It figures that also ICANN must encompass those complexities to be a true mirror of reality. On the other hand, there should always be a quest for simplicity. Alfonso X, a Spanish king in mediaeval times and properly nicknamed "the Wise", once said: "If God the Almighty had asked my advice

before creating the world, I would have suggested something simpler!" Available evidence confirms that such a consultation didn't take place. Indeed, there was no public comment period before the world was created - and precious few around to comment the project either! Accordingly, we do live in a pretty complex world, the Internet is mirroring it, ICANN is mirroring it - and we should try to make it as practical and sustainable as possible for the future!

"The Internet is a mirror of the world with all its good and bad parts."

-Vint Cerf

CEO's Corner

by Dr. Paul Twomey

Much has happened in all areas of ICANN's supporting organisations since our last meeting in Argentina and I am particularly pleased to see that AfriNIC, Africa's own Regional Internet number Registry (RIR) has received its first allocation of numbering resources, including IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers for the Africa region. This is an important demonstration of community work to achieve a remarkable accomplishment important to the region, and reflective of the needs of the region.

Within the Generic Names Supporting Organisation, (GNSO) ICANN has pressed ahead with a Whois Task Force preliminary report as well as the continuing assessment of the introduction of new TLDs. The issue of Whois (the data furnished in relation to a domain name registration and available to public viewing) is important, and raises issues of interest with a wide range of stakeholders, often with conflicting views and positions.

Assessing the introduction of new TLDs is also of primary concern and priority; balancing community interests, and defining the role new TLDs will play in the emerging domain name system.

(CEO's Corner continued on next page)



Olof Nordling, Manager of Policy Development Coordination, ICANN

Olof is a Swedish national and holds an MSc and was for many years Head of The Brussels office of TeliaSonera, the Swedish/Finnish Telecommunications group, where he was responsible for relations to the EU institutions for telecommunications policy matters and a Board Member of ETNO, the association of European telecom operators.

In the past, Olof was Counsellor and Head of the Science and Technology office at the Swedish Embassy in Paris. Prior to this he was Deputy Trade Commissioner for Sweden, based in Los Angeles.

In his earlier career Olof was a Systems Analyst for Honeywell Bull in Paris.

In relation to country code top level domains (ccTLDs), the IANA which is a function of ICANN, has continued to work to reduce the amount of pending re-delegation implementations. ICANN's recognition of the .eu ccTLD, and the completion of an agreement for the delegation of the .eu ccTLD, was an important step forward for Europe and the implementation of its e-commerce initiatives. ICANN, through the ccNSO, continues its discussions on "new style" of Accountability Frameworks for ccTLD operators, with the objective to further establish formalised relationships with ccTLDs. The aim is to formalise our existing relationships in as simple a fashion as we possibly can.

ICANN's At-Large continues with additional regional At-Large groups being formed each month. ICANN's Government Advisory Committee (GAC) plays a key role in providing ICANN with advice, and we look forward to continue close liaising on key issues under consideration.

For all of these initiatives and ongoing work, we're pleased to have additional staff in place to ensure smooth operational functioning and responsiveness to community needs.

In addition to the important work mentioned above, ICANN's independent Nominating Committee continues meeting. ICANN recognises the importance and integrity of the NomCom process and staff is providing appropriate administrative support. Further to the growing Internationalisation efforts, ICANN's outreach initiatives continue to inform interested parties around the world. Mostly this takes place through dedicated workshops and

presentations or presence at international gatherings and conferences, working with regional and local ICANN stakeholders on participation in outreach efforts, and improving materials provided on ICANN (including translations).

"As always, I welcome your feedback to myself and staff on how we can make the organisation better."

Last but by no means least, we continue to follow and participate in the discussion surrounding the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) and the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) with interest and continue to

be available to brief the participants and parties involved in the discussions as we are concerned to ensure that the WSIS and WGIG participants are able to have well-informed discussions. I hope some of you were able to review my recent presentation to the WGIG in Geneva which was another important opportunity for us to discuss these very important issues.

As always, I welcome your feedback to myself and staff on how we can make the organisation better. Part of this will occur during the consultations for the strategic plan, which I would truly ask full input from all stakeholders, from all regions of the world so we can ensure we are working together for the best organisation for all.

Finally, we say a fond farewell to Paul Verhoef, our VP for Policy Development Support, who is returning to the European Commission to head up the major Gallileo Project, the EC's most expensive initiative to date. We thank him for all the work he has done on behalf of the Internet Community.



*Dr. Paul Twomey
President and CEO*



*Veni Markovski
Member of the Board of Directors*

ICANN Board Member: **Veni Markovski, Bulgaria**

Veni Markovski started working on the Internet in 1990, by becoming one of the first system operators of a Bulletin Board System in Sofia, Bulgaria. By 2003 he has founded the second in history Internet Service Provider in Bulgaria (www.bol.bg). In 1995 he founded the Bulgarian Internet Society (www.isoc.bg).

He is chairing the Bulgarian President's IT Advisory Council, and was selected for the ICANN Board by the Nominating Committee. He started serving on the ICANN Board of Directors on 26 June 2003. His current term will end after the conclusion of ICANN's annual meeting in 2006. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Internet Society, and the Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility.

Veni Markovski has three areas of interest in the last couple of years: Cyber-security, Internet Governance and Free and Open Source Software (FOSS).

(Veni Markovski bio continued on page 4)

Currently, ICANN's Board of Directors and Liaisons includes citizens of Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Senegal, The United Kingdom, and The United States. Every issue of the newsletter highlights a different member of ICANN's Board of Directors.

1st Annual Report of the ICANN Ombudsman

The meeting in Luxembourg City will mark an important milestone for the Office of the Ombudsman. At that

meeting, if all the logistics work as they should, (and I am sure they will) I will deliver my first Annual Report to the Board of Directors, and to the wider ICANN community. Although the Office of the Ombudsman only began operations in November 2004, it has a fiscal year end of June 30, thus the first annual report will cover somewhat less than 12 full months.

The report, entitled *Creating Dialogue – Affirming Fairness*, will be available at the Luxembourg meeting, and online in .pdf format.

The Ombudsman Framework has recently been translated into Chinese, French, German, Arabic, and Spanish, and is available in .pdf format on the Ombudsman website at <http://www.icann.org/ombudsman/>.

The Office of the Ombudsman has now handled over 120 contacts from the ICANN community seeking the Ombudsman's assistance. Many of these contacts were handled by providing a referral to the appropriate staff officer within ICANN, or by providing some self help information. The annual report will deal with these in detail.

Several cases have been within my jurisdiction, and these have been dealt with appropriately.

In recent days the Office of the Ombudsman was the recipient of several emails from a group who, not understanding my role put the Ombudsman's name as the contact to complain about pornography on the Internet. Each of the correspondents has received a reply from me indicating that I do not have jurisdiction to deal with their complaint.

The Office of the Ombudsman continues with its Outreach and peer activities. I have had the opportunity to attend the annual meetings of both the Canadian Forum of Ombudsmen, and The Ombudsman Association. I was the keynote speaker at the Financial Management Institute presenting a paper called Conflict management and the Internet. Just prior to the Luxembourg meeting I will participate in the 3rd Annual European Internet Domain Name Summit at Paris, on a panel entitled, Judges and Mediators on the Internet.

(Veni Markovski bio continued from page 3)

On cybersecurity, the Internet Society of Bulgaria organised an international conference, drafted legislation, and published policy recommendations; on Internet governance, Mr. Markovski has been member of delegations at the U.N. World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), and has numerous publications and presentations; on FOSS he drafted national legislation and led implementation of an UNDP project in South Eastern Europe.

As a President and Chair of the Board of the Internet Society of Bulgaria (www.isoc.bg) Veni Markovski has:

- Been a legal expert to the Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Telecommunications
- Helped to draft and pass two Telecommunications Acts (2001, 2003)
- Helped to draft and pass The E-Document and E-Signature Act (2000)
- Helped to draft and pass the Computer Crimes chapter in the Penal Code (2002)
- Helped to draft the Free and Open Source Software Usage in the State Administration Act
- Implemented first ever legal strategy to successfully eliminate legal barriers to free Internet access (1999)
- Been helping the Bulgarian government to define positions on the WSIS and other Internet-related policies

Veni Markovski is the Project Manager of the UNDP project "Support to e-government initiatives based on Free/Open Source Software at the local (municipality) level in South-eastern Europe" (www.foss.bg). Through the project ISOC-Bulgaria has:

- Launched e-government services in eight cities within six months.
- Trained more than 200 city officials in three different countries.
- Migrated approx. 80% of participating city computers to using free and open software applications and tools, and about 20% to use Linux OS.
- The UNDP project has been positively reviewed in The New York Times, The International Herald Tribune, heise.de and others (copies of publications available upon request).

Mr. Markovski is a graduate of the Sofia University "St. Kliment Ochridski" with Masters of Science degree in Law (1993), he has also passed training by the International Law Development Institute in Rome, the US Agency for International Development, the Open Society Institute, and others.

He has also dozens of publications in Bulgarian and foreign newspapers and magazines since 1984. He's also a frequent presenter at different IT-related conferences.



2005 Annual Report

The principal function of the Ombudsman shall be to provide an independent internal evaluation of complaints by members of the ICANN community who believe that the ICANN staff, based on an ICANN commitment body has treated them unfairly. The Ombudsman shall serve as an objective advocate for fairness, and shall work to evaluate and where possible resolve complaints about unfair or inappropriate treatment by ICANN staff, the Board, or ICANN constituent bodies, clarifying the issues and using conflict resolution tools such as negotiation, facilitation, and "shuttle diplomacy" to achieve these results.

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Upcoming Events

16-20 July 2005
SANOG VI
Thimphu, Bhutan

31 July-5 August 2005
IETF 63
Paris, France

8-14 October 2005
RIPE 51
Amsterdam,
The Netherlands

6-11 November 2005
IETF 64
Canada

Please send comments to:

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