



**POLICY UPDATE**

**Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers**

<http://www.icann.org/topics/policy/>

Volume 12, Issue 2 – February-March 2012 Double Issue

### **Special ICANN 43 Costa Rica Meeting Edition**



#### **Across ICANN**

[Public Comment Enhancements in Effect Since 1 January 2012](#)

[Participation and Engagement Activities in Costa Rica](#)

[Issues Currently Open for Public Comment](#)

#### **ccNSO**

[ccNSO Brings Costa Rica Meeting Pages Online](#)

[List of Government Control Acts Enhances ccNSO Resource Page](#)

[French Polynesia Joins ccNSO](#)

## **GNSO**

[Council Addresses IRTP Part B Recommendations](#)

[GNSO Council to Consider Draft PDP Working Group Charter](#)

[Whois Study Update Slated for Costa Rica](#)

## **ASO**

[Policy Proposal for Recovered IPv4 Address Blocks Now Adopted by All RIRs](#)

## **At-Large**

[At-Large Community Members Prepare for ICANN's Costa Rica Meeting, and Welcome LACRALO At-Large Structure Participation](#)

[New Beginner's Guide Supports At-Large Community Outreach and Engagement](#)

## **SSAC**

[SSAC Publishes Advisory on Single-Character IDNs and Report on Dotless Domains](#)

## **GAC**

[Where to Find GAC Information](#)

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Send questions, comments and suggestions to: [policy-staff@icann.org](mailto:policy-staff@icann.org).

## Policy Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees

Address Supporting Organization	<a href="#">ASO</a>
Country Code Names Supporting Organization	<a href="#">ccNSO</a>
Generic Names Supporting Organization	<a href="#">GNSO</a>
At-Large Advisory Committee	<a href="#">ALAC</a>
Governmental Advisory Committee	<a href="#">GAC</a>
Root Server System Advisory Committee	<a href="#">RSSAC</a>
Security and Stability Advisory Committee	<a href="#">SSAC</a>

## Across ICANN

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### Public Comment Enhancements in Effect Since 1 January 2012

#### At a Glance

*The new Public Comment Process enhancements became effective on 1 January 2012.*

#### New Developments

During 2011, ICANN staff worked with the ICANN community on how to implement Public Comment Process improvements in response to the Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT) recommendations #15, 16, 17 and 21. By 1 January 2012, these improvements were put into effect. Public comments are now:

- Categorized/Tagged (ATRT recommendation #15)
- Have two cycles (ATRT recommendations #16 and 17), with a Comment cycle for minimum 21 days, followed by a Reply cycle of minimum 21 days. Note these periods set a minimum amount of time, and that the Comment and/or Reply period can be longer depending on community requests or a particular working group's preference as they issue a public comment or other factors. If no comments are received during the Comment period, there will be no Reply period.

Also, a regular process is in place (since June 2011) to update and maintain the "Upcoming Public Comments" web page (ATRT recommendation #21) in order to provide community members with a preview of potential future public comment topics. The current list is compiled through this process with input from ICANN

community leaders and the ICANN staff. It was updated with future topics at the beginning of 2012.

While these new processes and constructs were put in place by 1 January 2012, staff continued working with a group of community testers on a wiki-based threaded discussion environment for the Public Comments. Responding to community calls made by staff and ICANN community leaders, 21 volunteers contributed to this test, from November 2011 to late January 2012. Based on the community test results, staff will be able to work towards a technically improved interface if approved by the PPC.

## Background

The overall effort supported the implementation of the ATRT recommendations relating to how community members provide input on ICANN matters.

## More Information

- [New Year Brings More Public Comment Enhancements to Life -- December 2011 announcement](#)
- [Public Comment Enhancements Wrap Up – Policy Update December 2011](#)
- [Accountability & Transparency web page](#)

## Staff Contact

[Filiz Yilmaz](#), Senior Director, Participation and Engagement

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# Participation and Engagement Activities in Costa Rica

## At a Glance

*Continuing a tradition initiated last year, ICANN staff will organize a Newcomers Track on Sunday, 11 March 2012, during the Costa Rica meeting and will run a Newcomers' Lounge from Saturday, 10 March to Wednesday, 14 March.*

## New Developments

Newcomers Track Sessions in Costa Rica will include briefings on:

- Remote participation
- Community wikis

- Introduction to ICANN
- Policy update
- Ombudsman
- ICANN Compliance
- New gTLDs and Registries Overview

A Newcomers Lounge will be open at the Costa Rica meeting. The lounge will be open from Saturday to Wednesday during registration hours, and volunteer community members and ICANN staff will be available to answer questions, suggest sessions to attend and connect newcomers to other community members in the lounge. The lounge will also serve as a meeting point for these new faces of the ICANN community.

### **Next Steps**

The Newcomers Lounge was designed for newcomers but is open to all. Since these activities were begun last year, they have been helping all ICANN attendees. So make sure you drop by the lounge!

### **Background**

The Sunday Newcomers Track is a series of introductory sessions targeting beginners (or those who seek more information) and providing the necessary background on certain topics so that they can follow and participate in the week's meetings and discussions more effectively. Conducted by ICANN staff, the Newcomers Track sessions are highly interactive, and have been receiving increasing interest since the activity started at ICANN 40 in Silicon Valley-San Francisco. A record number of attendees participated during ICANN 42 in Dakar, Senegal.

### **More Information**

- [ICANN 43 Costa Rica Meeting Schedule](#)

### **Staff Contact**

[Filiz Yilmaz](#), Senior Director, Participation and Engagement

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## **Issues Currently Open for Public Comment**

Numerous public comment periods are currently open on issues of interest to the ICANN community. Act now to share your views on such topics as:

- [Further Bylaw Changes Following Adoption of Revised GNSO Policy Development Process](#). Following the adoption of the revised GNSO PDP, further changes are recommended for the ICANN Bylaws related to the voting thresholds that apply to a GNSO PDP. Closes 2 March 2012.
- [Draft Roadmap to Implement SAC 051](#). Proposed roadmap for the coordination of the technical and policy discussions necessary to begin evaluation and eventual adoption of a replacement for the Whois protocol. Closes 18 March 2012.
- [IDN Variant Issues Project – Proposed Project Plan for Next Steps](#). Input sought on what comes next after publication of Integrated Issues Report. Closes 18 March 2012.
- [Whois Policy Review Team Draft Report](#). This draft report takes a broad look at ICANN's Whois policies and procedures and makes recommendations for improving compliance. Closes 18 March 2012.
- [Initial Report on Universal Acceptance of Internationalized Domain Name TLDs](#). The Ad Hoc ccNSO/GNSO Joint IDN Working Group has identified policy and coordination considerations to be addressed regarding how to work with Internet infrastructure operators and application providers to ensure they are prepared to support Internationalized Domain Names. Extended to close on 23 March 2012.
- [Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy Part B PDP – Recommendation 8 Concerning Standardizing and Clarifying Whois Status Messages](#). Proposed change related to the IRTP to standardize and clarify Whois status messages and adoption of the proposed policy change. Closes 25 March 2012.
- [Interim Report on Support Significantly Interested Parties for ccTLD Delegation or Redelegation Requests](#). Recommendations on how to obtain and document support for ccTLD delegations or redelegations. Closes 30 March 2012.

For the full list of issues open for public comment, plus recently closed and archived public comment forums, visit the [Public Comment web page](#).

ccNSO

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**ccNSO Brings Costa Rica Meeting Pages Online**



### **At a Glance**

*The ccNSO web page for the Costa Rica meeting is now online, containing agendas and presentation details.*

### **Recent Developments**

The ccNSO has created a special web page for the Costa Rica meeting in order to make agendas and presentation details easy to find.

### **Next Steps**

The community is invited to review the Costa Rica meeting page, which is continuously updated.

### **More Information**

- [Meetings page](#)
- [Meetings agenda](#)

### **Staff Contact**

[Gabriella Schitteck](#), ccNSO Secretariat

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## **List of Government Control Acts Enhances ccNSO Resource Page**

### **At a Glance**

*The ccNSO has gathered Internet Government Control Acts under one heading on the ccNSO Resource web page.*

### **Recent Developments**

Continuing its efforts to increase the usefulness of the ccNSO web pages, the ccNSO has gathered links and information on Internet Government Control Acts on the ccNSO resource page.

### **Next Steps**

The community is invited to submit relevant information in order to increase the information pool.

### **Background**

The issue of Internet government control has recently increased in importance and in many cases has influence on ccTLD operations. This page provides links to information on national and international legislation or acts regarding control of the Internet.

## More Information

- [National and International Internet Control Acts](#)

## Staff Contact

[Gabriella Schitteck](#), ccNSO Secretariat

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## French Polynesia Joins ccNSO

### At a Glance

*The country code operator for French Polynesia was approved as a ccNSO member in January.*

### Recent Developments

Agence de Réglementation du Numérique (ARN), the manager of the .pf (French Polynesia) ccTLD has joined as the latest ccNSO member. French Polynesia is comprised of five archipelagoes (Archipel Des Tuamotu, Iles Gambier, Iles Marquises, Iles Tubuai, Society Islands) in the South Pacific Ocean about half way between South America and Australia.

There are now a total of 125 ccNSO members. French Polynesia is the first new member of the ccNSO in calendar year 2012.

## More Information

- [List of ccNSO members](#)
- [ccNSO Membership Growth 2003-2011](#) [PDF, 61 KB]

## Staff Contact

[Gabriella Schitteck](#), ccNSO Secretariat

**GNSO**

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## Council Addresses IRTP Part B Recommendations

### At a Glance

*The aim of the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP) is to provide a straightforward procedure for domain name holders to transfer their names from one ICANN-accredited registrar to another. The GNSO Council is reviewing and*



*considering revisions to this policy through a series of Working Groups. The IRTP Part B PDP Recommendations have been adopted by the ICANN Board and will now move forward to implementation. The IRTP Part C Policy Development Process is underway.*

## **Recent Developments and Next Steps**

**IRTP Part B:** In addition to those recommendations that are now being implemented, the GNSO Council requested ICANN staff to provide proposals for consideration regarding two of the recommendations of the IRTP Part B Working Group. These two recommendations relate to standardizing and clarifying Whois status messages regarding Registrar Lock status and a new provision in a different section of the IRTP addressing when and how domains may be locked or unlocked. Following consultations with the IRTP Part B Working Group, the ICANN staff proposals were put out for public comment and subsequently submitted to the GNSO Council for consideration. The GNSO Council adopted the recommendation and [staff proposal on a new provision](#) addressing when and how to lock domain names at its meeting on 19 January 2012, which will now be considered by the ICANN Board for adoption. The main elements of the proposed modifications are:

- Registrar may only impose a lock that would prohibit transfer of the domain name if it includes in its registration agreement the terms and conditions for imposing such lock and obtains express consent from the Registered Name Holder: and
- Registrar must remove the "Registrar Lock" status within five calendar days of the Registered Name Holder's initial request, if the Registrar does not provide facilities for the Registered Name Holder to remove the "Registrar Lock" status

An updated version of the [ICANN staff proposal](#) and recommendation standardizing and clarifying Whois status messages regarding Registrar Lock status was adopted by the GNSO Council at its meeting on 16 February. A [public comment period](#) has now been opened prior to Board consideration of the proposal and recommendation. Comments can be submitted until 25 March.

**IRTP Part C:** The IRTP Part C PDP will address the following three issues:

- "Change of Control" function, including an investigation of how this function is currently achieved, if there are any applicable models in the country-code name space that can be used as a best practice for the gTLD space, and any associated security concerns. The investigation should also include a review of locking procedures, as described in Reasons for Denial #8 and #9, with an aim to balance legitimate transfer activity and security.
- Whether provisions on time-limiting Forms Of Authorization (FOAs) should be implemented to avoid fraudulent transfers out. For example, if a

Gaining Registrar sends and receives an FOA back from a transfer contact, but the name is locked, the registrar may hold the FOA pending adjustment to the domain name status, during which time the registrant or other registration information may have changed.

- Whether the process can be streamlined by a requirement that registries use IANA IDs for registrars rather than proprietary IDs.

Following review of the public comments received, the Working Group has now started its deliberations on the charter questions and as part of those deliberations, the WG will be holding an open meeting at the ICANN Meeting in Costa Rica on Wednesday 14 March from 8.30 – 10.00 local time. In addition, the WG will be meeting with the ccNSO to exchange views on charter question A concerning ‘change of control’.

- **‘Thick’ Whois Issue Report:** As recommended by the IRTP Part B Working Group, the GNSO Council resolved at its meeting in September 2011 to ask ICANN staff to prepare an Issue Report on the requirement of ‘thick’ Whois for all incumbent gTLDs. Such an Issue Report and possible subsequent Policy Development Process should not only consider a possible requirement of ‘thick’ Whois for all incumbent gTLDs in the context of IRTP, but should also consider any other positive and/or negative effects that are likely to occur outside of IRTP that would need to be taken into account when deciding whether a requirement of thick Whois for all incumbent gTLDs would be desirable or not. Following the closing of the [public comment forum](#), ICANN staff submitted [the Final Issue Report](#) to the GNSO Council for consideration. The GNSO Council is expected to decide whether or not to initiate a Policy Development Process on ‘thick’ Whois at the open GNSO Council meeting in Costa Rica. Background

## Background

The IRTP is a GNSO consensus policy that was adopted in 2004 with the objective to provide registrants with a transparent and predictable way to transfer domain name registrations between registrars. As part of its implementation, it was decided to carry out a review of the policy in order to determine whether it was working as intended or whether there are any areas that would benefit from further clarification or improvement. As a result of this review, a number of issues were identified that were grouped together in five different policy development processes or PDPs, titled A to E, that are being addressed in a consecutive manner.

## More Information

IRTP Part C:

- [Final Issue Report IRTP Part C](#) [PDF, 643 KB]

IRTP Part B:

- [ICANN Staff Proposal on IRTP Part B Recommendation #8](#) [PDF, 295 KB]
- [ICANN Staff Proposal on IRTP Part B Recommendation #9, part 2](#) [PDF, 504 KB]
- [IRTP Part B Final Report](#) [PDF, 995 KB]
- *ICANN Start* podcast: [audio explanation of IRTP Part B](#) [MP3, 18 MB]

'Thick' Whois:

- [Final Issue Report on 'Thick' Whois](#)

General Information:

- [Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy](#) web page
- [PDP Recommendations](#) [PDF, 41 KB]

### Staff Contact

[Marika Konings](#), Senior Policy Director

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## GNSO Council to Consider Draft PDP Working Group Charter

### At a Glance

*A drafting team has completed a draft charter for the PDP Working Group on domain name locking subject to Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) proceedings.*

### Recent Developments

Sixteen volunteers participated in the PDP Working Group on domain name locking, and have completed a draft that will be considered by the GNSO Council during ICANN's Public Meeting in Costa Rica from 11-16 March 2012.

### Next Steps

The GNSO Council will consider the draft charter at its Costa Rica meeting.

### Background

At its 15 December meeting, the [GNSO Council initiated a PDP](#) on the requirement to lock a domain name subject to UDRP proceedings.

A discussion on the requirements of locking a domain name subject to UDRP proceedings was initially conducted as part of the Inter-Registrar Transfer Part B PDP. As a result of that process, it was noted that "that locking a domain name registration subject to a UDRP dispute should be a best practice" however, the

WG “noted that any changes to making this a requirement should be considered in the context of any potential UDRP review.” Subsequently, several community members called out this issue in their comments on the state of the UDRP [Issue Report](#) [PDF, 2.8 MB] published in October 2011, and as a result, the GNSO Council initiated a PDP on this specific issue only. A sample of the community comments is below:

- “No requirement to lock names in period between filing complaint and commencement of proceedings.”
- “Need clarification of domain locking.”
- “Unclear what is meant by “Status Quo.”
- “No explanation of ‘Legal Lock’ mechanisms and when they go into effect or when they should be removed.”

### More Information

- [Final Issue Report](#) [PDF, 2.8 MB]
- [Webinar on the Current State of the UDRP](#) (archived)
- [Public comment on the Preliminary Issue Report](#)

### Staff Contact

[Marika Konings](#), Senior Policy Director

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## Whois Studies Update Slated for Costa Rica

### At a Glance

*“Whois” is the data repository containing registered domain names, registrant contacts and other critical information. The GNSO Council is proceeding with studies to provide current, reliable information for community discussions about Whois.*

### Recent Developments

As these Whois studies progress, staff would like to note that there have been some adjustments to the schedule for these studies. Staff will be providing a detailed status report to the GNSO Council at its open meeting in Costa Rica on Wednesday, 14 March.

**Whois Misuse Study.** This study is intended to discover to what extent public Whois information is used maliciously. The Carnegie Mellon University Cylab in Pittsburgh, PA, USA now expects to have initial results from the study in early 2013.

**Whois Registrant Identification Study.** This study will examine the extent to which domain names registered by legal persons or for commercial activities are not clearly represented in Whois data. On 28 September, staff announced that [NORC at the University of Chicago was selected](#) to conduct this study. Study results are expected in early 2013.

**Whois Proxy and Privacy Services Abuse Study.** Staff is finalizing details of this study, slated to begin later this year. It will focus on the extent to which domain names used to conduct illegal or harmful Internet activities are registered via privacy or proxy services to obscure the perpetrator's identity and will take approximately one year to complete once initiated.

**Whois Proxy and Privacy Services Reveal Study.** This feasibility study started in July 2011 will determine whether enough willing participants can be found to conduct a larger study measuring proxy and privacy service responsiveness to registrant "identity reveal" requests. Expect to see initial findings in March 2012.

**Whois Service Requirements Study.** On 6 October the GNSO Council approved a charter for a new Working Group to survey community members to estimate the level of agreement with the conclusions and assumptions in the [Inventory of Whois Service Requirements – Final Report](#) [PDF, 651 KB]. The Working Group is composed of community volunteers with technical expertise in the technical aspects of gTLD Whois, survey development, and background on the history of gTLD Whois policy development. A draft survey was due to be provided to the GNSO Council by March 2012, with a survey launch thereafter, and a final report targeted for completion by October 2012, however preparation of the draft survey is still underway and therefore may not be ready for Council review until March or April of 2012.

### More Information

- [GNSO Whois policy development page](#)
- [Background on Whois Studies](#)
- [Inventory of Whois Service Requirements – Final Report](#) [PDF, 651 KB]
- [28 April Resolution on Whois Studies](#)
- [6 October GNSO Council Resolution approving the Charter for a Whois Service Requirements Survey Working Group](#)

### Staff Contact

[Liz Gasster](#), Senior Policy Counselor

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## Policy Proposal for Recovered IPv4 Address Blocks Now Adopted by All RIRs

### At a Glance



*Now that IANA has allocated all the addresses in IPv4, Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) have discussed a number of proposed global policies for handling IPv4 address space returned from the RIRs to IANA. All RIRs now have adopted the new policy proposal.*

### Recent Developments

All five RIRs now have adopted a proposal originated by APNIC on the allocation of recovered IPv4 address space.

In this proposal, IANA would establish and administer a pool of returned address space to be allocated to all RIRs simultaneously in equal blocks of smaller size than the traditional /8. Pool size permitting, allocations would occur every six months.

### Next Steps

As this policy proposal is now formally adopted by all five RIRs, the Number Resource Organization Executive Committee and the Address Supporting Organization Address Council soon will review the proposal and forward the policy to the ICANN Board for ratification and implementation by IANA.

### Background

IPv4 is the Internet Protocol addressing system used to allocate unique IP address numbers in 32-bit format. With the massive growth of the Internet user population, the pool of unique numbers (approximately 4.3 billion) has been depleted and a 128-bit numbering system (IPv6) is taking its place.

### More Information

- A [Background Report](#) for the third proposal is posted on the ICANN web site and includes a comparison between the proposals so far on this theme.
- [Background Report](#) for the second proposal.

## Staff Contact

[Olof Nordling](#), Director, Service Relations

# At-Large

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## At-Large Community Members Prepare for ICANN's Costa Rica Meeting and Welcome LACRALO At-Large Structure Participation

### At a Glance

*Representatives from the At-Large community will hold 18 meetings during the 43rd ICANN Meeting scheduled to take place in San Jose, Costa Rica 11-16 March 2012. These meetings include traditional policy meetings, meetings with various constituency groups, and meetings with the ICANN Board of Directors.*

*The community also will welcome more than 30 representatives from each of the LACRALO At-Large Structures who are expected to participate in a series of meetings comprising the LACRALO Costa Rica Events.*

### Recent Developments

The LACRALO Costa Rica Events, similar to the AFRALO Dakar Events that took place during the 42nd ICANN Meeting, will include the following series of meetings:

- A LACRALO Capacity Building Program - A week-long series of capacity building sessions for Latin American and Caribbean At-Large Structure representatives;
- Several LACRALO meetings comprising Workshops and General Assemblies which will be an opportunity for LACRALO to discuss issues of fundamental importance to their Regional At-Large Organization;
- A LACRALO Showcase – featuring Raul Echeberria, LACNIC CEO and Chair of ISOC Board of Trustees as keynote speaker;
- The LACRALO ALSes will be joining the ICANN Fellows for one hour each morning Monday through Friday to participate in discussions with selected ICANN community leaders.

## Recent Developments

Highlights of the LACRALO Costa Rica Events include a series of Capacity Building sessions designed by LACRALO members whose main objective is to build capacity and raise awareness of ICANN policies, organization and activities to increase the effectiveness of the participation of the Latin America and Caribbean end-user representatives in ICANN's policy development process, a series of Workshops and General Assemblies, and a LACRALO Showcase. Over six days of the ICANN meeting in Costa Rica, the series of meetings aims to provide representatives of LACRALO At-Large Structures with briefings on the key policies, issues, activities and structure of ICANN. These briefings will be conducted by ICANN community members and staff, and allow for open discussion.

At-Large Meetings scheduled include:

- ALAC and Regional Leadership Working Sessions 1
- An At-Large New gTLD Working Group Meeting
- An At-Large IDN Working Group Meeting
- An ALAC Meeting with the NCSG
- A NARALO Monthly Meeting
- At-Large Meeting with the GAC
- An At-Large Meeting with the ICANN Board
- Two Policy Discussion Sessions
- An At-Large Improvements Taskforce Workshop
- A Working Breakfast of the ALAC with the Business Constituency
- An At-Large Regional Secretariats Meeting
- An AFRALO/AfrICANN Meeting
- An APRALO Monthly Meeting
- An ALAC and Regional Leadership Wrap-Up Meeting
- At At-Large Improvements Taskforce Meeting with the SIC
- An ALAC Executive Committee Meeting



In addition, the At-Large community members will also participate actively in many of the other meetings taking place during the ICANN meeting in Costa Rica either in person or using remote participation tools.

### More Information

- [Information on At-Large Meetings scheduled to take place during ICANN's 43rd Meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica including agendas in English, French and Spanish and remote participation instructions](#)
- [LACRALO Costa Rica Event programs](#)

### Staff Contact

[ICANN At-Large staff](#)

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## New Beginner's Guide Supports At-Large Community Outreach and Engagement

### At a Glance

*At the request of the At-Large community, a Beginner's Guide to Participating in At-Large will be rolled out during the 43rd ICANN Meeting in Costa Rica. This Beginner's Guide is the third in a series of ICANN Beginner's Guides intended to provide information on ICANN policies and procedures in a clear and concise manner for people new to the ICANN community. The Beginner's Guide to Participating in At-Large provides information on ICANN's multi-stakeholder model and the role of the At-Large community, its working procedures, policy issues it has focused on, as well as how individuals and organizations can become involved.*

### Recent Developments

The Beginner's Guide to Participating in At-Large will be introduced during the Costa Rica Meeting. It will be available in English, Spanish and French. Hard copies will be available in the Newcomers Lounge.

The At-Large community has played a key part in the creation of the Beginner's Guide series of documents, including the first two Beginner's Guides.

- ***Beginner's Guide to Domain Names***

A domain name can become where other people find you online, and adds to your online identity. Although domain names are a big part of the Internet, understanding how these names work (and the ins and outs of obtaining them) can be mystifying at first. This highly readable guide,

created in cooperation with ICANN's At-Large community, helps the individual user understand and use domain names.

- ***Beginner's Guide to Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses***

Internet Protocol (IP) addresses are the unique identifying numbers that all computers and devices connected to the Internet depend on to communicate with each other. When the pool of available unallocated addresses for IPv4, the original IP addressing system, completely depleted this year, the Internet began a transition to IPv6, a newer Internet Protocol system. This highly readable guide, created in cooperation with ICANN's At-Large community, helps the individual user understand IP addresses and the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

The goal is to produce a Beginner's Guide for publication at each ICANN Meeting.

### **More Information**

- The series of Beginner's Guides are available on ICANN's [E-Learning Page](#),

### **Staff Contact**

[At-Large staff](#)

## **SSAC**

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## **SSAC Publishes Advisory on Single-Character IDNs and a Report on Dotless Domains**

### **At a Glance**

*In 2012, SSAC published two documents – [SAC051: SSAC Advisory on the Delegation of Single-Character International Domain Name Top-Level Domains](#) [PDF, 189 KB] and [SAC053: SSAC Report on Dotless Domains](#) [PDF, 182 KB].*

### **Recent Developments**

SAC052 is the SSAC's response to the ICANN Board's request for advice concerning the security and stability impact of delegating single-character internationalized domain name (IDN) top-level domains (TLDs). The advisory is divided into two parts. The first part summarizes three key findings related to the delegation of single-character IDN TLDs. The second part offers specific recommendations for the Board to consider. These recommendations are:

1. Given the potential for user confusion and the currently unfinished work on string similarity and IDN variants, the SSAC recommends a very conservative approach to the delegation of single-character IDN top-level domains. In particular, ICANN should disallow by default the delegation of all single-character IDN TLDs in all scripts; exceptions are possible, but only after careful consideration of each individual case.
2. Because important relevant work on string similarity, IDN variant issues, and TLD label syntax is currently underway within ICANN, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), and other bodies, ICANN should review the findings of this report, and any policies that it adopts in response to recommendations made in this document, no later than one year after the three key findings mentioned in this document have been completed.

SAC053 is a report on dotless domains. The report notes that the new gTLD program could introduce a significant number of new top-level domain names to the domain name system (DNS). This prospect has generated considerable interest, and sometimes confusion, in how top-level names can be used. A frequently asked question is: If I register "dot BRAND", will I be able to use the label "BRAND" alone in a URL or an email address? What will happen if I do? In its report the SSAC calls a domain name that consists of a single label a dotless domain. Applicants for new gTLDs who ask the question posed above want to know whether or not a dotless domain would be handled by Internet infrastructure and applications in the same way as other domain names. In this report, the SSAC finds that dotless domains would not always work as expected given current DNS implementation and existing application behavior. In particular, it finds that the way in which domain names are interpreted in different contexts would lead to unpredictable and unexpected dotless domain behavior.

### More Information

- [SSAC Advisory on Delegation of Single-Character Internationalized Domain Name Top-Level Domains](#) [PDF, 189 KB]
- [SAC053: SSAC Report on Dotless Domains](#) [PDF, 182 KB]

### Staff Contact

[Julie Hedlund](#), Director, SSAC Support

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## Where to Find GAC Information

### At a Glance

*ICANN receives input from governments through the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC). The GAC's key role is to provide advice to ICANN on issues of public policy, and especially where there may be an interaction between ICANN's activities or policies and national laws or international agreements. The GAC usually meets three times a year in conjunction with ICANN meetings, where it discusses issues with the ICANN Board and other ICANN Supporting Organizations, Advisory Committees and other groups. The GAC may also discuss issues between times with the Board either through face-to-face meetings or by teleconference.*

### Recent Developments

The GAC will meet during the 43rd ICANN meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica. In addition to the regularly scheduled sessions between the GAC and other Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations throughout the week, the GAC plans to have a variety of discussions that will be open to the public and available through remote participation.

Specifically, the GAC will meet regarding new gTLDs with topics including defensive registrations, plans for reviewing the current new gTLD round, and applicant support. There will also be a face-to-face meeting of the Board/GAC Working Group to discuss implementation of the [ATRT recommendations](#) (recommendations 9-14) that relate to the role of the GAC including progress and milestones met thus far. There will also be a joint session between the GAC and the ICANN Board to include agenda items such as the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) negotiations, conflict of interest matters at ICANN, and contractual compliance.

Please continue to check the [ICANN Costa Rica website](#) for scheduling information, and the GAC website for announcements and communications from the GAC.

### More Information

- [GAC web site](#)

### Staff Contact

[Jeannie Ellers](#), ICANN staff