Get Ready for ICANN68!

Registration is now open and available here for the ICANN68 Virtual Policy Forum. The Public Meeting, which was to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, will now be held online using ICANN’s robust remote participation tools. Registration is required to take part. For more information, including the session schedule and remote participation tools, go to the ICANN68 site.

Prep Session webinars to prepare the community for ICANN68 are underway. Participation information for upcoming sessions and a Q&A with the ICANN org Executive Team, to be held on Thursday, 18 June, are available here. Additional tools to help participants prepare for ICANN68, the Pre-ICANN68 Policy Report and the GNSO Policy Briefing, are also available.

ICANN69 Virtual Annual General Meeting

The ICANN Board of Directors has decided that the ICANN69 Annual General Meeting, originally scheduled to be held in Hamburg, Germany, will be held online.

Read the full announcement here.

Changes at ICANN Organization

ICANN President & CEO Göran Marby has announced a number of changes to the ICANN org leadership structure to reallocate some responsibilities and help support the community more effectively.
ICANN Collaborates to Protect the DNS

ICANN and the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance collaborative efforts aimed at supporting a safer, more secure, and resilient Domain Name System (DNS). The MoU contributes to the shared objective of helping the incident response community increase its understanding and improve its efficiency and effectiveness in preventing, detecting, containing, mitigating, and analyzing malicious activity related to the Internet’s unique identifiers. Read more here.

How DNSSEC Protects the Internet

ICANN’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) has a new infographic to illustrate how Domain Name System Security Extensions help protect the information you send on the Internet. Check it out here.

New ICANN History Project Video

Watch our new ICANN History Project video, which explores the key events in ICANN’s growth, from its birth to the present day. The project’s aim is to capture stories from key figures who helped shape ICANN’s past and present.

View the video and explore the ICANN History Project site.

EXPLORE NEW ICANN CONTENT

ICANN NEWS

BENEFITS OF DEPLOYING DNSSEC

- Helps to protect the Internet.
- Decreases vulnerability to attacks.
- Fosters innovation.

How DNSSEC Protects the Internet

ICANN’s Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) has a new infographic to illustrate how Domain Name System Security Extensions help protect the information you send on the Internet. Check it out here.
Successful String Evaluation for Israel IDN ccTLD

On 19 May, ICANN announced the successful completion of String Evaluation of the proposed Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) country code top-level domain (ccTLD) string for Israel. Find out more in this announcement.

You can also read about it in the Jerusalem Post: “Coming soon: Internet domain names in Hebrew”.

ICANN’s European Regional Office Held Second Online Stakeholder Assembly

The second online Stakeholder Assembly took place on 4 June, addressing topics in Internet governance at intergovernmental organizations. Featuring ICANN org members from the Government and IGO Engagement team, this second edition followed the first on COVID-19 and Domain Name System security.

Attracting 70 participants, the webinar was hosted by Mandy Carver, Senior Vice President of Government and IGO Engagement, and featured presentations by:

- Elena Plexida, Vice President of Government and IGO Engagement
- Veni Markovski, Vice President of UN Engagement
- Laurent Ferrali, Director of Government and IGO Engagement

You can access the webinar recording here, and view our Government Engagement publications on this page.

Congratulations .РФ!

On 12 May, an online series of panel discussions took place to mark the 10th anniversary of .РФ, the first Cyrillic Internationalized Domain Name (IDN).

The discussions revolved around the history of Cyrillic domains, linguistic diversity on the Internet, the role of Russian language in uniting the online Russian-speaking communities, and providing new opportunities moving forward.

Mikhail Anisimov, Head of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, was among the panelists to discuss Universal Acceptance of IDNs and Email Address Internationalization. A congratulatory letter signed by ICANN CEO & President Göran Marby was also delivered to mark this important anniversary.

For more information, read the article from the Coordination Center for TLD .RU/.РФ here, and
Mikhail Anisimov Interviewed About ICANN Efforts to Help Combat DNS Abuse

Mikhail Anisimov, Head of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, was interviewed by Rspectr, an online Russian news platform, as part of a news feature on COVID-19-related fraud and DNS abuse. The full article can be found here.

Middle East

Continuing Engagement Online in the Middle East

With the COVID-19 situation evolving, the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team in the Middle East moved to remote engagement to continue fulfilling its commitments to the regional community. Besides several one-on-one remote engagements with stakeholders across the region, online activities such as the Middle East Space, ICANN67 readouts, and topical webinars updating the community on key ICANN issues and projects were held. The webinars held are listed below:

- "Understanding DNS over TLS (DoT) and DNS over HTTPS (DoH)" webinar on 27 April with 157 participants.
- Middle East and Africa regional webinar on "ICANN’s Open Data Program" on 14 May with 112 participants.
- Turkey Webinar "Introduction to Universal Acceptance" on 18 May with 25 participants.

If you’re interested in learning more about these webinars or suggesting others, please write to us at meac.swg@icann.org.

Africa

Reaching Out Remotely to Africa

ICANN’s GSE Africa team has continued to organize, support, and take part in several online activities to continue its engagement with the regional stakeholders during COVID-19.

The following webinars were organized by the regional team to help foster the capacity development efforts:

- Universal Acceptance and Local Initiatives in Africa webinar on 30 April with 72 participants: The webinar underscored the importance of Universal Acceptance as a
Middle East and Africa regional webinar on ICANN's Open Data Program on 14 May with 110 participants: The webinar introduced ICANN’s Open Data Program launched during ICANN67 to the regional stakeholders.

GSE Africa Team Meets Online with Stakeholders

Over the past few weeks, the Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) Africa team also held the following online meetings:

Africa DNS Forum Organizing Committee on 5 May: The 8th Africa DNS Forum (AFDNSF) was to be held in Dakar, Senegal this year. In light of the COVID-19 situation, the organizing committee held a call to discuss how to proceed with the Forum and decided to switch to a virtual format. Stay tuned for the dates, program, and participation details!

Africa Regional Regulatory Associations on 14 May: Organized by the GSE Africa team, the meeting brought together leaders from the West Africa Telecommunication Regulators Assembly (WATRA), East African Communications Organization (EACO), Assembly of Telecommunication Regulators of Central Africa (ARTAC), and Communication Regulators’ Association of Southern Africa (CRASA) to jointly brainstorm and understand the best approach to keep ICANN’s engagement with the regional regulators and key information and communications technology players alive. The participants agreed on potential relevant thematic topics to be further refined, prioritized, and consolidated in subsequent calls before execution.

Welcoming Yazid Akanho to ICANN

Yazid Akanho has just recently joined ICANN org as a Technical Engagement Specialist, reporting to Adiel Akplogan, VP of Technical Engagement. Yazid is based in Benin. Together with Paul Muchene, he will support ICANN org’s technical engagement efforts at a regional level.

Yazid’s professional career started at Benin Telecoms, the national telecom operator, where he worked in data transmission engineering and contributed to the design of FTTx and 4G LTE network projects, before joining MTN Benin where he held several roles including technical lead on several projects.

As a previous ICANN community member, Yazid has been an active Internet evangelist at various forums such as the Benin DNS Forum, fellow researcher at AFRINIC, Universal Acceptance Steering Group, ISOC Benin, AFRALO, Noncommercial Users Constituency (NCUC), and Noncommercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG). He has contributed to several initiatives across these groups in the past five years. He holds a master’s degree in telecommunications from ESGI Paris (France).
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:

The third Accountability and Transparency Review Team (ATRT3) has published its Final Report. The report contains five recommendations with regard to ICANN accountability and transparency in the following areas:

- Prioritization of review and Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability, Work Stream 2 (WS2) recommendations
- Amending Specific and Organizational Reviews
- Accountability and transparency relating to Strategic and Operational Plans including accountability indicators
- Public input
- Assessment of the implementation of ATRT2 recommendations

The report will be published for Public Comment in advance of the Board’s consideration. Click here to find out more.

Organizational Reviews are led by independent examiners who assess the extent to which ICANN’s Supporting Organizations (SOs), Advisory Committees (ACs), and the Nominating Committee (NomCom) fulfill their purpose, are accountable to their stakeholders, and whether any changes in structure or operations are needed.

Webinar: Nominating Committee Review Implementation Working Group (NomComRIWG): Implementation Milestones and Next Steps Wednesday, 17 June at 16:00 – 17:00 UTC.

- Join the NomCom Review Implementation Working Group (NomComRIWG) Webinar to hear an update on the progress of their implementation work, as outlined in their detailed implementation plan. This webinar presents an opportunity to hear more on the potential Bylaws changes the NomComRIWG is working on, but also ask questions and provide input on the implementation work of the 27 recommendations. See more information and details here.

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

Have You Implemented an RDAP Service Yet?

The Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP)
and replacement for the WHOIS protocol was implemented last year. Contracted parties offering RDAP services allow users to access domain name and other Internet identifier registration data in a secure and structured manner. Resources and updates for RDAP implementers can be found here.

ICANN also offers a registration data lookup tool based on RDAP – bookmark this page!

Challenges Impacting Domain Name Registrants


New UA Resources Available

The Universal Acceptance Steering Group (UASG) has published two new resources for the developer community. Check them out below and join the effort to become UA ready.

Country-Based Evaluation of Websites for Acceptance of Email Addresses in 2020
This report builds upon previous testing of the top 1,000 websites done in 2017 and 2019, and provides a country-based analysis of email acceptance rates across 20 different countries. View the results here.

Universal Acceptance Readiness Framework
To help the developer community identify potential issues preventing UA readiness in web-based and native apps, the UASG developed a technical guide that provides a framework for scoping UA conformance work on software applications. View it here.

Stay up to date on the latest UA news by following @UASGTech on Twitter.
The GNSO Review of All Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs) in All gTLDs Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group began its review of Public Comment submissions related to the Phase 1 Initial Report. In total, the working group received 55 submissions (38 from organizations, five from ICANN community groups, and 12 from individuals) and will analyze each submission using the Public Comment review tool. Learn more.

CCWG-Auction Proceeds to Complete Final Report

The Cross-Community Working Group on New gTLD Auction Proceeds (CCWG-AP) will soon complete its Final Report. Once this work concludes, the Final Report will be submitted for consideration to the chartering organizations and then the ICANN Board. The CCWG-AP co-chairs plan to provide additional information and answer questions about the recommendations in the coming weeks. Learn more.

At-Large Regional Policy Engagement Program Launch

The Regional At-Large Organization (RALO) leaders launched the At-Large Regional Policy Engagement Program (ARPEP) on 22 April 2020. The ARPEP will support the engagement of At-Large Structures, regional work, and the At-Large community's policy advice activities. The At-Large and Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) teams, and Regional At-Large Organization leadership agreed to work jointly on several activities, including the implementation of the FY21 Regional Outreach and Engagement Strategies. The GSE and At-Large support teams will leverage current work to promote ongoing policy work.

At-Large Capacity Building Working Group Hosts Training Webinars

Earlier this month, the At-Large Capacity Building Working Group (CBWG) hosted two capacity building webinars to build subject matter expertise among its community members. The first webinar focused on geopolitics and cybersecurity, representing a collaboration between ICANN org, former ICANN Board members, and community experts. The second webinar focused on the topic of Universal Acceptance and included Universal Acceptance Working Group Chair Ajay Data. Learn more.

Barrack Ong’ondo Otieno from Kenya: Ten
Years in the ICANN Community

How long and in what ways have you been involved in ICANN?
I have been involved in ICANN for ten years as a community leader, member of the At-Large Leadership Team, secretariat of the Africa Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO), and observer in the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO).

How are you currently involved in ICANN?
I am an active member of the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) and ccNSO.

Within the ALAC, I am a member of the At-Large Leadership Team and the liaison to the ccNSO where I have been an observer for the last eight years, representing Africa Top-Level Domains Organization (AFTLD), the regional association of African ccTLDs. I am involved in a number of working parties and working groups such as the At-Large Structures (ALSes) Working Party and the meeting planning group in At-Large.

Within the ccNSO, I am an observer in the ccNSO Council by virtue of my role as the representative of AFTLD, a member of the meeting planning committee in the ccNSO and the Strategic and Operations Planning Committee, which provides regular input to the ICANN org planning process. I am also an active participant in the Policy Development Process (PDP) Retirement Working Group. The goal of the working group is to report and recommend policies for the retirement of delegated top-level domains associated with the country codes assigned to countries and territories listed in the ISO 3166 -1 within the framework of the ccNSO PDP. I have also been a contributor to the new gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP working group.

What are the most challenging things about being part of the ICANN community?
Most of the work is done by the community. As a member of the community you need to be passionate and resilient. Emotional intelligence is key due to the multistakeholder nature of the community, which requires one to work with people of all nations and races with diverse cultural and religious backgrounds.

What are the rewarding things about being part of the ICANN community?
ICANN community offers a chance for intense learning on global affairs. Other than working in different jurisdictions which opens new horizons, it provides a chance for developing new friendships and building alliances that have a global impact on Internet and socioeconomic development.

What would you suggest to the newcomers in ICANN?
Being a member of the ICANN community requires passion, patience, and focus. It is important for newcomers to align their participation with issues that they are passionate about. This means newcomers have to strive to understand the ICANN org and community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join ICANN at these upcoming events in the EMEA region:

- 22-25 June, ICANN68
- 20-24 June, West Africa IGF and School of Internet Governance
- 8 July, Cyber Polygon 2020

Learn more about how ICANN will be participating in regional events near you.
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