

LACTLD Report on ICANN 64

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ICANN 64 Meeting Report

Introduction

The Report reviews the ccNSO main sessions at ICANN64. During ccNSO Members Meeting, the TLD-OPS presented its progress on the Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity Plan Playbook. At the Policy session, the ccNSO members discussed the current status of the Retirement Policy Development Process, the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP, and the IDN ccTLD Recommended Policy Review. In addition, the Legal session covered high impact issues for ccTLDs such as: transparency laws and the registrants personal data, procedures against fraudulent usage of domain names, ccTLDs role when dealing with illegal content or unwanted activity on the Internet.

The LACTLD Report on ICANN64 also examines other sessions of interest to the ccTLD community. Some of topics presented at these sessions were the ICANN Domain Abuse Activity Reporting system; best practices for protecting against recent domain attacks; and ICANN awareness efforts on registrant issues and challenges. Finally, the Report reviews the Board latest resolution on the .AMAZON case.

Tech Day

Tech Day featured different topics of interest for ccTLD managers. There were three presentations that covered topics related to IDNs and Universal Acceptance. John Levine from Standcore LLC presented the results of his recent research on IDNs. The study sought to find out if the two million IDNs registered were valid under IDNA 2003, IDNA 2008 and the TLD's label generation rules. The results showed that most domain names were valid under both IDNA2003 and IDNA2008; and that they matched some label generation rules. Levine also gave a presentation addressing how to make emails EAI compatible. Additionally, THNIC —the ccTLD manager for .th— presented the work they have been doing on IDN and EAI development in Thailand.

ICANN representatives also participated at the Tech Day sessions. Paul Hoffman from ICANN presented new ways to find a DNS over HTTPS (DoH) resolver. The ICANN SSAC representatives talked about the recent domain registration hijacking. They provided advice on securing the registrant to registrar interface: credential management (multi factor authentication and passwords), email security, registry locks, DNSSEC, nameservers used, monitoring. One of the issues raised at this session was the industry's need to get better security standards that must be adopted by all registrars.

The relation between blockchain, IoT and the DNS was addressed by Barrett from EnCirca (an ICANN Accredited Registrar). He stated that blockchain and the Internet of Things (IoT) —as two of the most transformative technologies in the world today— need DNS to work. According to Barrett, both need features not present in today's DNS. He explained that alternative frameworks and protocols are emerging to address the limitations of the DNS. In this regard, Barrett discussed how the DNS should advance to meet this challenge and what role ICANN will play in this space.

Other topics of interest covered at Tech Day were cloud DNS practices; disaster preparedness and disaster recovery plans by JPRS; and IPv6 deployment.

[Slides I](#)

[Slides II](#)

[Slides III](#)

ccNSO: Members Meeting Day 1

ccNSO Working Group Updates

- [TLD-OPS](#) update

The TLD-OPS held a Disaster Recovery Workshop at ICANN63, focused on the various aspects of Disaster Recovery that are specific to ccTLDs. At ICANN64, the Working Group held a face to face meeting aimed at drafting the Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity Plan Playbook. During the meeting, the TLD-OPS agreed on the Playbook goals:

- How to bring Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity Planning / Business Impact Analysis discipline to a 1 or 2 person in each ccTLD.
- Focus only on ccTLD relevant activities.
- Simple templates for top 5 major Disaster Recovery / Business Continuity Planning scenarios.
- Simple event/initiation process.

The first draft of the Playbook is expected by ICANN65.

In terms of membership, the TLD-OPS welcomed the .sx registry and expects to incorporate 3 new members by the next ICANN public meeting.

- Update by the Strategic and Operational Planning Committee ([SOPC](#))

The ccNSO SOPC recently provided comments on one ICANN process consultation and on two ICANN planning documents.

With regard to ICANN's Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2021 - 2025, the SOPC acknowledged a series of improvements, such as: fiscal realism (cost optimisation/reduction), the inclusion of community needs, better consistency against the strategic objectives. Nevertheless, some inconsistencies and the lack of KPIs were remarked.

The SOPC also recognized some improvements in the ICANN's FY20 Operating Plan and Budget and Five-Year Operating Plan. According to the SOPC comments, the planning document states a clear mission and vision; provides clear information about the relevance of the five strategic objectives; and prioritises work and balancing investments. However, the SOPC suggests to refine the targeted outcomes in relation to the objectives, and to avoid the overlap of certain goals.

- Update by the Cross-Community Working Group New gTLD Auction Proceeds ([CCWG Auction Proceeds](#))

The Working Group published its [Initial Report](#) for public comment on 8 October 2018. The report set out the core issues that the CCWG addressed in carrying out its charter. It provided preliminary recommendations and draft implementation guidance on possible mechanisms to distribute the auction proceeds. The report did not, nor was it intended to, make recommendations on specific projects or particular uses of proceeds. The public comments period closed on 27 November 2018.

Currently, the CCWG is reviewing and discussing the [public comments received](#). The report will be updated as needed and finalized for submission to its Chartering Organizations.

Policy session

- Update by the Empowered Community Administration ([ECA](#))

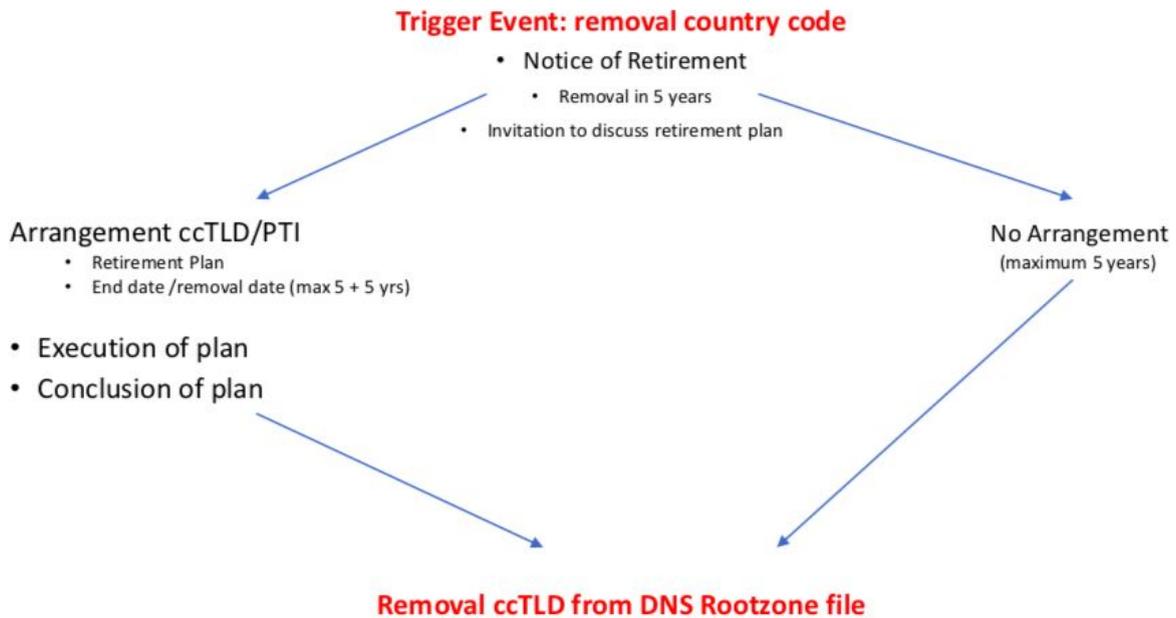
The Empowered Community Administration is the administrative body through which the Empowered Community acts. Each of the Decisional Participants of the Empowered Community designates one representative to the Empowered Community Administration. At ICANN64, Stephen Deerhake, ccNSO appointed member to the ECA, informed about the Board approval of FY20 IANA Budget. He also explained that no rejection action petitions were submitted during the rejection action petition period triggered by the Board decision.

- Update by the Retirement Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group

The Retirement PDP WG discussed two main items related to the retirement process: the timeframe and the retirement plan (that should be based on a voluntary arrangement between the ccTLD Manager and PTI). Regarding the process duration, the WG proposed a basic duration of 5 years and an absolute maximum duration of 10 years since the retirement trigger event (the removal of the country code from the list of country names in ISO 3166-1). However, in order to extend the process duration to a maximum of 10 years a retirement plan is required. The retirement plan is voluntary, but strongly advised. It is expected that the plan ensures stability and interoperability of the DNS and allows an orderly and predictable retirement process for all relevant stakeholders.

The next items the WG will address are: the oversight of the retirement process, process steps for the exceptionally reserved country codes and for the IDN ccTLDs, how to proceed if there is a change of manager during retirement process.

Current status of the Retirement Process:



- New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. Work Track (WT) 5: current state of affairs, and related topics from WT1 to WT4.

The session reviewed the progress and current status of the New gTLD Subsequent Procedures PDP. The Working Group issued its first [Initial Report](#), containing the output of the Working Group on the Overarching Issues as well as preliminary recommendations and questions for community feedback from Work Tracks 1-4, on 3 July 2018. Additionally, the Work Track 5 published its [Supplemental Initial Report](#) for public comments, on 5 December 2018. The objective of this Supplemental Report to the Initial Report was to document Work Track 5's deliberations, potential options for recommendations and (where applicable) preliminary recommendations, as well as specific questions for which Work Track 5 was seeking input.

The Work Track 5 recommendations broadly state to maintain the reservations contained in the [2012 Applicant Guidebook](#). Concisely, to reserve as unavailable at the top level: all two-character letter-letter ASCII combinations; alpha-3 codes listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard; and country names. However, there are some issues that have gathered divergent opinions. One of them was the reservation of short or long-form names listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard in all languages. According to the 2012 Applicant Guidebook, translations of these items in any language were reserved. However, Work Track 5 has not yet agreed on whether translations should be reserved in the future, and if so, in which languages. The other topic that has been discussed was whether the alpha-3 codes listed in the ISO 3166-1 standard should continue to be reserve as unavailable or be release.

- Update regarding the ccNSO Internet Governance Liaison Committee ([IGLC](#))

In November 2018, the ccNSO Council decided not to support the CCEG Charter and to rescind from the CCWG IG/CCEG (Cross-Community Engagement Group on Internet Governance). However, the ccNSO Council established a IG Liaison Committee (IGLC) to coordinate, facilitate, and increase the participation of ccTLD managers in discussions and processes pertaining to Internet Governance. The IGLC will provide input to the ccNSO and share information on issues pertaining to Internet Governance discussions, events and processes; and it will ensure that such input is reflected in the ccNSO's activities. The IGLC shall be composed of a minimum of five members. Membership of the Committee is open to all ccTLD managers.

- IDN ccTLD Recommended Policy Review

In September 2013, the ccNSO concluded its work on the overall policy for selection of IDN ccTLD strings and inclusion of IDN ccTLDs in the ccNSO. This recommended policy was developed to replace the Fast Track process. As issues emerged with the selection of IDN ccTLD strings, the ICANN Board vote was deferred to gain experience with the changing methods to address those issues under the Fast Track. As a result, the original policy recommendations need to be reviewed.

The session presented the road map and next steps to update the IDN ccTLD policy. The purpose of this review process is to develop a policy for selection of IDN ccTLD strings and to amended the ccNSO Article in the ICANN Bylaws that would allow the inclusion of IDN ccTLD in the ccNSO.

[Slides from the Policy Session](#)

IANA Naming Function Session

- Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) update

Kim Davies, PTI President, presented the results of the 2018 Annual Customer Survey. The survey had a 5% response rate overall (half of previous years). The responses reflected PTI's highest satisfaction rate since surveys have been conducted with 96% of respondents reporting being satisfied or very satisfied. The presentation also addressed specific responses from ccTLD customers.

Davies explained that PTI will be moving toward a model whereby questions pertaining to satisfaction with service are measured shortly after the relevant transaction. Additionally, PTI will retain the annual survey but reduce it to strategic questions once this approach is fully built and deployed.

Finally, PTI President informed that the KSK Rollover was largely completed with the removal of the old key still requiring further actions. Davies explained that they are working on making future rollovers a normal part of their operations.

- IANA Function Review Team (IFRT)

The ICANN Bylaws requires a review of PTI's performance of the IANA naming function. Although the IFR has been convened, the IFRT has not been established to date due to two pending issues related to the team composition.

The Bylaws require that the “IFRT should include members from each ICANN Geographic Region”. However, there is no APAC representation on the review team, at present. The second issue involves the ccTLDs participation on the team composition. The ccNSO must appoint “one non-ccNSO ccTLD representative who is associated with a ccTLD registry operator that is not a representative of the ccNSO”. Until now, a qualified volunteer has not yet been identified. The ccNSO proposed appointing a ccNSO ccTLD representative on an interim basis. This proposal received objection from the GNSO Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group as it does not meet the Bylaws requirements.

The start of the IANA Function Review is pending resolution of these issues. ICANN org is seeking direction from ICANN Board with regard to the next steps on the matter.

- Customer Standing Committee (CSC) Effectiveness Review

Per its charter and the ICANN Bylaws, the effectiveness of the CSC needs to be reviewed two years after its first meeting (which took place in 2016). To that end, the GNSO and ccNSO Councils recently adopted a method for a lightweight and brief CSC Effectiveness Review.

The review builded on the outcome and findings of the recent CSC Charter Review. This Charter Review concluded that the CSC is both working well and is non-controversial. Also, the review process included interviews with the CSC and the PTI to determine whether the CSC is fit for purpose and effective; a public session at ICANN 63; and a public consultation of the Initial Report on the CSC Effectiveness (from January 16, 2019 to February 25, 2019). The Final Report on the CSC Effectiveness was submitted to the ccNSO and GNSO Councils on March 1, 2019. If this Report is adopted by both Councils, it will be recommended to the IANA Naming Function Review Team for their consideration.

[Slides from the IANA Naming Function Session](#)

Study Group on the use of emoji as second level domains

The [study group](#) was established by the ccNSO Council to provide the ccTLD community and the Council a comprehensive overview of the issues associated with the use of emoji as second level domains, and the need for and current practice by ccTLD managers to allow emoji's as second level domains.

Members of the study group performed some analysis of zone files to determine which ccTLDs could potentially allow the registration of emoji as second level domains. Based on this analysis, they produced a list of 17 ccTLDs. These registries were sent a letter requesting to confirm if they were allowing the registration of such domains. If they did, they were asked to provide any relevant information. However, only one reply was received.

Given the low response rate to the letter from the community, the study group requested staff to undertake some research into ccTLDs which potentially allow the registration of domains which include emoji. This research identified 16 ccTLDs which allow or probably allow these registrations. The research also looked into registrars which support the registration of domains which include emoji for these ccTLDs.

The next step for the study group will be the completion of the first draft report. The draft report will be distributed to the ccTLDs mentioned in the document to solicit feedback prior to finalization and it will be published for a lightweight consultation by the study group. Following the consultation, the study group will finalize the report and submit it to the ccNSO Council prior to ICANN65 Marrakech.

[Slides](#)

ccNSO: Members Meeting Day 2

ccTLD News session

The .gt Domain Registry offered a presentation on its customer service strategy. The explained how they have innovated its service cycle, its registration process and its communications channels. Also, they presented the survey mechanisms, activities, contents and strategies they have implemented in order to improve their customer service.

Also, during the ccTLD News Session, .id Domain Name Registry and TWNIC presented their new approach adopted on their added value services and promotional activities.

[Slides from the ccTLD News session](#)

Legal Session

- Transparency Law and the .CL Registry Database. *Patricio Poblete (.cl)*.

Since 2014, NIC Chile has received requests to disclosure full list of domains names registered under .CL as well as registrants personal data. The ccTLD denied those requests on the basis of endangering the rights of their users, and of the impossibility of properly notifying them. In a few cases, the requesters appealed to the Transparency Council. However, in all such cases, the Council supported NIC Chile's position.

Recently, the ccTLD received a new request asking the disclosure of the full list of registered domain names. But this time the Transparency Council found for the requester and ordered NIC Chile to provide the full list requested claiming that there would be no possible harm if the list contained only the domain names and users need not be notified, as they had already authorized the sharing of their information as part of the registration process (even though this authorization was intended exclusively for purposes related to the management of the .CL registry and the operation of the DNS).

NIC Chile filed an appeal at the next higher level (Court of Appeals). The Court accepted the case and put it in its docket. If the Court decision turns to be unsuccessful, NIC Chile could still go to the Supreme Court.

- Notice & action procedure for .be domain names. *Peter Vergote (.be)*

DNS Belgium presented a new procedure that allows the registry to act fast against fraudulent usage of .be domain names by overriding NS and referring users to a warning page of FPS Economy (Belgian State). The notice & action protocol was formalised in a cooperation charter between FPS Economy & DNS Belgium and it adds a supplemental measure to already existing procedures (Bad WHOIS procedure, revoke procedure, request through subpoena).

The notice & action procedure is a layered process that would be employed as a last resort measure for serious infringements. The procedure also establishes liability safeguards for DNS Belgium.

- Dealing with illegal content within .no. *Ann-Cathrin Marcussen (.no)*

Norid explained the legal routines implemented by their law enforcement authorities (LEA) in cases where domain names are seized and forfeited due to illegal or unwanted activity on the Internet. According to the ccTLD, they do not judge whether content is illegal but they cooperate with law enforcement in order to ensure that there are clear and predictable routines available for those who do have a mandate to deal with illegal content.

The registry acknowledges the proportionality issue produced by the extensive use of takedowns at infrastructure level and the associated DNS damages. They state that even though takedown at source is always the most effective measure, taking down the address is sometimes the only available action to local authorities.

- What are the legal issues African ccTLDs are facing? *Barrack Otieno (AFTLD) and Abdalla Omari (.ke)*.

The speakers presented the common legal issues and trends observed in African ccTLDs. According to them, there is a need for more legal expertise that understands the intricacies of the domain name industry in Africa. Continuous capacity building is required to address this deficit.

[Slides from the Legal Session](#)

Financial contributions session

The session addressed the billing process for ccTLDs contributions to ICANN. The goal of the session was to make the contribution process predictable for all, both for ccTLDs and for ICANN going forward.

The ICANN Billing Team stated that they need the documentation of each ccTLD intent to contribute as well as the ccTLD confirmation on the amount to be billed each year. They also explained that updating emailing contacts has improved but remains a challenge.

Regarding the future billing process, ICANN Org is intended to propose a standardized process and timeline to identify who wants to contribute and to determine how much the contribution is, when the contribution is made, and how the contribution is documented (invoice, receipt, etc.). A Final Contribution Report is expected to be published in August 2019.

The ICANN Billing Team requested the ccNSO members to send any updates to email addresses or contact name changes to: accounting@icann.org

[Slides](#)

Other sessions of interest to the ccTLD community

DAAR Update

The Domain Abuse Activity Reporting system is an ICANN initiative for reporting on domain name registration and abuse data across TLD registries and registrars.

DAAR system studies all gTLD registries and (registrars) whose zone file and registration data can be collected; allows historical research; studies multiple threats (phishing, botnet, malware, and spam); and employs a large set of abuse feeds.

DAAR data can be used to study malicious registration behaviors; report on threat activity at TLD level; study historical security threat concentrations; assist operational security communities and academic research; and help operators understand or consider how to manage their reputations, anti-abuse programs, or terms of service. In addition, DAAR data could contribute to a more informed security decision making and policy.

At the session, the ICANN representative explained and described the DAAR Methodology and data sources. Recently, the ICANN Security, Stability & Resiliency (SSR) team has published its [responses](#) to the inputs and comments received in the public consultation on the DAAR methodology. Additionally, ICANN has shared the first monthly report from the DAAR system for January 2019 and [monthly reports](#) from previous 2018 have been made available as well.

The ICANN Security, Stability & Resiliency (SSR) team is still receiving feedback and concerns on the project (DAAR@icann.org).

[Slides](#)

Coming Up With Best Practices to Improve Security in the DNS Ecosystem

The goal of the session was to promote the best practices for protecting the integrity of the DNS and to alert the community about their importance.

The ICANN team reviewed the most common threats and attacks on the DNS and some mitigation measures. There was a special focus on the best practices for credential management. The speakers explained the DNS ecosystem credential types and purposes and how these credentials can get compromised.

Some of the recommendations on the credential management were knowing all credentials that are utilized, limiting fate sharing, encouraging the use of multifactor authentication (multi-factor

authentication provides added layer of protection), avoid sending/storing credentials in cleartext, creating processes for credential changes (identity verification is a critical component), knowing where you are storing credentials, enabling registry lock when available.

The session also featured a review of the recent domain attacks. The speakers explained how these attacks were mounted and how they were discovered. As a conclusion, they stated that many systems rely on the DNS and malicious actors target the DNS on a regular basis. Therefore, credential management is key (not just for registrations but all of the DNS). Other key recommendations were signing the zones, validating DNSSEC signatures and monitoring your DNS infrastructure.

[Slides](#)

ICANN GDD: Raising Awareness About Registrant Issues and Challenges

The ICANN Registrant Program seeks to educate registrants about their rights and responsibilities, the domain name ecosystem and how to navigate it, and the ICANN policies that impact them. Also, the Program identifies and raises awareness about issues and challenges that registrants are facing.

At the session, the Program representatives analysed some recent data from the Global Support Center (GSC) and Contractual Compliance department on common problems communicated by registrants to ICANN Org. They also presented some recently published materials aimed at educating registrants. Soon, they will be sharing new reports and resources on the matter.

Currently, the ICANN Registrant Program is asking the community to share their feedback, data and suggestions on the issues and challenges domain name registrants may be facing and on how to raise awareness on these topics (registrant@icann.org). In addition, the Program representatives would like to know the initiatives that registries are working on to reduce the challenges that their customers are having registering and managing (transfer/renewal, WHOIS info, etc.) domain names.

[Slides](#)

.AMAZON

At ICANN64, the Board called on the ACTO member states and the Amazon corporation to engage in a last effort that allows both parties over the next four weeks to work in good faith toward a mutually acceptable solution regarding the Amazon Applications.

The President and CEO had made repeated attempts since October 2018 to engage in further facilitation discussions between the ACTO member states and Amazon corporation. Unfortunately, no mutually agreed solution has been identified to date by the ACTO member states and the Amazon corporation regarding the Amazon Applications.

The Board considered that allowing a further, short period of time before the Board makes a decision about whether to move toward delegation of the strings represented by the Amazon Applications could still lead to a mutually acceptable solution regarding those Applications.

Accordingly, the resolutions adopted by the Board on Sunday, March 10 attempts to balance the various concerns and give the parties a bit more time, but not unlimited, to try to reach a mutually acceptable solution.

[Board resolution](#)

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