LACTLD Report on ICANN67

Virtual Meeting
7-12 March 2020

Contents

Introduction

The LACTLD Report on ICANN67 examines some sessions of interest to the ccTLD community that took place during ICANN's first Virtual Community Forum, held from 7 to 12 March 2020.

On February 19, 2020, ICANN announced that its ICANN67 Public Meeting, which was to be held in Cancún, Mexico, was going to be held via remote participation-only. This decision was made as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak (see the official announcement).

As a result of ICANN's decision, the ccNSO Council decided to reduce the ccNSO meeting schedule for ICANN67 to a strict minimum. Tech Day and the ccNSO Members Meeting were cancelled and sessions or presentations were deferred –to the extent possible– to the ICANN68 Public Meeting.

The LACTLD Report reviews the main sessions that took place at the ICANN67 virtual meeting on DoT and DoH, universal acceptance, and regional developments. It also looks at the discussions and issues that were addressed at the ICANN67 Public Forums.

Sessions of interest to the ccTLD community

ICANN67 Public Forum 1: Community Dialogue on the Proposed Transfer of Ownership of the Public Interest Registry

At Public Forum 1, Board Chair Maarten Botterman highlighted that the Forum would be focused on the proposed sale of Public Interest Registry (PIR) from the Internet Society (ISOC) to Ethos Capital. Botterman explained that the Board and ICANN staff would not be addressing specific questions about the proposed PIR transaction at the Public Forum but would update the community in the future.

General Counsel & Secretary John Jeffrey explained the general approval process that the ICANN Board and organization is following regarding the proposed acquisition of PIR. He also provided a historical overview of the proposed acquisition of PIR and also offered an explanation of ICANN's role in reviewing a Change of Control and Entity Conversion for the proposed transfer of ownership of PIR from ISOC to Ethos Capital.

Numerous community participants made comments and raised questions. On March 11, 2020, the ICANN org published on its website responses to the questions posed during Public Forum 1.

UA: Technology and Email Address Internationalization Working Groups

The Universal Acceptance (UA) Technology Working Group (WG) used this session to provide a summary of its ongoing work and the ICANN organization's internal UA readiness. The UA Email Address Internationalization (EAI) WG focused on current projects and best practices for email account names.

At the session, the Technology WG discussed the finalization of its Statement of Work (SOW) to review programming languages and their frameworks. This WG also shared an overview of its UA readiness report which will provide a framework for verifying the UA readiness of software applications. The report is expected to be published after ICANN67.

ICANN org delivered an update on its progress towards ensuring its custom systems are UA ready, including UA readiness in internal IT design guidelines and procurement. ICANN org informed that its UA case study will be released in the coming weeks.

Slides

Session transcript

Session recording

LAC Space

This session focused on engagement efforts with the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Internet community on relevant ICANN-related issues.

The session began with opening remarks from ICANN's Sally Costerton, Sr Advisor to President and SVP, Global Stakeholder Engagement, who announced that a new hire for ICANN's technical engagement team will be based in the Montevideo Regional Office. The objective of this hire is to support capacity-building efforts in the region. Following, ICANN's Board members updated the community on the Board's activities and operational priorities, the process to review the strategic plan, and other relevant activities.

Regarding regional updates, LACNIC invited the participants to read their book The Development of the LACNIC Community and engage in their diverse initiatives. LACRALO members commented the objectives of their working group on Universal Acceptance (UA) and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) efforts in the region, including their manual on UA and IDNs adoption from the perspective of the end user.

Miguel Ignacio Estrada talked about LACTLD's recent [Illegal Content Workshop](#) held in Cancún for LAC judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, he reported that we have welcomed three new members from the Caribbean: .TT, .GP and .GD.

ICANN's LAC Team informed that ICANN is expected to open a Public Comment period soon in order to gather feedback from the community on ICANN's LAC Strategy.

[Session transcript](#)

[Session recording](#)

At-Large Policy Session - DoH/DoT - Threats and Challenges

This session examined DNS-over-TLS (DoT) and DNS-over-HTTPS (DoH) technologies for encrypted DNS.

ICANN org Principal Technologist Paul Hoffman presented the paper '[Local and Internet Policy Implications of Encrypted DNS](#)'. This document was published by ICANN Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) in February 2020.

At the session, Hoffman reviewed the main parts of the paper and provided a brief description of the technical differences in the two standardized protocols: DNS-over-TLS (DoT) and DNS-over-HTTPS (DoH). Hoffman's presentation also focused on the policy implications of encrypted DNS, all of which are covered in the document published by the OCTO.

Hoffman explained that the paper states seven major policy implications of encrypted DNS:

- Increased privacy for users' DNS traffic
- Increased assurance for users' DNS traffic
- Circumvention of DNS filtering for security
- Circumvention of DNS filtering for local policy
- Circumvention of DNS filtering that is mandated by governments
- Unwanted centralization of DNS resolution cannot be detected
- Speed of DNS responses

Each of these policy implications was analyzed and discussed during the session. Hoffman then shared some of ICANN's positions regarding the implications of encrypted DNS. In general terms, ICANN maintains that privacy is good; DNS data should be protected for the benefit of users; and DNS filtering *can be* beneficial. Also, according to the positions held by ICANN, currently, applications and operating systems have insufficient information to make network control decisions, enforcement of legal mandates, etc.

Finally, Hoffman commented on some recent updates in DoH and DoT deployment, and session participants shared their questions and feedback on the topic.

Getting to Know the Mexican Internet Ecosystem

The objective of this session was to introduce relevant actors of the multistakeholder Mexican Internet ecosystem and interesting data on the current state of the Internet in Mexico. Members of the ICANN67 Cancún Local Host Committee provided presentations on diverse topics with speakers from Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transportation, NEUBOX, Punto2012, NIC México, and the Internet Society Chapter Mexico.

Jorge Azzario, CEO of NIC Mexico, shared some thoughts about the importance of the Internet's open architecture and design principles. Azzario also commented on how NIC Mexico is carrying out its functions (the administration of .mx domain names and the management of IP address space for Mexican entities) while facing different challenges such as ensuring a neutral and secure network and reducing the digital divide in a context of continuous expansion of the Internet. Azzario's presentation emphasized the importance of collaboration across the different stakeholders that make up the Mexican Internet ecosystem in order to effectively perform its functions and meet the challenges posed by the current expansion of the Internet.

SSAC Public Meeting

The Security and Stability Advisory Committee discussed its reports, advisories, and comments published since ICANN66. The SSAC also provided updates on its current work parties.

SSAC Member Barry Leiba provided an overview of the SSAC's recently published report on the implications of DNS-over-HTTPS (DoH) and DNS-over-TLS (DoT). Leiba noted that readers can expect the document to explore the effects of these technologies on several groups of stakeholders.

The SSAC will continue the development of reports, advisories, and comments on a range of topics and will prepare a public presentation of its recent activities for ICANN68.

ICANN67 Public Forum 2

The Public Forum 2 featured two 35-minute Q&A blocks. Board member Sarah Deutsch facilitated the first block and Board member Lito Ibarra facilitated the second session. Both Q&A blocks were open to questions on any subject of community interest.

Some of the most frequent comments and discussions focused on Universal Acceptance, DNS Abuse, and Compliance. There were several congratulatory and positive comments made about the virtual experience that defined ICANN67. Numerous community participants made comments and raised questions on a wide array of issues, which went into the public record.

[Public Forum 2 transcript](#)

[Public Forum 2 recording](#)