



The IANA transition: what's at stake for ccTLDs?

The different communities are well underway with discussions around the NTIA's stewardship transition of IANA. So what's at stake for ccTLD operators?

As customers of the IANA services, ccTLDs have a list of issues that it shares with other customers (such as gTLDs).

They rely on the framework being:

A. Secure and stable - Changes should not undermine the operation of the IANA function. To ensure this we probably need to avoid unnecessary changes to the framework: changes should be the minimum needed to respond to specific requirements.

B. Predictable - Decisions are clearly rooted in agreed policy. In the case of ccTLDs, the bottom-up policy process is the role of the ccNSO, which has carried out this role in an open process. Policy is based on RFC1591;

C. Reliable, timely and efficient - It is a vital service and any proposal should ensure continuity of service over the transition and beyond, meeting a recognised and agreed quality of service and in line with service-level commitments;

D. Adaptable to developing needs and continued improvement

E. Automated – Most interactions could be easily automated (such as changes to telephone numbers)

F. Non-discriminatory; and

G. Accountable and transparent

In addition to the above points, ccTLDs are working in a very unique context. There are important and specific issues associated with ccTLD registries that are not shared by other IANA customers and that might have an impact on how we would want to shape the outcome from the transition process:

a. A very small number of ccTLD registries have formal contracts, although all ccTLDs rely on the root-zone management service administered by IANA. Many registries have adopted light-weight agreements with ICANN – accountability frameworks, exchange of letters – and there is a significant number that do not have any agreement with ICANN. There is currently no requirement for a contractual relationship to ensure the IANA service and, under the

current NTIA contractual relationship; there is no obligation for financial contributions to use the IANA service. In addition, there is probably no clear consensus among ccTLDs on what a formalised arrangement might look like, but some legal framework might be needed to enforce a service-level agreement, for example. This ultimately needs to be a registry decision.

b. A significant number of ccTLD registries are not members of ICANN's ccNSO.

Within ICANN the ccNSO is the organisation responsible for bottom-up policy development for ccTLD IANA issues and this is the framework for IANA decisions for ccNSO members.

The ccNSO currently works in manner open to non-members and tries to develop consensus with the Governmental Advisory Committee in its processes. In the parallel process on ICANN accountability, this commitment to an open policy process could be made more explicit.

c. For ccTLD registries, policies are set locally and in conjunction with the local Internet community according to, and in compliance with, RFC1591. IANA should not try to set additional requirements that are not demonstrably linked to the security and stability of the DNS.

As such, the requirements of the ccTLD registry community are unique and diverse and the transition should not seek to impose common rules and structures on ccTLDs except where this is directly and demonstrably linked to the management of the root-zone file, i.e. that it has global impact. Decisions on ccTLD policy should be made locally wherever possible.

Read more on this topic with CENTR background paper:



**The Transition of NTIA's Stewardship
of the IANA Functions**

Background paper

June 2014

Highlights from ICANN50 London

The 50th ICANN meeting was recently held in London where it was purported to have had somewhere between 3,000-4,000 participant in attendance. Although it's difficult to confirm this figure, the relatively condensed event venue did seem to be rather full. Several of the big sessions - which normally manage to fit in one room - spilled over into 'overflow rooms' where participants could watch live goings on from the main room.

The event was largely dominated by two topics – the IANA transition and the interlinked topic of ICANN accountability. All parts of the *ICANN community* discussed these topics (with a little more attention to the IANA transition) over the week to varying degrees with one of the bigger sub-topics being that of the Coordination group to which will house 27 members from the community and work to facilitate a proposal for transition of the IANA functions.



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ccNSO

- ✓ ccNSO dedicated long discussions to organising selection process for the IANA transition Coordination group
- ✓ Framework of interpretations WG conclude its work
- ✓ Discussions on the introduction of 2 character domain names in the new gTLD space
- ✓ .RO (Romania) voted as newest member

GAC

- ✓ High Level Government Meeting discussed how to enhance role of Government in ICANN.
- ✓ Increased tension on .wine/.vin applications from France, European Commission and others with no real resolution.
- ✓ Discussions on the 2 seat allocation in Coordination group for IANA transition
- ✓ Other topics discussed were protection of geographic names in future new gTLDs, Whois and human rights

GNSO

- ✓ GNSO discussed requested modifications to their IGO/INGO working group recommendations with potential to re-convene the group
- ✓ Workload and working group volunteer participation issues discussed at length
- ✓ GNSO began discussions on Expert Working Group report on possible Whois replacement
- ✓ GNSO to commence recruitment and selection of a GNSO Liaison to the GAC
- ✓ GNSO pass motion to create a discussion group to discuss the experiences gained by the first round of new gTLD

The Global Status of Domain Names

The DomainWire Stat Report is CENTR's quarterly publication providing updates on the global domain name market with regard to market share, aggregate total registrations and other growth metrics. It is an attempt to capture and visualise how domain names globally are evolving in order to allow players in and around the industry better understand the trends and market situation.

The most recent report shows that there are currently around 258 million domain name registrations globally with around 45% of those being ccTLDs. Market share of ccTLDs has been increasingly very slightly over the past few quarters however it's unsure yet what the implications of new gTLDs will have in this share as things progress. Currently new gTLDs account for less than 1% of all domains but they are being delegated each week (with roughly 1000 per year being added) – time will tell how they stack up to the legacy gTLDs and ccTLDs. In any case, established TLD operators are acutely aware of these new players - the DomainWire Stat Report is a good start in getting a sense of the picture.

Other elements included in the report are: the Top 20 ccTLDs by zone size (size and growth), the status of European ccTLDs (size and growth), domains per capita metrics in Europe and finally a Strategic Map which attempts to visualise the position of TLDs according to ratios in new domains added and renewal rates.



[Click to open the PDF report](#)

The **CENTR Jamboree** is an annual event for CENTR members where participants to the 6 theme based workshops come together in the same week and hold these sessions over 3 days – 2 per day in parallel. The event is an opportunity for delegates to mix and take part in topics and sessions which they may not always be exposed to. This year, the Jamboree took place in Paris between the 2nd and 4th of June. Below are some of the reactions and comments we received from participants to the event. Below that are the most popular presentations made in each workshop as rated by the Jamboree's Evaluation survey (93 responses)



"I usually only attend the L & R Workshop. But the Jamboree concept gives me added value. I often wish I had time to travel to Administrative Workshops or Marketing Workshops, but my extended travelling program does not permit me to do this. This "collection of CENTR gems" at the same place enables me to fulfil that wish. It is important to have an opportunity to exchange thoughts with other members of the community than those you usually connect with. Thank you to CENTR and to the organisers who make this possible."

Annebeth B. Lange - Head of Legal and Policy (.NO)



"The Jamboree as a concept enables me to meet a diverse group of people from many registries in an environment that encourages cross-pollination of topics and ideas in a registry specific environment. Coming from so far away I need to evaluate critically the value gained from attending any event and the CENTR Jamboree ticks all the boxes."

David Morrison - Chief Marketing Officer (.NZ)



"I have experience and job responsibilities that span law, policy, and technology. The Jamboree is one of the rare programs that has focused sessions in all of the areas"

Don Blumenthal - Senior Policy Advisor (Public Interest Registry)



It is great for CENTR members like nic.at to have that unique worldwide meeting called "JAMBOREE". This meeting brings together registry staff from all levels and more important from different divisions. It enables a very deep exchange of ideas, projects (successful ones and sometimes also bad experience) and provides a perfect setting for face to face talks. I had the feeling that the atmosphere was very open and constructive. I think every EURO spent for this meeting was a very good investment.

Richard Wein – CEO (NIC.AT)

Popular **Presentations** at Jamboree 2014

"Using RIPE Atlas probes for a DNS operator"

Stéphane Bortzmeyer (AFNIC) - 30th Technical Workshop)

".SE's Registry-lock service"

Anna Agné, (.SE) - 32nd Administrative Workshop

"Soon we will all be unemployed, thanks to Namecoin"

Stéphane Bortzmeyer (AFNIC) - 6th (R&D Workshop

"In 18 months from no marketing to ..."

David Morrison (.NZ) - 14th Marketing Workshop

"Secure Domain Foundation"

Norm Ritchie (DSF) - 7th Security Workshop

"Changes to the Domain Name Regulation in Finland"

Kirsi Sunila-Putilin, (.FI) - 44th Legal and Regulatory Workshop

Click title to open presentation slides

Q&A

With
participants
to the
CENTR
Jamboree
2014

CENTR

Q&A

News & Blogs

.BY celebrates its 20th anniversary 20 years ago the national Belarusian TLD .BY was delegated. Today .BY has 102,000 registered domains and growing rapidly.

CIRA introduces DNSSEC to protect Canadians online CIRA is making the Internet safer for all Canadians with the implementation of DNSSEC, the latest in a string of new security measures rolling out in 2014.

DK Hostmaster continues to manage the dk domain names Following a public consultation, the Minister of Business and Growth has decided to extend DIFO's permission to be registry for the .dk domain names.

New TLDs and the 50/50 law The 50/50 law claims that the number of domain names registered by the end of the 1st day of the public opening of a TLD amounts to 50% of the stock that the TLD will achieve by the end of its 1st month, and that the latter number will represent 50% of the stock at the end of the 1st year. AFNIC has tested this assertion in their latest report

Infographic: How did .eu do in 2013? This infographic offers a quick overview of some key performance indicators for the .eu top-level domain.

Symposium on Internet Governance An international symposium at the University of Oslo on 8-9 September focuses on the future of the Internet and the legal, economical and political challenges surrounding it.

Welsh government switches to .cymru and .wales Wales' First Minister announced at ICANN London that the Welsh Government plans to begin a switch of its official internet address from .gov.uk to .cymru and .wales from next year.

.uk registrations surge to a record-breaking start Within 24 hours of opening for registration, new, short .uk web domains have topped the sales charts. More than 50,000 domains were registered, making this one of the fastest selling new domain releases on record.

How long can the ICANN model take the pressure? The ICANN machine has been building up steam ever since its new CEO took the helm. But at the ICANN London meeting it became clear that the pressure is rising too high. This machine was not built for this volume nor type of work and the deadlines are pushing the model to its limits. **Read on...**

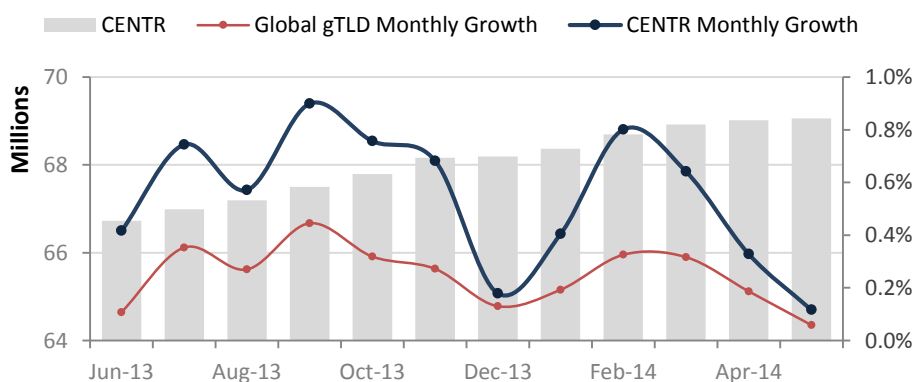
CENTR paper: Internet Governance and the ITU In the history of Internet governance discussions, 2014 will be remembered as a big year. Part of those discussions includes debate over the role of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in Internet governance. ITU's role is not only being debated within ITU's membership, but also at other venues, such as the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC). Currently, the ITU has a fairly limited mandate in the Internet sphere, but decisions taken at the ITU's Plenipotentiary (PP-14) meeting at the end of 2014, as well as recommendations by the CSTD WGEC and the final United Nations (UN)-wide review of the tenth anniversary World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS+10) in 2015, may result in an expanded mandate for the ITU. **Read on...**

Upcoming events

45th CENTR Legal & Regulatory Workshop
10-11 September – Oslo, Norway

33rd CENTR Administrative Workshop
18 September - Tallinn, Estonia

52nd CENTR General Assembly
30 Sep – 2 Oct – Brussels, Belgium



Source: CENTR stat database, gTLDs: Hosterstats.com

Note: 'CENTR' members represent more than 95% of European ccTLDs in terms of domain registrations

CENTR Total Registrations

CENTR Full Members

69,057,583

CENTR members grew in registrations by 0.06% in May and 3.8% in the past 12 months.

The highest percentage growth for May 2014 was .ir (Iran) at 1.9% and in net domains was .eu (European Union) with just over 29 thousand.