

# Pack your bags

INSIDE

*ICANN heads to New Zealand*

*IGF sets up and Greece prepares*

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*Fighting spam from the Channel Islands*

AND MORE!



# Enhancing Cooperation .....

*Paul M Kane, CENTR Executive Committee*

The conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis last year, provides a good framework for developing multi-stakeholder cooperation in addressing Internet-related issues. Both the creation of the Internet Governance Forum and the development of enhanced cooperation could bring real opportunities for sharing understanding and improving the way in which we look at common problems.

As many colleagues prepare for the Internet Governance Forum and pass through Socrates' "home town" of Athens, it is worth remembering that Socrates was careful to avoid his words being transcribed onto tablets or into books that could circulate beyond the reach of discussion and questions, for fear of exposure to unauthorised revision, confusion or misrepresentation. Plato recognised his teacher's concerns and published Socrates' thoughts and conversations as an honest Secretariat, simply recording the wisdom of his teacher and the understanding of the people. The problems to which Socrates pointed are just as acute today, in an age of re-circulated 'news', public relations, global gossip and Internet power struggles.

Milton believed that truth and civil accord would always triumph in a "free and open encounter" and we are delighted the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Kofi Annan, in a letter to CENTR last week shared the view that it is important for Governments and the Internet community to engage in a Public Policy dialogue.

Since our last issue of Domain Wire a number of events have reinforced that the virtual "Internet" world is no different from the physical world in terms of legal process. Existing laws may be applied to the Internet world, with perpetrators held to account in conventional courts even in a multi-jurisdictional dispute. Registries have successfully protected the global rights of Internet users against harvesting attacks, successfully prosecuted a "spammer" for distributing unsolicited email across multiple jurisdictions, and reinforced a Registry's rights to deliver service to their customers.

The membership of CENTR continues to grow with the .RU (Russia) and .FO (Faroe Islands) joining CENTR. Our

Secretariat welcomed Ms Fay Howard back as interim General Manager, and our Board of Management elections, resulted in Mr Kim von Arx (Canada) and Mr Andrzej Bartosiewicz (Poland) and Mr Richard Wein (Austria), joining the senior management team.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Domain Wire.

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# The Internet Governance Forum

*Markus Kummer, IGF Secretariat*

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) saw the beginning of a debate on a new issue on the international agenda – Internet governance. The debate in the WSIS framework was not conclusive, but it marked the beginning of a process that can be described as a dialogue between two worlds: of governments and the Internet community. As a concrete result of the Summit, the Secretary-General of the United Nations was given the mandate to convene a new multistakeholder forum for public policy dialogue – the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The IGF was given a provisional lifespan of five years. Therefore, for the next five years the IGF will be the epicenter of this dialogue.

A first round of consultations on how to move forward took place in Geneva on 16 and 17 February. The meeting was held in an open and inclusive format, which allowed all stakeholders to take part on an equal footing. The meeting helped develop a common understanding of the format of the IGF which would be modelled on the open format of the consultations held in the context of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG).

The first meeting is to take place in Athens from 30 October – 2 November 2006. The Secretary-General will appoint a group of advisors representing all stakeholders to help him in convening the meeting and preparing its programme. He also set up a small secretariat in Geneva to assist him in this task. The IGF website (<http://www.intgovforum.org>) will serve as the focal point for online collaboration in preparing the meeting. Practical details can be found on the host country website: <http://www.igfgreece2006.gr>.

The WSIS debate focused to a large extent on ccTLDs and their relationship to governments. CENTR and its members took an active part in this debate and helped to clarify many issues. I trust that they will keep engaged and take part actively in the IGF. With their rich and varied experience they can make an extremely valuable contribution and share “best practices”, in particular with representatives from developing countries.

Looking back, it is worth remembering that originally the WSIS was called to bridge the so-called “digital divide” or – to put it in more forward-looking and positive terms – to make use of “digital opportunities”. Its aim was to bring the benefits of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to developing countries and make use of ICTs for development objectives in general and for those of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in particular. It is therefore no surprise that there seems to be a convergence of views that the IGF should have a development orientation and have capacity building as an overarching objective.

There are many aspects related to the issue of Internet governance and it is not possible to approach it from one

*The community participate in building the IGF*



angle alone. Internet governance is a pluri-dimensional and multi-faceted issue; any debate dealing with Internet governance has to bear this in mind. WSIS was not the end of the debate, but the beginning. The new Forum called for by WSIS will take up this debate and I hope that it will continue to deepen the understanding of how the Internet works. There are some issues that need to be addressed which are of concern to all users of the Internet, such as spam, cybercrime, privacy and data protection, freedom of expression or consumer protection. There are also issues of particular concern of developing countries, such as interconnection costs, that ought to be taken up by the international community. Hopefully, the IGF will

provide a neutral platform for this discussion. At the same time there is a need for building bridges between the various actors involved.

Ultimately, the involvement of all stakeholders, from developed as well as developing countries, will be necessary for the future development of the Internet. In this sense, I am confident that the IGF will be able to play a useful role towards the achievement of this objective.

*Markus Kummer has been appointed to head the IGF Secretariat.*

<http://www.intgovforum.org/>

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## Greece Prepares for Inaugural IGF Meeting

### *Greek IGF Steering Committee*

One of the most significant outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society, which took place in Tunis between 16 and 18 November 2005, was the birth of the IGF.

The roles and functions of the Forum are set out in paragraphs 72-79 of the "Tunis Agenda for the Information Society". Briefly, its main purpose will be to discuss a wide range of issues related to Internet Governance, and, where appropriate, to make recommendations to the international community. The working and function of the Forum will be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent.

Greece has offered to host the inaugural meeting of the IGF in 2006. Steadfast to this commitment, and while the ink was still wet on the Tunis text, the Greek government had begun to take a number of steps towards the preparation of the first meeting of the IGF:

- The Greek Minister of Transport & Communications, Mr. Michalis Liapis, has set up a Steering Committee to tackle the various tasks required for the organization of the IGF's inaugural meeting.
- A website has already been created specifically for the Athens meeting. As of recently, the website is fully bilingual the second language being French. The site has recorded impressive hits, mounting in the thousands to this date.
- ICANN, GAC, and United Nations Deputy Secretary General have been briefed.

- We have already reported the state of our preparations in meetings with the Group of 77 in Geneva, the Western Group, the Eastern Group and CCBI –ICC in Paris.
- On February 16-17, a new round of consultations, this time with the representatives of the United Nations Secretary General, took place in Geneva.

While these lines were being written, consultations at various levels regarding the Forum were still under way. This is due to the fact that a number of issues are still under consideration. To name a few, the date for the inaugural meeting of the IGF has not been set. The Forum's work program and agenda are being discussed among the various stakeholders. Finally, the future of the Forum after the Athens meeting remains to be decided. For up to date information on the state of preparations for the IGF, the Greek Steering Committee recommends to all interested parties to visit our website. Any further information may be obtained by contacting the President or the secretariat of the Greek Steering Committee (contact@igfgreece2006.gr).

The organization of the 1st IGF in Greece requires a considerable commitment of time and resources. However, despite any difficulties that may arise on the road to the Athens Meeting, the Greek Government is unreservedly committed to the Tunis texts and determined to play its part in the successful organization of the Forum.

<http://www.igfgreece2006.gr/>



# Afghanistan Officially Part of the Web

*Mohammad Aslam*

Every country is denoted on the world map by its name. Likewise, every country is represented in the proverbial cyberspace by what is known as a Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD). In the last 3 decades, the world community formulated and joined the World Wide Web while Afghanistan was in the throes of war and domestic turmoil. With the stability returning, Afghanistan has been joining various regional and global organisations to assume its rightful place in the community of nations.

To assist the transitional government, UNDP's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) project stepped in to help re-establish Afghanistan's Internet presence. By working with the Ministry of Communications, UNDP's role was to restore a DNS service, to build technical and administrative capacity within Afghanistan, and to "shift technical operations to a community-based management structure inclusive of multiple sectors within Afghanistan when feasible and appropriate."

On January 8th 2003, UNDP's efforts paid off and the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) assigned the .af (dot af) ccTLD as the unique designation in cyber space for Afghanistan. The Internet domain name system is considered a public asset, and the .af ccTLD is the asset of the people of Afghanistan and is under the sovereign control and administration of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Communications (MoC) is designated as

the Manager of .af ccTLD along with technical support through national staff of the UNDP.

Since the assignment, UNDP has established systems and processes to assist the MoC with the Management of .af. To date, UNDP has established comprehensive governance, administrative and control policies and has finalised plans to officially launch .af and on line registration system. The launch will occur during the National ICT Conference planned for second quarter 2006. Marketing campaigns will encourage businesses, NGOs, Foreign agencies and individuals who operate in the context of Afghanistan to register their domain names. Revenues from registration will be used for sustainability of the required infrastructure and Human Resources in MoC (Ministry of Communications) to manage this very visible responsibility.

Even before the official launch, the demand for .af domain names has been very high. To date, 350 domain names have been registered and are operating. Government agencies and the newly formed parliament of Afghanistan (<http://www.nationalassembly.af/>) have gained web presence with .af domain names.

To satisfy the technical reader, the .af ccTLD is using a

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# Domain Pulse deals with Internet of the Future

*Klaus Herzig*

Around 200 representatives of IT undertakings, politics, the legal professions and business in general met in Berlin on February 9 and 10 for the third Domain pulse, to which they had been invited by the German domain registry, DENIC. This in-depth event dealing with domains is held yearly and rotates amongst DENIC and the equivalent organisations in Austria, nic.at, and Switzerland/Liechtenstein, SWITCH. As a competence platform for groups of specialists, Domain pulse provides the opportunity for a direct and active dialogue covering topical issues, tendencies and trends around everything that has anything to do with Internet domains. The first conference took place in Zurich in February 2004, followed by Vienna in 2005. Over that time, Domain pulse has developed into the most important gathering in this field in the German-speaking world.

Dagmar Wöhrle, Parliamentary Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, welcomed the participants on behalf of the German authorities. She congratulated the organiser, DENIC, on its successful work in recent years and then went on to encourage the ITC industry to probe critically into any political intentions to regulate and, if necessary, to discourage them strongly.

It had already become a tradition for Domain pulse to open with a presentation by, and about, the host registry. Sabine Dolderer described DENIC's massive efforts over the years just gone by to enhance its technical capacity still further, for instance by making additions to the name-server network. In his lecture, Peter Koch (also DENIC), dealt with the subject of DNSSEC and explained in detail

what consequences its introduction was going to have for the providers.

In order to give the participants the chance to look beyond the confines of the German-speaking world, the next speaker, Siavash Shahshahani, presented the work of the Iranian registry, IRNIC, and the use of the Internet in Iran. The introduction of IDNs and future plans to use Persian characters to present the .ir TLD was of special interest to the audience.

The various topics of this year's conference could be summarised as "Future Prospects for the Internet". It was thus natural for the internationalised domains (IDNs), which were introduced in Germany in 2004, to be at the heart of the discussions. IDNs make it possible to use letters with umlauts and other diacritics and even whole alphabets in addition to the Latin one. In the German-speaking countries, IDNs now have a market share of 3-4%. In Taiwan, they account for nearly 50%. Up until now, the use of IDNs was handicapped by the fact that the market leader amongst Internet browsers, Microsoft's Internet Explorer, was not been able to display them. Michel Suignard, a program manager with Microsoft, however, demonstrated the new Internet Explorer 7 at Domain pulse to show that it now supported IDNs as well.

In addition to the long-established domain endings, such as .de or .com, various new Top Level Domains have been set up in recent years. The plans for some of them were presented at Domain pulse. These included .berlin, which is setting out to create a new identity for the German



capital and its residents, and .mobi, which is intended to concentrate solely on the provision of special-format contents that can be easily viewed on mobile telephones or other devices with small displays. Hagen Hultzsich, a member of the ICANN Board, presented the process and procedures applied by ICANN for introducing new Top Level Domains.

Opinions diverged regarding the further development of global Internet governance following the World Summit of the Information Society, which had been held in Tunis in November 2005. The head of the international Internet coordination body, ICANN, the Australian Paul Twomey, spoke in favour of continuing with the self-regulated, private-business approach, which has worked well up until now. It has made it possible for all relevant stakeholders to be involved in a commensurate and transparent way. The German government representative at ICANN, Michael Leibrandt, warned against overrating the self-administrative format; ICANN's significance was often overestimated too. He felt that governments ought to have a decisive role in the administration of the Internet, since only they were in the position to enforce democratic rights. Christian Singer, representing the current Austrian presidency of the European Union's Council of Ministers opposed shifting the balance away from the private administration of the Internet, since the existing private-business structure had a good track record. However, he too stressed that national governments ought to continue to be involved, as they had been to date.

Domain pulse is not only comprised of presentations and discussions with eminent panel members; participants also have plenty of opportunity to get to know and chat with one another. That was also one of the purposes of the social evening, which DENIC on this occasion organised at the "The Story of Berlin" exhibition. Once the visitors had familiarised themselves with the highlights of the metropolis's 800 years of history, the rest of the evening was spent eating and drinking in a most unusual setting: a disused 1970s nuclear shelter.

"There are no rules as to what the Internet has to look like; it is up to us to create a vision". Such was the credo proclaimed by Paul Mockapetris, the inventor of the Domain Name System (DNS), who started the second conference day with his keynote speech. Nonetheless, it was certainly possible to learn from the experience of the past decades. The use of the DNS was growing exponentially, thanks to many new applications building on it, such as ENUM, which links domains with telephone numbers, or the

RFID radio-frequency chip.

After completion of the testing phase for ENUM in Germany, which had lasted several years, DENIC moved over to its regular productive operation in January 2006. The timing could hardly have been better when looking into the question of the future of telephony, focusing in particular on ENUM and Voice over IP. Since VoIP and conventional PSTN networks are still going to coexist for many years to come, it makes sense to establish a bridge between the two systems. ENUM is such a bridge and it reckoned to have a pretty good market potential. Robert Schischka reported on experiences made in Austria, where ENUM has been available as a regular operation for more than a year. He did, however, stress the point that from the perspective of the final customer, ENUM can only really leverage its full usefulness when coupled with other services offered.

"Do we have to be afraid of the Internet?" was the provocatively worded title of a panel discussion with the Internet experts of the political groups represented in the German federal parliament (Bundestag). All of them were against further-reaching regulation. The existing laws were adequate, for instance, for taking action against phishing or spam was the view expressed by Günter Krings of the CDU. Heiko Hilker of the Left Party stressed that proactive media work to empower Internet users to recognise dangers and to handle them sensibly was more important than laying down statutory requirements. Hans-Joachim Otto of the FDP summed up the situation in these words: "the Internet has been so successful, because the State has kept out of it".

On the question of the mandatory storage of Internet traffic data for a prescribed period of time and surveillance measures it was not only Grietje Bettin (of the Bündnis 90/Green political group) who felt that the situation had evolved so far that there was no longer a reasonable balance between outlay and return. Larger providers could easily find themselves spending several hundreds of thousands of euros to make the necessary investments. The law-enforcement authorities, on the other hand, had only made a handful of queries about all this data. Hans-Joachim Otto warned that it would be harmful to create an environment of generalised suspicion against the average Internet user.

This year's Domain pulse once again went beyond technical and political aspects, and its agenda included a session on legal issues too. The three senior lawyers



working for the organising registries formed a panel, which examined three important topical subjects: the possibility of domains being the object of attachment orders, the liability of administrative and technical contacts and the criminal-law liability of providers in connection with domains. They were followed by Professor Thomas Hoeren of Münster University, one of Germany's most esteemed experts in legal matters concerning the Internet. He summarised various current trends in the discussion about Internet law, presenting numerous examples from both judgements and legislation, and conveyed his message about the powerlessness of lawyers in grappling with Internet regulation.

The combined information and telecommunication-technology sector is one of the few real growth drivers in the economies of most of the countries of Europe. As the conference moved towards its conclusion, Axel Pols of the German trade association, BITKOM, thus ventured his views on the prospects for the coming years. He foresaw the industry continuing to grow in Germany, but felt that the situation might be even more favourable in some of the neighbouring countries.

The preparations for the next Domain pulse are already well advanced. After Sabine Dolderer handed the glass baton on to Urs Eppenberger of SWITCH, the participants were treated to an initial foretaste of what was in store for them at the venue chosen for the 2007 event. Domain pulse is to be held on February 8 and 9, 2007 in Baden, not far from Zurich, in a converted power station.

*Further information about Domain pulse 2006, including all the presentation material is available on the special webpages at <http://www.domainpulse.de>*



## Afghanistan

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shared registry software called CoCCA OpenReg Registry software. This software supports the Best Practice environment and views policy development, core technical functions and commercialisation as discrete administrative functions - even if carried out by the same entity. Like all good open source software, CoCCA software is constantly enhanced and has been in use for over 4 years by a variety of small ccTLDs around the globe. The decision to select this software for .af was based on its proven stability, open source code and adaptability to variety of computer Operating Systems and not mentioning the capability of bringing changes in accordance with the policies of registry. The software utilises proven and readily available open source software packages such as Postgres database and Resin Java interpreter. The software was written in New Zealand with voluntary financial and other contributions from CoCCA.

With the support from the local staff from MoC and close coordination with the ministry directorates, the .af ccTLD is currently administered and supervised by qualified Afghan technical team. After the official launch of .af, the trained local MoC staff will have the capacity and skills to successfully assume full responsibility for managing this important function and resource in Afghanistan.

As the next exciting feature, Internet users in Afghanistan will enjoy using one of the most advanced features in domain name registry – the ability to create names in the local Dari and Pashto languages. The feature known as IDN (Internationalised Domain Names) is now being rolled out in other non-English speaking countries and opens the door for endless possibility to create imaginative and culturally relevant domain names.

Afghanistan's road to recovery and modernisation is assured with cooperation between the government and International development organisations. Global representation of Afghanistan on the World Wide Web is yet another prime example of the excellent cooperation between different international organisations and the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in addressing the modernisation of internet infrastructure and providing all available resources for public good.

*Mohammed Aslam is the General Manager of AFGNIC.*  
<http://www.nic.af>



## More than one million .be domain names

DNS BE, the “.be” registry, has seen a spectacular increase in recent months!

This is the result of an advertising campaign that started in 2004, with billboards showing a person thinking about .be and a link to his website <http://www.ikbenjan.be> (in its Dutch version) - <http://www.jesuisjean.be> (in its French version). On this website, “Jan” or “Jean” explained how he registered a .be domain name, how he created his website and he showed what he did with his website. The objective was to show individuals how easy it was to have their own internet identity. As DNS BE works along the lines of the 3 R model: Registry-Registrar-Registrant with no direct registrations, the purpose of advertising was to create awareness, supporting the registrars in their commercial activities towards the market.

In 2005 the second generation campaign was launched, still targeted to the private individuals. This time, online media advertisements were backed by radio spots that ran on national radio stations. Each message contained a link to a website <http://www.encorelibre.be> (in French) – <http://www.istnogrrij.be> (in Dutch)

This website contained a wide range of information about the use and the importance of having a “.be”. Most

important however were the .be registrars who played a key role in this campaign. Registrars were encouraged to run a campaign of their own in combination with the generic one from DNS BE. About half of them responded positively to that request and some of them even offered domain names for free.

The campaign lasted during 3 months, from 1 November 2005 till 31 January 2006 and the results speak for themselves. At the beginning of the advertising campaign, there was an impressive increase of .be domain names registrations, with an average of 10,000 registrations per day and registrations peaked at 23,000.

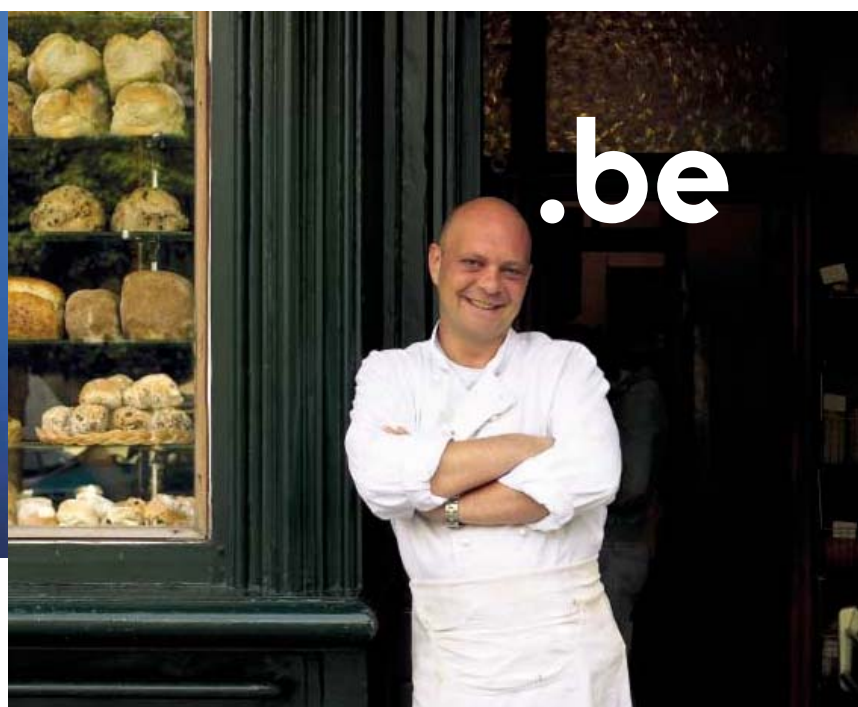
In total, 580,097 new domain names were registered during the advertising campaign, and more than 56 % of them were registered by private end-users.

This result has boosted the total number of .be names to well over 1 million registered .be domain names. This means more than the double of the previous total of .be domain names registered before the 3-months advertising campaign.

<http://www.dns.be/>



*DNS.BE Promotional Material has helped it achieve impressive growth over recent months in the .be space.*



# Web Accessibility at .ca

A lot of time, energy and planning go into creating the ideal experience on the Web in hopes a visitor will stay longer and return frequently to a website. But statistics paint a less than flattering picture of the level of attention paid to accommodating the needs of people with disabilities.

Web consultants have built an entire industry showing organisations how to increase their websites' stickiness, an industry term describing a site's ability to attract and retain longer, more frequent visits, with a myriad of methods. Some of these methods may, unfortunately, erode even further a website's accessibility.

Recent studies in both Europe and North America show that most websites are inaccessible to many of the 750 million individuals with disabilities world wide.

In fact, one study, performed by AltTags.org, evaluated 408 Californian municipal websites for accessibility and found that only 9 percent were barrier free. As well, in 2003, a study in Quebec, Canada, showed that, of the 800 pages evaluated, only 16% showed a level of accessibility qualified as "good", "very good" or "excellent".

But there's another breed of web consultant trying to make a difference in the lives of disabled people. Derek Featherstone is a web accessibility consultant based in Ottawa, Canada. Through his company Further Ahead, he has received international recognition for his effort in helping organisations develop barrier-free websites and applications. He is also a member of the Web Standards Project, a coalition engaged in ensuring that Web accessibility standards and technology are available to everyone.

Mr. Featherstone explained there are several different disabilities affected by inaccessible websites. People who have impairments in vision, mobility, cognition, and audio are affected differently by specific barriers on the Web.

Some aren't able to see the button on a form to click while others might not be able to physically perform a mouse click. Some aren't able to comprehend the instructions while others aren't able to hear an important audio message.

The need for accessible websites will continue to rise as the baby boomer population ages as well.



"There's a large number of groups that we've traditionally seen as being impacted by web accessibility, and there's a large group of people that don't necessarily consider themselves to be disabled either, that are impacted by web accessibility," revealed Featherstone.

He said that 25 to 30 percent of people in their lifetime will experience some form of vision loss. As they continue using websites over time, they may have to adjust the view.

"They may need to increase the size of the text on the website even though they may not consider themselves to have any type of disability at all," suggested Mr Featherstone.

It's apparent the discriminatory nature of inaccessible websites bothers him. "It's about morality and social justice, a lot of the things that we hold dear in Canada. It comes down to our fundamental rights as humans. We wouldn't build a website that would say only males or only females could use. We wouldn't exclude somebody on that basis, so why should we do it based on ability?"

Mr Featherstone was recently contracted by the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA) to evaluate their website for web accessibility. Incorporated in 1998, CIRA is mandated by the Canadian government to operate the dot-ca Internet Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) and follows the government's web accessibility guidelines.

The website was "fairly typical of the problems you see everywhere," according to Mr Featherstone. "All of the issues that came up were issues that I've seen elsewhere."

The person who will be responsible for managing the lion's share of the changes, CIRA's webmaster, Linda Arial, is excited about making the website more accessible.

"Going forward, we plan to put a lot of effort and thought behind what we're doing. We're going to try to make the experience for the user more pleasing, more intuitive," explained Ms. Arial. "We're trying to create a site that's going to be used by all, a design that not only meet the acces-

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# Taking Phone Numbers to the Internet

*Alexander Mayrhofer*

If you think of the latest technologies, timing is almost as important as the technology itself. But you can only choose the right time if you are at the top. Regarding ENUM, Austria is actually at the top, as enum.at has taken part in the development of this technology itself and commissioned the first registry worldwide in 2004.

In 1681, the Royal Society did not show much interest in participating in Denis Papin's second presentation. At least, the first demonstration of his high-pressure pot ended in a catastrophe. The pot blew up in the middle of the audience, spreading its unknown contents everywhere. Although the second attempt was successful (Papin had also invented the pressure-relief valve in the meantime), it was 200 years too early – nobody was interested in the product. In the middle of the 90's, the first experience with Voice over IP was much the same: Instead of a telephone number you had to dial an IP-address, which you had to ask for beforehand (usually by a phone call). The callee was scarcely audible and the modem dial-in demonstrated the absurdity of the whole thing: While the voice was transmitted via Internet, the Internet packets were transferred via voice telephony in turn. The entire technology disappeared after an intensive trial phase for almost 10 years, because the basic conditions were obviously missing.

After this break, the second generation seemed to have all the necessary requirements: "always-on" broadband interfaces, appropriate hard- and software, fast computers for a high voice quality, and VoIP telephones that looked like the usual devices and were not dependent on the PC. Just like Papin's high-pressure pot, some people looked back on the first generation and they had to be convinced to try again. The most significant evidence for its technological maturity was that many phone calls from the conventional telephone network were already transacted via Internet. And just like the essential "pressure-relief valve", it also had a feature against the lack of usability: ENUM enables the use of telephone numbers instead of Internet addresses and transmits calls between two VoIP users via Internet – a technology that entered the market exactly at the right time. Domains that are connected to a telephone number are registered, and the Internet addresses available with a number are entered.

The ENUM technology has established a link between the



conventional telephone network and the Internet for the first time. Austria was the first country in the world whose market had a concrete offer for this technology. After a labour-intensive test period, the kick-off was on the 9th February 2004: enum.at, the Austrian registry for ENUM domains, launched the commercial use of ENUM (Electronic Number Mapping).

This new technology has brought Internet telephony a big step forward. "ENUM has been started up in Austria, so there is a new technology as well as a concrete offer, and there is a concrete benefit for the market. The ball has been set rolling, and many more will make use of this new technology," says enum.at manager Robert Schischka, who is positive about the success of ENUM.

Since then, this technology has already become routine in Austria, as ENUM has already been in operation for a year and is offered by several service providers. Other countries

are still testing and will pick up in 2006 – the German registry has started regular operation at the beginning of this year, and the politically delicate country code “+1” (as it is shared by the USA, Canada and several Caribbean states) has been brought into trial operations as well.

However, enum.at already thinks ahead, and the next project is the use of ENUM as a router between different network operators. In this process, the entries are not made by the user of the phone number but by his operator. These entries can be used by other operators in order to find the best communication line. In 2006, this so-called “Infrastructure ENUM” will be the focus for standardisation issues within the Engineering Taskforce (IETF) – and Austria will again play a major role.

### What is ENUM?

ENUM is a protocol that maps traditional telephone numbers onto Internet domain names (ENUM domains). The usual Internet application addresses for e-mail, websites and also VoIP telephones typically consist of letters, numbers and various special characters. ENUM links these addresses with a simple telephone number, thus solving the problem of dialling this address on a traditional telephone with a number keypad – this is a precondition that enables a simple addressing of VoIP telephones from the conventional telephone network.

Vice versa, if you make an Internet call, the end device (e.g. PC telephone software or IP telephone) checks whether there is an ENUM domain corresponding to the number called. If this is the case, the call is forwarded to the address that has been configured by the called partner, which in turn can address a PC, a notebook or an IP telephone. As a result the entire connection is established via Internet, and there are neither call charges nor the need to transcode the communication several times. If no ENUM domain is found for the called number, the connection is established via the conventional telephone network.

*enum.at operates ENUM in Austria.  
enum.at is a 100% subsidiary of the non-profit Internet Foundation Austria (IPA),  
and is therefore a sister organisation of  
nic.at.*

<http://www.enum.at/>



## Web Accessibility

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sibility requirements but meets everyone's needs as well.”

Although it will be a while before CIRA's site is fully accessible, Ms Arial said from this point forward, only accessible content will be created.

Ms. Arial stressed the importance of the user's experience when developing accessible and useable web pages.

“It's important to put yourself in the user's place, how the user sees it. You can work against checklists and say ‘OK, this passes. They'll be able to read this,’ but how is it worded for the user? How does it look to the user? How is the presentation?”

Bernard Turcotte, President and CEO, says CIRA had been planning web accessibility for more than two years and is pleased to be going forward with the improvements. “We were very fortunate to be able to retain Derek Featherstone of Further Ahead; a leader in the field of website accessibility. Mr. Turcotte said. CIRA moved quickly after learning about accessibility issues in 2002. By 2004, CIRA had started defining budget and allocating funding to perform a complete accessibility analysis of their web assets. Although CIRA could have moved sooner on the accessibility changes, coordinating web accessibility with other improvements to the website, which had been planned since 2003, would afford CIRA considerable savings.

“By running them in parallel, what we were really able to do was gain a lot of strength and have a clear focus on the website accessibility enhancements that we'll be able to put forward. In our business our website is our voice, face and ears to the world and our customers. It enables us to talk, it enables us to listen and it enables us to serve.”

Mr. Turcotte expressed his pride in CIRA taking on a leading role in web accessibility. “We, as an industry, have to show some leadership with respect to website accessibility because as an organization mandated to manage a registry to serve people, it's something we need to be louder about,” Mr Turcotte said. “If we do that, then maybe other organizations and other industries will follow.”

<http://www.cira.ca/>



# Q&A with Peter Dengate Thrush

## What do you consider the main challenges facing the Board of ICANN in 2006?

The main challenges facing the ICANN Board in 2006 will be dealing with the internet community's reaction to the decision to settle the litigation with Verisign, coupled, as that has been, with the terms of the new .com agreement.

While most members of the community welcomed an end to the litigation, almost unanimously there were disagreements, some of them common to all constituencies, with the terms of the proposed new dotcom agreement.

I was one of 5 directors who voted against accepting the deal (nine voted for, one abstained) but it is now time to make the best of the situation ICANN finds itself in. The upside of the agreement is an end to longrunning litigation, a much better relationship between ICANN and Verisign and an end to the possibility of surprises such as Site Finder. Looking more externally, in this coming year the current Memorandum of Understanding with the US government expires. ICANN is forming a blue ribbon Strategic Planning Committee which I have been asked to co-chair, which will be addressing life in a post-MoU environment. Possibly, a further extension will be required to allow time for those developments.

In addition, the IANA contract with the US government, under which ICANN manages the IANA function, will be due for renewal.

Apart from those "constitutional" matters, we also will be participating in developments at the new Internet Governance Forum, set up as a product of the World Summit on the Information Society discussions of the past few years.

## How do you best promote the interests of those you were elected to represent in such a large and diverse Board?

The preliminary response is that I am not on a board as a "representative" of the ccTLD managers who appointed. However, obviously, I retain a close affinity with ccTLD managers and their issues, including in my role as Chairman of APTLD. I think it has been helpful to the Board to have Demi Getshko (.br) and I providing experience and familiarity with ccTLD matters to the Board for the first time. I was pleased to move the Board's adoption of most of the recommendations from the first ever ccNSO PDP on by-law amendments, and to give first hand input into that discussion from my own experience of negotiating those by-laws from the "other side" of the Board table.



## What is on the agenda for apTLD this year?

The two most significant items for apTLD this year are the appointment of a general manager for apTLD and the establishment in Thailand of a ccTLD manager's training school.

We have currently short-listed a small group, after a considerable number of applicants responded to our advertisement (194 in Malaysia alone!) and we hope to make an announcement at the AGM in Wellington on 25 March.

Based in the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, and under the leadership of Dr Kanchana Kanchanasut, we plan to establish a ccTLD manager's training facility to provide varying levels of training for registry managers and operators. This is an outgrowth of our previous policy of holding training sessions in conjunction with our meetings around the region and we look forward to the advantages that consolidation in this well respected Institute will provide. We plan to reach out to our sister associations (such as CENTR) to coordinate with other training efforts.

## What are the three "must see" attractions in New Zealand for those attending the meetings?

They fall into three categories: the first is "scenery". Under that heading I would include the volcanic and geothermal activity in the Rotorua region (3 hours south of Auckland), the spectacular scenery of the mountains of the South Island, particularly at Queenstown, where the bungy jumping and jet boat rides are virtually mandatory for visitors.

The second category would be "technology", and a visit to Weta Workshops, where the Academy Award winning technology behind Lord of the Rings and King Kong is performed, would display New Zealand's technology in this area.

Third, would be the warm, safe and exciting conviviality of Wellington's Courtenay Place, the restaurant/theatre/bar/nightclub precinct adjoining the ICANN meeting hotels, and where I expect to bump into the odd ICANN attendee after the meetings.

*Peter is a native Wellingtonian, and ccTLD representative on the ICANN board. Wellington plays host to the ICANN Meetings in March 2006.*

# A European Identity on the Internet

*Patrik Linden, EURid*

Back in 1999 it was a visionary idea of the European Council. Today it is very much a reality. The .eu, one of the latest additions in the world of TLDs, opened for business in December last year when the first Sunrise applications were accepted. At the time of writing about 300,000 hopeful applicants from all over Europe have made use of the possibilities offered by the Sunrise procedure. In April when .eu opens its gates for general registration considerably many more are anticipated to opt for a .eu domain name.

The .eu is a good example of pan-European cooperation. The five registries of the ccTLDs for Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy, Slovenia and Sweden form the members of EURid which is the not-for-profit registry for .eu. One of the reasons why EURid was selected by the Commission is the founders' legacy of operating successful registries on a non-profit basis.

At the EURid office in Brussels 19 languages are spoken and 18 nationalities represented in order to give phone and email support to registrars and potential domain name holders all over the European Union. Later this year EURid will also start establishing regional offices in Pisa, Prague and Stockholm.

For enthusiasts of the European Union, .eu is a dream coming true. For the ccTLD community .eu is an interesting cooperation project which gives the participating registries useful experience. To the domain name holders .eu is a way of showing a European identity on the Net. It is no longer necessary to know from which particular country a company is when you look for it on the web.

## A serious approach

Never has a TLD been conceived with so many interested parties and been discussed so thoroughly as the .eu. After the first idea of a .eu in 1999 the European Commission and the 25 member states all have had a say in development and the policy. The Sunrise procedure turned out to what is quite likely the most complex ever performed for any TLD.

The Sunrise consists of two phases. First, basically only trademark holders and public bodies were allowed to apply. From Feb 7, holders of all other types of prior rights were welcomed. After applying via any of the more than

900 accredited registrars, the applicant also has to send in documentary evidence proving his/her prior right. The applications and the evidence are validated by IPR experts at PricewaterhouseCoopers in all the different member states before a decision is taken. After that, there is a 40-day quarantine period during which an ADR can be filed before the domain name is activated. These are all ways to protect the TLD from unwanted cyber squatting and to ensure .eu should be a well run TLD. Another example is the ADR procedure which is carried out in all of EU's 20 languages by the Czech arbitration Court.

Despite the somewhat complicated approach a huge number of Europeans have already applied for a .eu domain name. Germans do play in a league of their own. They are representing almost a third of all the received applications, way more than what is motivated by its population size. Applications have been received from all countries, including Gibraltar, Guadeloupe and the Reunion Islands (yes, they are regarded by the Commission as a part of the EU in this respect). Looking at the numbers it is possible to see a correlation between a large proportion of local ccTLD domain names in a country and the interest for .eu domain names. That is why countries like Germany, Netherlands, Denmark and Italy show up high in the top-ten-list.

## Top 10 origins of sunrise applications

Germany	29 %
Netherlands	17 %
France	11 %
UK	9 %
Italy	6 %
Belgium	5 %
Sweden	4 %
Denmark	3 %
Czech Rep.	3 %
Austria	3 %

You can learn more about .eu at the EURid web page.  
<http://www.eurid.eu>





## Top 10 Most Sought-After

sex.eu  
hotel.eu  
travel.eu  
hotels.eu  
business.eu  
jobs.eu  
casino.eu  
poker.eu  
golf.eu  
music.eu

*The Berlaymont Building, at Brussels' Rond Point Schuman, trumpets the .eu domain*

## Countdown to Launch

1999

The first discussion about a possible .eu domain starts within the European Council.

APRIL 22, 2002

The EC regulation on the implementation of the .eu Top Level Domain (EC 733/2002) was adopted.

APRIL 2003

EURid asbl/vzw is registered as a non-profit organisation in Belgium

MAY 2003

EURid is chosen by the European Commission to be the registry for .eu

SEPTEMBER 2003

Arnes, the ccTLD registry for Slovenia (.si) joins as associated member of EURid

JANUARY 2004

CZ NIC, the ccTLD registry for the Czech Republic joins as an associated member of EURid.

APRIL 28, 2004

The Public Policy Rules concerning the implementation and functions of the .eu Top Level Domain and the principles governing registration was published (EC 874/2004).

OCTOBER 2004

The Service Concession contract between EURid and the European Commission is signed.

MARCH 2005

ICANN approves EURid and decides to delegate the .eu in the root

MAY 2005

.eu is put in the root.

JUNE 2005

Accreditation of registrars begins

DECEMBER 2005

The Sunrise period begins

APRIL 2006

.eu opens for general registration

# A Great Debate on .nl Domain Names

Bart E. Vastenburg, SIDN

*Currently there are almost two million domain names on the Internet with a “nl” suffix. The size of the .nl name space is growing at an annual rate of over 30%. Responsible for managing this fast growing space is the Dutch Internet Domain Registration Foundation (SIDN), a private, not-for-profit Dutch entity.*

*Key factors for this success are the company's stable and responsive service delivery, and its effective self-regulation; a process which broadly involves the Dutch Internet community.*

As registry for the .nl top-level domain, SIDN has a decisive role creating the policy and regulatory framework for the .nl name space. This article describes how the foundations for such a framework are laid through privately led public consultation.

## Finding the Balance

The creation of a well-balanced, stable policy and regulatory structure (and keeping it up-to-date) requires a thorough understanding of the community's needs. Many views and interests have to be considered. Increasingly, diverse interests are coming in play: technical, legal, economic, social, and even linguistic. Moreover, since registration of .nl domain names has become possible globally, the “.nl community” has become even more various. As the number of users of the domain (and their dependency on the domain) grows exponentially, increasing public interests call for a well-balanced and stable policy framework.

## Setting-Up the Debate

To address these challenges, SIDN is organizing a so-called “Domain Name Debate 2006”. For the second time since 2001, a series of public debates are held to which the entire local Internet community is invited to express their views on a set of issues. Four currently relevant items are being discussed during the Debate:

1. the possible introduction of Internationalised Domain Names (IDN's);
2. the possible introduction of purely numeric domain names;
3. the possible phasing out of third-level (private) domain names and an evaluation of the privacy protection policy concerning the .nl name space; and
4. an evaluation of the .nl arbitration policy.

## Organisation

To ensure neutrality and a well-balanced final advice, the entire Debate is organised and run ‘at arms length’ from SIDN. An independent consultation team has been set up, which has been assigned to consult the local Internet community on these issues. The team is headed by a chair, Prof. Hans Franken (a renowned IT Law expert and member of the Dutch Senate) and assisted by an ad hoc advisory board, drawn from representatives from a whole range of organisations: industry, government and academia.

The Debate is conducted both through physical (public) hearings and online, through a dedicated web-portal and with discussion groups (cf. [www.domeinnaam.debat2006.nl](http://www.domeinnaam.debat2006.nl)). During the debate, this site also functions as a knowledge portal with the latest news and all relevant information on the Debate.

## Debate methodology

The process adopted for the Domain Name Debate is based on the methodology used in consultations run by the VN World Intellectual Property Organisation. It basically consists of four phases.

**Definition Phase:** The first phase (with a hearing on 30 November 2005) serves to introduce the issues and, more importantly, to agree upon the scope of the Debate. The debate topics are by nature high-level, fundamental policy choices. Detailed technical or operational issues concerning the registry's (in-house) business are explicitly kept outside the scope of debate.

The topics and considerations are initially identified by SIDN and elaborated in the form of proposals. Subsequently, they get well documented by the consultation team. The team and the advisory board also define specific questions, which underpin the further discussions on-line and at a public hearing. Once the questions are generally accepted, they subsequently act as guidance for the rest of the Debate, ensuring a focused discussion.

**Discussion Phase:** The next phase (held on 25-26 January 2006) focuses on crystallising out a common position by discussing the questions that are brought forward, through on-line discussions and a second public hearing. The objective here is to get all relevant considerations, arguments



and interests heard, and duly covered in the draft report. When it comes to the more heated discussions, it proves crucial to have a well-focused, well-informed, and politically savvy chair.

Aspiring legitimacy of the final-advice, it is clear to anyone that the consultation team aims for broad consensus, rather than a simple majority. Commonly, after the second round such a consensus will be reached on most topics. Otherwise, a more delicate balance of interests, concerns and considerations will need to be reflected in the draft report.

**Review Phase:** The third phase (scheduled for April 2006) focuses on publicly reviewing the draft report which results from the previous phase. Still a content-oriented discussion, this new round of on-line and public hearings serves to ensure that the draft report is a true and complete reflection of all relevant positions. As this round is more succinct and constrained in nature, it does not offer the opportunity to raise totally new ideas, approaches or concepts.

**Delivery Phase:** The fourth (and last) phase aims at processing any final changes to the draft report. Then the final report is delivered (scheduled for early June 2006), which provides a clear and well-motivated policy advice to SIDN. The Debate ultimately ends with a ceremonial presentation of the final report, and a discharge of the consultation team and advisory board.

The tiered approach of the Domain Name Debate provides a solid grounding and legitimacy to the outcome, which, in turn, will provide direction for amending the rules and regulations governing the .nl name space.

### **Maturing Process**

Over the years SIDN has benefited greatly from the close relations with its local Internet community. This has resulted in a fruitful basis for the ongoing development of a progressive naming policy.

As the use of Internet domain names has become more common, the local Internet community has been seeking continued liberalisation. Over the years we have seen a natural need to relax policy constraints. For instance, SIDN lifted the limitation of the number of domains that someone could register. In addition ex ante registration checks were abolished. Also other legal and geographical restrictions were loosened. Now, nearly anyone can register .nl domains (e.g. companies, private individuals, and non-le-

gal entities, world-wide).

Looking forward, the Internet industry and the community's demands will continue to evolve dynamically. It is a challenge for SIDN to find the best way of consultative policy making. Our experiences with the Debate so far have already given us some valuable insights.

### **Mounting the Learning Curve**

One of the lessons we have learned from the current consultation process, is that it is very difficult to hold the public's attention. This is partly due to the fact that the industry has stabilised, which is to a large extent the result of the solid groundwork done by top-level domain registries, such as SIDN. Nowadays, issues involving domain name are seen in perspective. Like most of its CENTR peers, SIDN runs a mature top-level domain, with little anomalies, structural abuse or social misbehaviour. Hence, to the general public it is a subject of rather low interest. Also, the time-span of the Debate process does not match the general public's attention-span. Inviting the general public to participate in the Debate only yields limited results. When it comes down to it, mostly constituency representatives show up and raise their voice, speaking on behalf of the industry, universities, professional specialists, specific interest groups, user and consumer organisations, agencies, and local, regional and national government.

During the previous debate of 2001 SIDN's legitimacy as registry was still being established. At this juncture, policy creation certainly required an extensive public process involving as many stakeholders as possible. In 2006 SIDN is a reputable company performing a recognised service and backed by a well-established naming policy. Legitimacy of the organisation is not a key issue anymore. This gives us the opportunity to focus even more on the communities needs and on finding the most effective method of doing so.

### **Fast Tracking**

The Debate process, as described, proves to be time-consuming, expensive, and too formal. Therefore, SIDN will evaluate the Debate thoroughly, and consider how the model can be revised to make it more streamlined. Various improvements could be considered:

**Skipping the First Phase:** Through recent experience we have learned that the definition phase can be procedurally somewhat confusing and might as well be excluded from

*Continued Back Page*

# Tackling Spam in the Courts

Nigel Roberts DipEngLaw

*Safeguards should be provided for subscribers against intrusion of their privacy by unsolicited communications for direct marketing purposes in particular by means of automated calling machine, telefaxes and email, including SMS messages. These forms of unsolicited commercial communications may on the one hand be relatively cheap and easy to send and on the other may impose a burden and/or cost on the recipient. Moreover, in some cases their volume may also cause difficulties for electronic communications networks and terminal equipment. For such forms of unsolicited communications for direct marketing, it is justified to require that prior explicit consent of the recipients is obtained before such communications are addressed to them."*

DIRECTIVE 2002/58/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT  
AND THE COUNCIL OF 12TH JULY 2002



About three or four years ago, the European Commission and the Parliament turned their attention to the issue of spam (although the problem was somewhat smaller then). They created a set of rights for individuals living in the (now) 25 Member States of the European Union and set out in the 'E-Privacy Directive' (2002/58/EC)

In Summer 2005 I received a spam email from a UK company advertising car leasing.

It personal, private email address. Through a combination of means I identified the originating marketing company, which was located in Scotland. In this particular case it wasn't hard, as no real attempt was made to conceal the identity of the advertising company sending out the emails.

I telephoned them and they seemed somewhat unconcerned, offering to unsubscribe me from their list.

So I wrote to them, pointing out that they were in breach of the European Directive. In response, they offered to pay a small sum to charity by way of apology, but refused to tell me how they had obtained my email address, despite making a formal Subject Access Request in accordance with Data Protection rules. It seemed to me that the marketing were extremely resistant to disclosing their source.

Ironically, I was told first of all that the "Data Broker" was not a company therefore their identity was protected by Data Protection laws. When after much discussion they eventually released the name of a company which they said was the 'Data Broker', it turned out to be a limited company which no longer existed, so this information was impossible to verify.

In light of the lack of co-operation, I issued a Claim in the small claims section of the County Court in England since their Registered Office was in England and Wales. The Small Claims Track is designed for claims under €8000 (approximately), and since it is intended for people to make and defend claims without a legal representation, no legal costs are able to be claimed by either party.

I claimed for an unspecified amount as it seemed almost impossible to quantify the damages beforehand. In order to stay within the minimum threshold (and the lowest filing fee), the claim made for "not more than £300 (€500 approx)

The claim was made under Regulation 30 of the UK regulations which implement the EC Directive.

The defendant filed an acknowledgement of claim but they failed to send in their defence by the appropriate deadline,

# Protecting the privacy of Internet users

## The .org registry perspective on WHOIS and privacy

David Maher, PIR

The privacy problems on the Internet are many and complex. Every time an Internet user discloses his or her name or address or credit card information, there is at least some risk that the information will be disclosed or, worse, fall into the hands of someone who will misuse the information. But Internet users may soon have greater protection for their personal information.

A conference held in conjunction with the November 2005 ICANN meeting in Vancouver, B.C., brought together more than 200 representatives from the global domain space, noncommercial and law enforcement communities to discuss how to change existing rules to better protect users' privacy. Participants also reviewed exemplary data protection models used by the .UK, .JP and .CA domains and by other industries.

PIR, a co-sponsor of the conference, has long been involved in efforts to change the amount of information disclosed when someone looks up a domain name through our WHOIS service. The WHOIS function serves the important purpose of letting users know whether a domain name is available, but current ICANN rules require PIR and other registries to also disclose the name, address and other personal information of anyone who registers a .ORG.

While greater privacy protection is vital for safeguarding users' information from those with malicious intent, people such as law enforcement officials also need to be able to find out who the true owners of domain names are to prove fraud or other criminal activity. At the Vancouver

conference, a good practical example of how to balance these concerns was presented by the managers of the new .NAME domain.

.NAME uses a new concept known as "tiered access." Through this service, the general public does not have access to personal data but can find out whether or not a domain name is registered. Other tiers of access to data about the domain registrant are available to law enforcement officials and to persons willing to agree to restrictions on the use of the information.

Since the conference, an informal coalition of representatives of the registry, registrar and noncommercial constituencies is keeping the momentum going by meeting with officials of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and other organizations to discuss the need for greater privacy protection. The good news is that the FTC, recognizing the growing concerns in this area, has recently created a Privacy and Identity Protection Division as part of its Bureau of Consumer Protection.

In addition, within ICANN, a task force on WHOIS is making some progress on recommendations for reform of the WHOIS rules. PIR is participating in this task force and in other activities, with the hope and expectation that privacy can be better protected.



so judgment in my favour was given "in default of defence". Once this had happened, the Court then set a date for a hearing on to how much the damages should be.

Following the judgment, the Defendant's lawyer contacted me, and negotiations took place which resulted in an out-of-court settlement for the maximum amount of the Claim (£300 less the filing fee), so no hearing was actually held.

From a consumer point of view, the story of the judgment generated an enormous amount of interest, with national and international newspapers describing it as a landmark. From the point of view of the defendant, it seems to me it

has been a bit of a PR disaster, since Google searches on their company name now show some 20,000 more references associate this company directly with the spam email and the judgment.

What conclusions can be reached from this? By using the existing court system, this case has shown that "offline" laws can regulate the "online" world. No special "Internet Courts" or a parallel system of rules are needed.

*Nigel Roberts is a director of Island Networks, the country code registry for the Channel Islands. Full details of the case can be found at [www.spamlegalaction.co.uk](http://www.spamlegalaction.co.uk)*



## Domain debate

*Continued from Page 17*

inition of questions. By now, the community has come to view the registry SIDN as sufficiently neutral and capable of setting the premises for the Debate autonomously. Thus an immediate start of a debate on content is facilitated.

Proposals, rather than Open Questions: The Domain Name Debate 2006 focused on a set of topics which are actually quite specific. It is clear that a good debate requires sufficient (neutral) guidance in terms of background documentation, clear procedures, and good consultation questions.

Ideally, such questions should be open questions, causing an open debate. Still, given the specific nature of the topics, it can prove challenging for the public (non-insiders) to participate effectively in the Debate. The community has come to see the registry as the centre of expertise when it comes to domain name issues. In such a Debate, they expect the registry to provide guidance in the form of objective background information and elaborated proposals for solutions, rather than open questions. The benefit of starting from a specific proposal is that discussions are

more to the point from the outset. This, in turn, fits well with the need to keep consultations short and snappy.

### To be continued...

The creation of naming policy is a complex process, which so far has proven to be very successful for the .nl name space. On the one hand, its legitimacy requires an open, inclusive, and thorough approach. On the other hand, the registry needs to stay 'light on its feet' so it can respond quickly to the needs of the community.

Both essential conditions require a careful evaluation of the Domain Name Debate 2006. This surely will surely show a need for shorter, more agile consultation cycles, possibly on an issue-by-issue basis, instead of one all-inclusive process. All these insights obtained through the Debate will certainly help SIDN in finding the most effective way of responding to the community's needs in the future.

Meanwhile we are looking forward to the development of the Domain Name Debate 2006, on which we are happy to report in the next editions of DomainWire.

*Bart Vastenburg is Director Legal, Policy, and Business Development of SIDN, the .nl domain registry.*

<http://www.domeinnaamdebat2006.nl>

## Upcoming Events

27-31 Mar	ICANN Wellington, New Zealand
3-4 April	ENUM Operations Event Vienna, Austria
24-28 April	RIPE 52 Istanbul, Turkey
9-11 May	Meeting on Multilingual Internet Geneva, Switzerland

24 May	CENTR Administration Workshop Madrid, Spain
25-26 May	CENTR General Assembly 30 Madrid, Spain
9-14 July	IETF 66 Montreal, Canada

This publication is produced by CENTR, the Council of European National Top-Level-Domain Registries. CENTR is a peak organisation of registries that manage domains such as .de for Germany, and .no for Norway. It meets regularly, providing a forum for knowledge sharing, as well as for developing common positions amongst its members. It is operated by a small secretariat, which works on CENTR's projects, as well as attending international forums on behalf of its members.

Membership in CENTR is open to any operator of a top level domain, not just European ccTLDs. CENTR counts amongst its members registries from around the world, together responsible for over 95% of the world's domains.

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