



CENTR news

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It had been a long, long time since the new gTLDs did not capture all the attention at an ICANN meeting. But last week, in Buenos Aires, it was not all about gTLDs. Internet governance was back. With a bang! Culminating in a last minute, 7am, standing room only, session no less than 10

sessions and meetings addressed the issue across the week. This was the consequence of a campaign launched in recent weeks by ICANN's CEO, Fadi Chehade, which included the [Montevideo statement](#), a meeting with the President of Brazil, Dilma Roussef, and many many miles around the world.

What came out of all of these discussions in Buenos Aires?

Very little, unfortunately. While very few challenged the call to action (see Maria Farrell's blog "[something has changed](#)"), discussions focused on process, mailing lists and legitimacy instead of substance. No "Buenos Aires statement"; no "petite phrase" in the media; and of course no consensus. And the elephant in the room, despite being called out by Fadi Chehade during the [opening session](#), remains. The oversight role of the US Government was mentioned several times, but sessions never came to debate about alternative solutions.

A missed opportunity

The [Montevideo statement](#) had done a pretty good job at framing the issue, explaining why action and change was needed. It even pointed out the need to review the US Government's role with regards to the core IANA functions.

But ICANN's key leaders, all of them veterans of the Internet governance, framed the debate in Buenos Aires in such a way that it never came to identify, let alone discuss, any options. Was that for fear of Washington pushback, as may be suggested by Steve DelBianco's, a US lobbyist for the Internet industry, [blog against the idea](#) ?

So the meeting focused on an initiative, 1net.org, which is barely more than a web site and a mailing list. Its "[setting the scene](#)" document is the closest to a vision you will find. However the stated purpose remains about catalysing a movement. This is kind of a circular definition that it will create a movement which is about catalysing a movement.

A couple of weeks ago, the IETF meeting in Vancouver was highly successful, in its own context, in framing the issue the Internet is facing (massive, pervasive, cheap surveillance), and elaborating a vision (hugely increasing the cost of surveillance). Communication around this vision was also very effective: "[we will strengthen the Internet](#)" was the message. This now puts this particular change in a good position (although many challenges remain).

ICANN and its community missed an opportunity in Buenos Aires to launch the debate about the future of IANA oversight. It will most certainly take place elsewhere. Anyone wanting to be part of this should, as a starting point, join the [I-coordination mailing list](#). Hopefully the substantial discussions will start soon...

Article by Mathieu Weill –
Courtesy of AFNIC

Network and Information security

CENTR opinion on the Draft Directive concerning measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the Union (NIS Directive).

CENTR members consider security as a top priority. As such, CENTR welcomes the Directive's focus on enabling a culture of security and trust: national strategies, national competent authorities, national CERTs and the cooperation network. However, there is some concern that the directive moves away from *enabling* the development of a security framework, in favour of a prescriptive, regulatory environment.

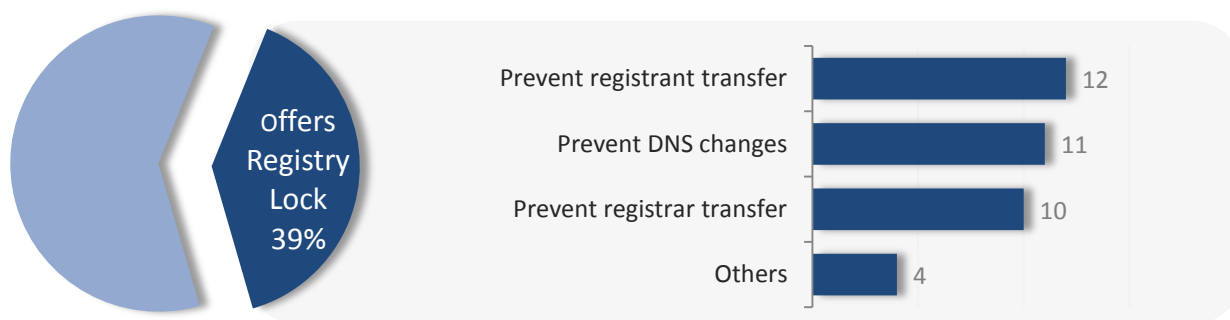
- The scope of the Directive is unduly broad and the lack of focus could place disproportionate demands on smaller market operators.
- We would welcome more focus on capacity building and developing trust. We are concerned that the regulatory and compliance-based approach could undermine this.
- Mandatory reports should not be required until the incident has been resolved. More thought needs to be given to how to use reports to improve network and information security in the EU.
- Consideration should be given to auditing or certification against standards, bearing in mind the size of some of the market operators and the specialist support networks in place in the domain name sector.
- Delegated acts could lead to unforeseen consequences and should not be introduced without extensive consultation and proper assessment.

The draft Directive is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Member States' Representatives in Brussels. CENTR opinion at http://www.centri.org/CENTR_opinion_on_EU_NIS_directive

The draft Directive is currently being discussed by the European Parliament and the Member States' Representatives in Brussels. Parliament and Council are expected to finalise their opinions by the first months of 2014. If there is agreement between both opinions, the new legislation could still be accepted before next year's European elections, and in such a scenario, has to be transposed into national law by 2016.

Survey highlights: Registry Lock

A domain name is the gateway to online presence, websites and e-commerce. To protect the high profile names several registries are providing additional domain locking services. These services introduce additional checks before a registry makes DNS-changes or for example transfers the domain to a new registrar. For example, the registry double checks who is requesting the change and if the domain holder confirms the request, they will proceed. The name and the details of the service may vary from registry to registry.



The merits of Registry lock services are currently being discussed by European ccTLD registries. In a recent CENTR survey 13 registries out of 32 answered that they offer such a service while others are still looking into it. Of the 13 registries that offer the service, most stated that preventing registrant transfer was included in the service. Other elements include 'prevent DNS changes' and preventing registrar transfers. 'Other' elements stated in responses were; update onsite-c extension - add/replace tech-c - update/add/replace onsite-c - replace registrant-c - update registrant-c - update nameserver - update nameserver group - add/replace nameserver group.



Don Hollander
General Manager
(APTLD)

What are some of the key challenges ccTLD operators face in the Asia Pacific region? While Europe has the EU as a ‘central’ Government, no such coordinated efforts by governments exist in the Asia Pacific Region (except for some work by the Gulf States). ccTLDs in the Asia Pacific Region are quite varied in their scale and approach. Yet, all, from the largest to the smallest, will want to make sure that their operations are Secure, Stable and Resilient. In addition, some will have policy issues that they’re grappling with and others will have commercial issues – including how to grow not only their traditional ASCII ccTLD, but their new IDN ccTLDs. They are also working through the implications of the hundreds of new gTLDs that are coming on stream. Internet Governance, at a local and global level are also issues that ccTLDs are engaged in.

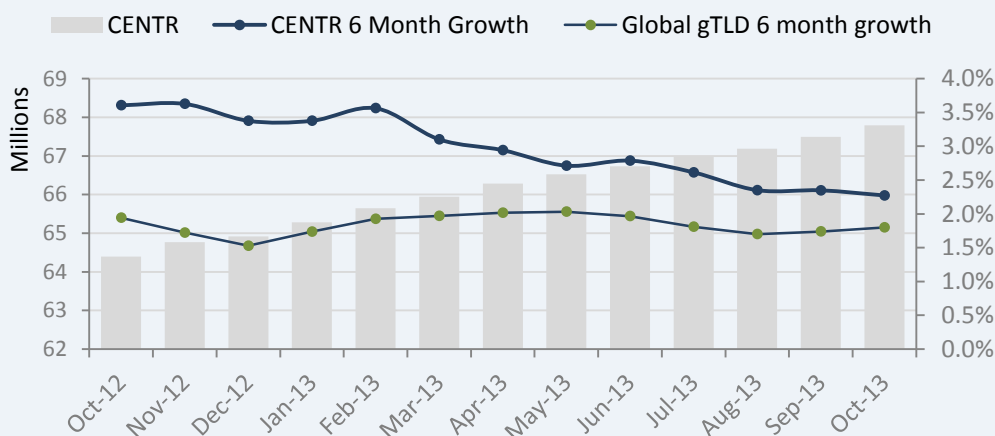
Can you tell us some of your plans for APTLD going forward? APTLD will continue its tradition of holding three meetings a year, spread across the region, to address issues and opportunities, to share experiences, and to collectively develop solutions. We’ll also be running some training programs at each gathering.

Since your previous time as APTLD General Manager and now, what changes have you seen in the ICANN space? After my first ICANN in several years, my sense is that ICANN is settling down. The big issues in my earlier tenure were IDN ccTLDs and how to make them happen quickly. The new gTLD program was just getting underway. Now, IDN ccTLDs and IDN gTLDs are all happening things. The new gTLDs are entering the root at a rate of knots. The mechanics of mult-stakeholderism seem to well bedded. ICANN is also becoming an international organisation that can engage with anyone, anywhere in the world, without the concerns and restrictions that being resident in the United States might bring. One thing I’m delighted to see unchanged is ICANN’s commitment to support ccTLDs to be the best that they can be, and to share the experiences that ICANN has seen in the gTLD space with the ccTLDs.

What in your view are the most important tasks for regional ccTLD organisations (such as APTLD)? I believe that ‘You have to eat your vegetables before you have your pudding’. The Regional Organisations must meet the needs of their respective members. I believe that they all do that and they are all committed to doing so. The biggest challenge globally for the Regional Organisations is to stay engaged with the developments in the Internet Governance space. The Four organisations work well together and have committed to share the load in the Internet Governance space.



ccTLD Registrations and Growth



CENTR Total Registrations
67,791,171

Over the past 6 months, CENTR members grew around 2.3% compared with 1.8% for gTLDs globally. High growth members in this period include .ir (Iran), .me (Montenegro) and .ru (Russia)

Stats quoted for month-end Oct 2013 - CENTR Full members

Source: CENTR stat database, gTLDs: Hosterstats.com

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

News Highlights



Click the titles to access the full articles

auDA reviewing WHOIS Policy auDA is currently reviewing the WHOIS Policy and has released an Issues Paper for public comment.

CZ.NIC launches the Good Domain educational campaign The aim of this ongoing campaign is to familiarise the public with the possibility of connecting their existence in the Internet world with their own domain.

DENIC launch redemption Grace period DENIC will launch a cooling-off service which applies for all 2nd level domain names in the .DE space and protect registrants against an unintentional loss of their domain(s), as a result of accidental deletion.

EC report: The .eu TLD model is operating effectively The European Commission has published the fourth, bi-annual report to the European Parliament and the Council on the functioning of the .eu top-level domain.

Strategic Plan to Promote DNSSEC Launched by Afnic To improve the protection of the French Internet against attacks on its DNS infrastructure, Afnic calls for acceleration in the deployment of DNSSEC

First DS records added to the .is zone Registrants can now add DS records for their domains to the .is zone. This formally makes it possible to activate DNSSEC for any .is domain

The 3em1 Initiative A group of 10 registrars joined the DNS.PT on the launching of a new initiative to nationally promote the Internet: 3em1. Learn more about 3em1: www.3em1.pt

Andrei Kolesnikov: ".RU, .PФ and .SU are the base of the Russian Internet brand" 10th Runet Award ceremony was held in RIA Novosti Center. The Runet Award is an annual event; the awards are given for achievements in expanding and promoting the Internet in Russia.

.SE releases world's first EPP Self-Test Tool We recently released a software suite to test the EPP protocol – the first of its kind in the world. And naturally it is open source!

Nominet ushers in new era for .uk namespace Nominet have announced the introduction of second level domain names in the .uk namespace as well as initiatives that will enhance the security of the UK namespace, and contribute to the security of the web as a whole.

ICANN48 - Buenos Aires

ICANN 48 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina between 17-21 November 2013. As many expected, the meta theme to the conference was Internet Governance given recent developments from Brazil, the Montevideo statement from ISTAR and the IGF in Bali. The theme pervaded all groups within ICANN and had dedicated sessions (eg the new 'high interest topic' session between leaders from the Supporting Organisations and Advisory Committees. CENTR has produced its full report from the ICANN48 meeting which includes details from the ccNSO, GAC and GNSO sessions as well as Internet Governance related meetings held during the week. Click the report (right) to access



Upcoming CENTR Meetings

6th CENTR Security workshop, Brussels (Belgium) – 28-29 January 2014

Contact CENTR

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