



Following the terrible events in Brussels on 22 March 2016, the CENTR Secretariat wishes to extend its deepest condolences to the victims' families and friends. Our thoughts are with them and our hearts with Belgium in these difficult times. The team also wishes to express its gratitude towards all members and friends who sent us heart-warming messages of support. The sense of belonging to an inclusive and considerate community has never been greater.



Byron Holland reflects on his time at the helm of the ccNSO

By Byron Holland, President and Chief Executive Officer of CIRA, and former Chair of the ccNSO

Over my tenure as chair and vice-chair of the ccNSO, I witnessed many changes in the ICANN ecosystem. At ICANN's Monday Public Forum in Marrakech, I half-jokingly referred to the fact that there have been three ICANN presidents since I was first elected chair – Rod Beckstrom, Fadi

Chehade and Göran Marby – but there were other, more subtle changes along the way.

Those of us who remember the discussions and deliberations leading up to the new gTLD program will recall that the process was characterized by its painfully slow pace. Fast forward to the recent IANA Stewardship Transition and ICANN Accountability discussions, and it's clear that the ICANN community is now moving at a blisteringly fast pace.

That acceleration of pace is challenging for the multi-stakeholder volunteer community, especially, I believe, those of us in the ccTLD world. Our landscape has been changing. We're experiencing flattening or declining growth rates. The introduction of new gTLDs has been a disruptive force in our industry, increasing our competition tenfold. Our day jobs as ccTLD operators have become more demanding as we endeavour face these new challenges. As a result, many of us may decide that these broader Internet governance processes need to take a back seat to growing our businesses.

As the operator of .CA I understand this, and I understand how those demands at home can make it difficult to participate in processes like ICANN or CENTR or the Internet Governance Forum. In my opinion, however, we cannot ignore

these important fora. Global discussions about the management of Internet resources have the potential to have a real and lasting impact on our future. It therefore behooves us to not just follow these discussions, but take leadership roles within them when appropriate.

I believe ccTLDs occupy a unique space in the global Internet ecosystem. Yes, we are registries like our gTLD cousins, but we are often much more than that. We are active in the Internet governance discourse, and we are 'boots on the ground' in our home countries. Many of us are involved in everything from national and regional Internet Governance Forums to fostering domestic Internet policy development and contributing to the national infrastructure. Furthermore, ccTLD operators represent a wide variety of business models and organizational structures. In short, we are the embodiment of the multi-stakeholder model.

And despite the real business challenges we have been facing over the past several years, the ccTLD community rose to the challenge in the IANA Stewardship Transition and the ICANN Accountability processes, and had a significant and positive effect on their outcomes. In fact, a few CENTR members took on leadership roles - Mathieu Weill from .FR and Lise Fuhr, formerly of .DK. Their work will ensure the security and stability of the IANA functions, and has resulted in a future ICANN that should operate with real accountability for the benefit of the entire Internet community.

I believe it our duty as the ccTLD community to step up and assume leadership roles when necessary, as many of our CENTR colleagues have done. We cannot afford to ignore these broader processes, even when we are consumed by our day-to-day work at home. This 'volunteerism' is what created the multi-stakeholder model, and it is what will ensure its future success.

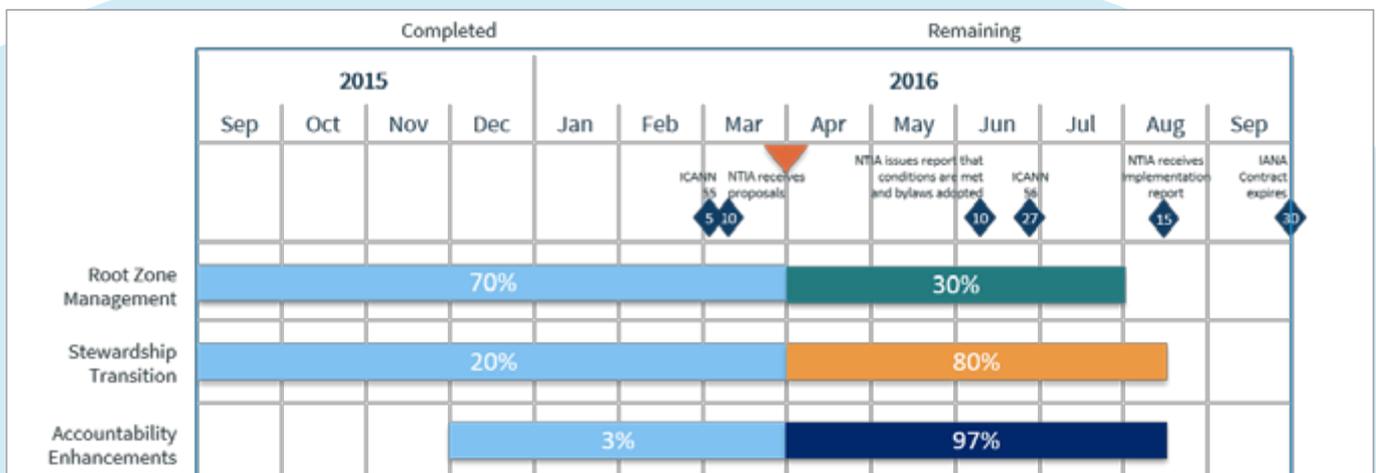
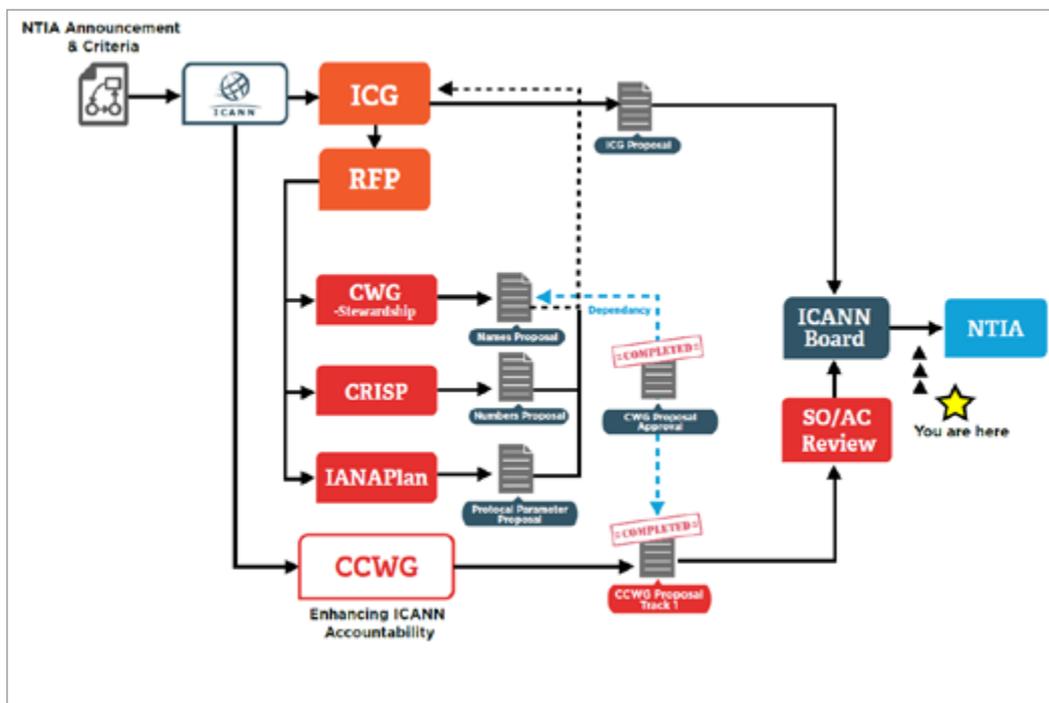
IANA Stewardship Transition: next steps

By Peter Van Roste, CENTR General Manager

The euphoria following ICANN55 in Marrakech was probably hard to miss. And indeed, the completion of the IANA Stewardship Transition proposal and the ICANN accountability improvement proposal are significant milestones. While it has been stressed this was only part of the journey, it was a perilous part of the journey and stakeholders collectively avoided tripping over the obstacles on the path. The next step is the implementation of this package and as always, when policy is turned into operations it will be essential to stick closely not just to the letter but also to the intent of what was proposed. Timing will be challenging: implementing bylaw changes, setting up structures and finding skilled volunteers to participate in the new process will be hard. The implementation can be tracked on <https://www.icann.org/stewardship-implementation>. Of particular interest to ccTLDs is the finalisation of the Service Level Expectations (SLEs) for the future IANA. As the process for any root zone change requests will change significantly, historical SLEs need to be adapted. A team of volunteers from the ccTLD community (including Patricio Poblete, Paul Kane and Jay Daley) is currently working with IANA staff to identify the right datasets and benchmarks that will allow for the highest but most reasonable SLEs.

In the meantime, the first US Congressional hearing since the adoption by the Board, which was held on 17 March 2016, went quite well. A wide range of stakeholders convincingly advocated that the multistakeholder model delivered what was required by the NTIA.

Transition process



EU Policy Update

By Nina Elzer, CENTR Policy Advisor



EU Member States ill-prepared for cyber threats

This is the result of a recent ENISA [study](#) analysing the crisis management frameworks in the sectors of aviation, civil protection, border control, counter-terrorism and health and disease control. It is particularly important to focus not only on the mitigation of the *effect* of (a) cyber crisis, but also on the mitigation of the cyber incidents that *caused* it, the report states.

Don't condemn online platforms

Under the lead of the UK government, eleven EU Member States have urged the EU Commission in a [letter](#) not to consider online platforms as a threat but as an opportunity. As platforms are already covered by regulation, the focus should lie on implementing existing laws “effectively and consistently”. For new regulation the eleven require “clear and compelling evidence of need”.

Whatsapp takes Apple vs. FBI to the next level

The Facebook-owned messaging service Whatsapp has added full end-to-end encryption for its 1 billion user-base across all communications (calls, message, photo, video, files, voice) and all devices. Not even employees would be able to read the data, implying that Whatsapp could not comply with any court order asking it to do so (see this [article](#)). In the meantime, the FBI has come under (but not given into) [pressure](#) to reveal how it cracked the San Bernardino iPhone. So far it is only confirmed that the method worked on that particular phone, but has reportedly been tested on devices used in other mostly drug-crime related cases.

EU-US Privacy Shield: DPA opinion expected

The Article 29 Working Party (WP), the grouping of the EU data protection authorities (DPA) is expected to adopt its (non-binding) opinion at the plenary meeting on 12-13 April. The WP wants guarantees that Europeans' privacy rights are respected and that they have access to judicial redress. Both commercial and national security aspects will also weigh in.

Commission pushes back DSM announcement, again

A package of communications planned to be released on 11 April have now been pushed back to April 18. The package concerns the digitisation of European industry, ICT standards and the EU Cloud initiative (s.a. leaked versions in March EU Policy Update).

EC3 kicks off cyber awareness campaign on Twitter

With one “[cyber card](#)” a day Europol's cybercrime centre aims to inform the public about the different cybercrimes circulating on the net. “Malware” and “Trojans” were among the first items to be explained.

US Copyright Office analyses need for DMCA reform

Until 1 April, the US Copyright Office gathered [public input on the DMCA](#) (Digital Millennium Copyright Act). Its notice and take down provisions grant limited liability to hosts for online content. Fair use exemptions allow users to make limited use of protected material. Whereas some interest groups (s.a. [call by 400 artists](#)) lobby for copyright to be strengthened, others call for [penalties for copyright owners](#) who abuse the system by sending thousands of automated takedown notices.

EU concerned about dark-web drug market

The [2016 EU Drug Markets Report](#) suggests an ever increasing use of the Internet by drug dealers, especially of the so-called dark net. The EU's drug strategy therefore aims a reducing the supply of illicit drugs, among other things, through “effective intelligence-led law enforcement and increased intelligence sharing”. Coordination should run through Europol.

[See March EU Policy Update](#)

[See April EU Policy Update](#)

DIDS 2016 conference on the Internet and the modern world, held in Belgrade on 15-16 March More than 370 visitors and 1300 online viewers watched 50 domestic and foreign speakers at the seventh annual Internet conference - Serbian Internet Domain Day – DIDS 2016. The slogan of the Conference was “Living the Internet... Globally – Securely – Locally”

.pt renewed ISO 9001:2008 certification DNS.pt renewed its commitment to quality ensuring the renewal of ISO 9001: 2008 certification of .pt

Final edition of The.nlyst (SIDN) This is the final edition of The.nlyst. Our quarterly magazine is being replaced by a monthly e-mail newsletter.

How satisfied are registrars with DNS Belgium service? DNS Belgium has received the results of the annual satisfaction survey of its registrars. Eighty-one registrars took part and gave an excellent general score of 8.1 out of 10.

TLD operators get DDoS protection and advanced DNS analytics from CIRA New D-Zone Anycast DNS service allows .kiwi to gain insight on domain traffic and market high-value domains

CZ.NIC Association works with Czech TV on a new program to teach your aunt about the Internet The CZ.NIC Association, together with the Czech TV launches a new educational project related to Internet and Internet technologies.

.eu in Cyrillic nearing launch The launch of the much anticipated .eu top-level domain in Cyrillic will occur on June 1, 2016.

Launch of the 4th Edition of Afnic’s “Technology Backdrop” Survey Afnic has launched the fourth edition of its “Technology Backdrop” survey, which aims to seek a common vision for technology trends.

Domain names with ‘fadas’ (á, é, í, ó, ú) to be available for first time Irish businesses will be able to register websites with fadas when the policy changes later this year, public consultation to run until 21 March.

CENTR publishes its ICANN55 Report

The ICANN55 meeting was held in Marrakech on 5-10 March 2016. This CENTR report covers the ccNSO, GNSO and GAC sessions by topic and theme.



Upcoming CENTR events

17-19 May 2016

CENTR Jamboree 2016 (Brussels, Belgium)

Upcoming industry events

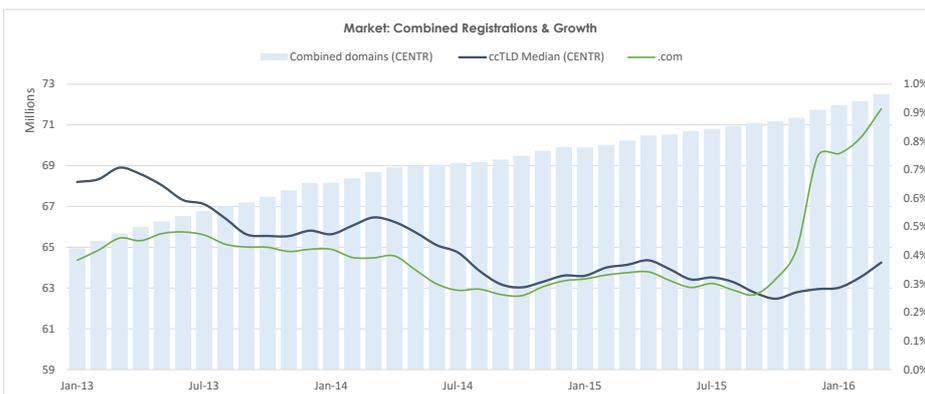
9-10 June 2016

EuroDIG 2016 (Brussels, Belgium)

27-30 June 2016

ICANN56 (Helsinki, Finland)

Domain Name Statistics



Source: CENTR (based on 57 ccTLDs), ICANNwiki

Growth lines use 3-month moving averages to smooth the line * Refers to CENTR full members only

CENTR combined registrations*

72.5 million

Combined domains over 58 CENTR member TLDs (mostly in the European region) is just over 72.5 million. Growth over the past 12 months of this groups is around 3.2% with a median ccTLD growth of around 4%.