

# The ICANN Experiment

ARIN-Calgary

3-April-2000

Borrowed from

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# The Basic Bargain

ICANN =

Internationalization of Policy Functions  
for DNS and IP Addressing systems

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Private Sector (Non-governmental)  
Management

# What does ICANN do?

Coordinates policies relating to the unique assignment of:

- Internet domain names
- Numerical IP Address
- Protocol Port and Parameter Numbers

Coordinates the DNS Root Server System  
- through Root Server System Advisory  
Committee

# Status Quo Ante

Most Internet DNS and IP Address coordination functions performed by, or on behalf of, the US government

- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
  - Information Sciences Institute (ISI) of University of Southern California
  - Stanford Research Institute (SRI)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - IBM, MCI, and Merit
  - AT&T, General Atomics, Network Solutions, Inc.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Department of Energy

# IANA

*Jon Postel*  
*1943-1998*



# Need for Change

- Globalization of Internet
- Commercialization of Internet
- Need for accountability
- Need for more formalized management structure
- Dissatisfaction with lack of competition
- Trademark/domain name conflicts

# White Paper Principles

White Paper: new policy/management structure must promote 4 goals:

- Stability
- Competition
- Private, bottom-up coordination
- Representation

# White Paper Implementation

- Internet community to form nonprofit corporation meeting White Paper's 4 criteria
- US Government (through Commerce Department) to transition centralized coordination functions
- Amendment of Network Solutions agreement to require competitive registrars in gTLD registries
- WIPO to recommend solutions for trademark/domain-name dilemma

# White Paper on ccTLDs

“...[O]verall policy guidance and control of the TLDs and the Internet root server system should be vested in a single organization that is representative of Internet users around the globe.”

[63 Fed. Reg. 31741, 31749 (June 10, 1998)]

# Status of Transition from USG

- 25 November, 1998 - ICANN recognized in MoU
- June, 1999 - Cooperative agreement among ICANN, US Government, root server operators
- 10 November, 1999
  - ICANN and Network Solutions sign gTLD registry and registrar agreements
  - DoC transfers root authority over gTLDs to ICANN
- 9 February, 2000
  - Contract with US Government to complete transfer of IANA functions
- 1 March, 2000
  - Agreement with IETF to continue IANA protocol numbering function

# Other Accomplishments

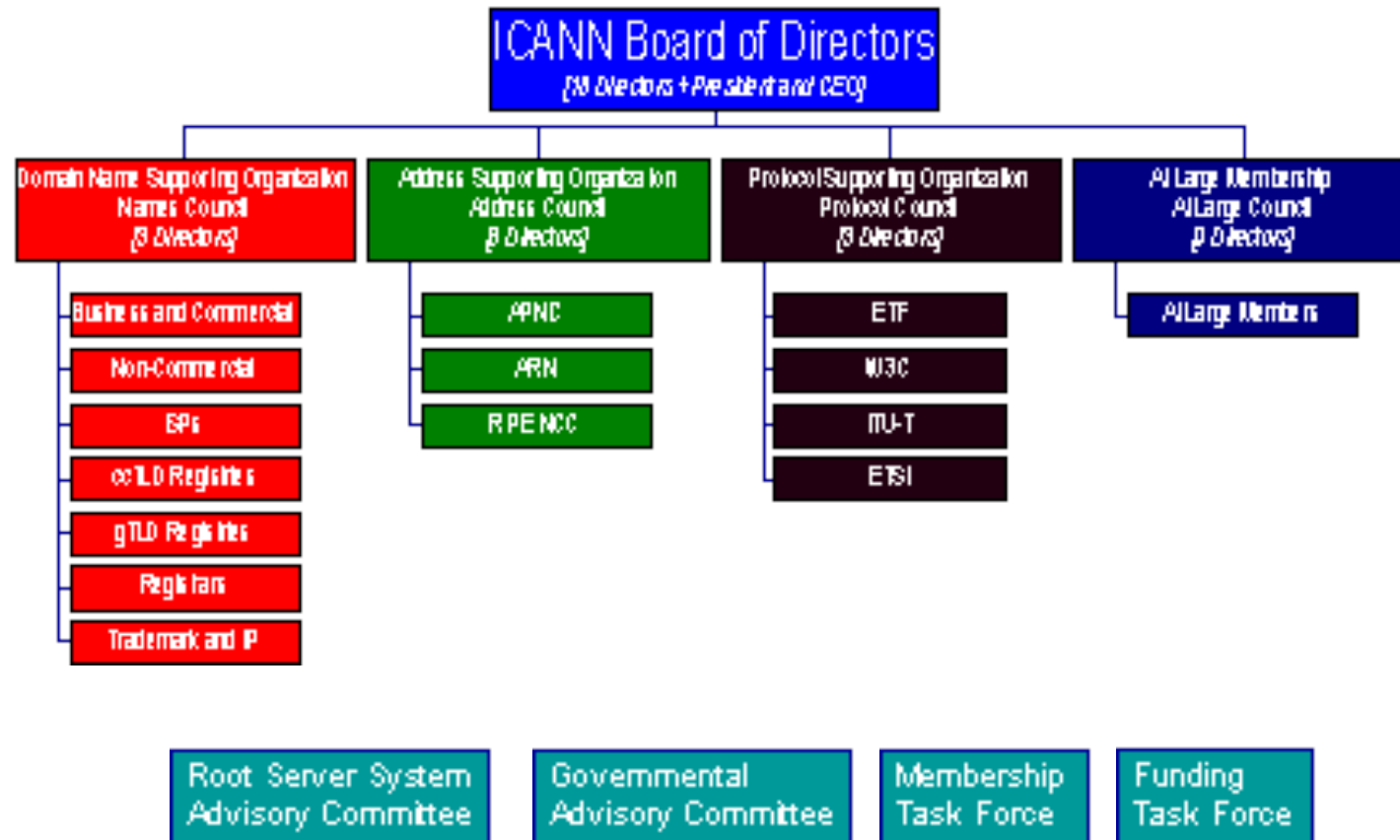
- Shared registry system
- Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy
- Creation of Supporting Organizations & MOUs
- Membership definitions and Membership Implementation Task Force established
- CEO Search Committee underway

# Remaining Transition Items

- Year 2000:
  - ccTLD registry agreements
  - IP Address registry agreements
  - Root server operator agreements
- September 30, 2000 - Target date for ICANN to settle all registry/registrar/root server relationships

# Structure of ICANN

# ICANN



# ICANN Staff

## Current Staff:

- President and CEO (Mike Roberts)
- Vice President/General Counsel (Louis Touton)
- CFO/Policy Director (Andrew McLaughlin)
- IANA staff (2.5 full-time)
- Membership Project Manager (Jody Baram)

# Geographic and Cultural Diversity

- Geographically diverse Board of Directors
- Directors elected by Supporting Organizations
  - 4-Europe
  - 3-North America
  - 1- Latin America
  - 1-Asia/Pacific
- At Large Directors – current
  - 4-North America
  - 3 Europe
  - 2-Asia Pacific
- At Large Directors – future
  - 1 from each of 5 regions + 4 (to be determined)

# Geographic and Cultural Diversity

- Geographically diverse Supporting Organization councils
- Geographically diverse ICANN meetings
  - Singapore
  - Berlin
  - Santiago
  - Los Angeles
  - Cairo
  - Yokohama (July 14-16, 2000)
- Future efforts: Multiple languages; staff diversity

# Results of Cairo Meetings

- New top-level domain registries
  - Board set schedule in order to take action in July (Yokohama meeting)
- ccTLD delegation and administration policies
  - Board directed staff to work with ccTLDs to complete contracts
- At Large Membership & elections
  - 5 Directors to be elected by direct vote of the At Large members before November
- ICANN Budget for 2000-2001
- Independent Review Policy

# Does ICANN regulate/govern?

- No: ICANN coordinates.
- But: technical coordination tasks sometimes require touching non-technical policy areas:
  - Data privacy protection
  - Intellectual property/trademark law
  - Competition law

# Lessons from the Experiment?

- Private-sector self-regulation is possible
- Global consensus is difficult to define; even harder to achieve
  - Consensus can be achieved in the technical community from which ICANN was created, because you can test options and measure results
  - Consensus on policy questions is elusive, because you can't rely on objective data to choose between values

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# For More Further Information:

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