

Update on ccTLD Agreements

Montevideo

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Andrew McLaughlin



Introduction

- Posted last week:
 - ccTLD Update, with background and explanation
 - Two model agreements: Agreement for Triangular Situations; MoU for Legacy Situations
- Reasons for posting –
 - Finalization of proposed agreement with auDA
 - Facilitate one-to-one negotiations with transparency to everyone
 - Provide texts for community discussions

ccTLD Update Postings

- Discussion paper overview
 - Based on past two years of face-to-face and ccTLD constituency meetings
 - Built on materials and drafts from community
- Background on the role and responsibilities of ccTLDs in the DNS
 - History of ccTLD delegations
 - RFC 1591; IANA News Memos; ICP-1

Need for Agreements

- Make ICANN-ccTLD relationships:
 - Formalized & defined
 - Transparent to all
 - Reliable
- ICANN's MoU with US Government
 - Complete transition means 'develop appropriate relationships with other entities involved in the Internet's operation'

Key contributions from the community

- ccTLD Best Practice Guidelines for ccTLD Managers (version 4.1, June 2001)
 - Published by ccTLD Constituency
 - Reflects well established principles of trusteeship and responsibility to local Internet community
- GAC Principles
 - Emphasizes private sector leadership
 - Framework of accountability

Areas of Agreement

- As Internet increases in importance for everyone, good idea to make relationships more solid, formal, transparent, and reliable.
- Delegated ccTLD manager serves as a trustee in service of the local Internet community

Big Picture

“The designated manager is the trustee of the top-level domain for both the nation, in the case of a country code, and the global Internet community.”

— J. Postel, RFC 1591

Multiple Models Required

- No single agreement, or single structure, will work for every ccTLD
 - Enormous diversity of management structures
 - Organizational forms
 - Mechanisms of accountability
 - Relationships (or not) with governments

Two Basic Situations

- Legacy situation: The IANA monitors the trust locally and globally
- Triangular situation: The national government, where interested, commits to responsible monitoring of the local interest; IANA monitors the global interest

Documents for the Two Situations

- **Legacy situation: Agreement between ICANN and ccTLD manager**
- **Triangular situation:**
 - ccTLD manager & national government: agreement or equivalent addressing local interest (see .ca Umbrella Agreement)
 - National government & ICANN: letter or other communication
 - ccTLD manager & ICANN: agreement covering global interest
- **Flexibility to accommodate other situations**

Points to be covered

- Redelegation & applicable principles
- Local and global policy responsibilities
 - ccTLD ==> local Internet community
 - ICANN ==> global Internet community
- ccTLD relationship with ICANN/IANA
 - Detailed definition of ICANN/IANA responsibilities & standards for performing them
- ICANN funding for DNS coordination functions, root server, etc.

Triangular Situation

- Applies where ccTLD and government reach their own arrangement
- Topics covered:
 - Recognize delegation; standards for redelegation
 - Local and global policy responsibilities
 - ccTLD–ICANN/IANA relationship
 - Technical specification
 - Stable and secure registry & nameserver operations
 - ICANN/IANA responsibilities to maintain:
 - Authoritative root server system
 - Authoritative and publicly available ccTLD database
 - Audit trail regarding changes & redelegations
 - ICANN funding – ‘in accordance with an equitable scale, based on ICANN’s total funding’

Legacy Situations

- Government not directly involved
- Model MoU for legacy situations
 - Light & minimalist
 - Memorializes existing intended commitments of ICANN and ccTLD manager
 - Balance: Government informed, but consent not required
 - Work this out in cooperation with ccTLD manager

Progress to Date

- Steady progress
 - (What a long, strange trip it's been...)
- Each ccTLD is in a different situation regarding type of agreement and timing
 - E.g., Australia (.au)
- Strong need for face-to-face discussion & negotiation; also strong need for transparency & community discussion
 - Understand local situations; matrix into global framework
- Staff capacity: We're able to do 5 a month

What's next...

- A 'non-legal' explanation of the current models posted
- Triangular model where GAC principles have been implemented; Legacy model as baseline for all other situations
- Regional meetings provide great opportunities to go through models in gruesome detail
- Face to face meetings have been useful and will be focus in coming months

A Plea

- Read the model agreements WITH the ccTLD Update!
 - Lots of good explanation and context
 - Effort to avoid misinterpretation or misunderstanding

And Finally...

Special Announcement:

New ICANN Logo!