

LAC YEAR IN REVIEW

2018



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The Year In Review



Dear ICANN community,

In 2018, all three ICANN Public Meetings were held in Spanish-speaking countries for the first time and two in the LAC region. The ICANN61 Community Forum was held in Puerto Rico and featured 30 stakeholders from the Caribbean. ICANN62 was held in Panama in June and was the first ICANN Policy Forum organized in the region.

As this report details, we have prioritized our regional outreach and engagement efforts. The LAC team was thrilled to see the meetings return to the region, where we experienced a high level of engagement from regional stakeholders. We look forward to hosting the next meeting in the LAC region when the ICANN67 Community Forum is held in Cancún, Mexico in 2020. The outreach has paid off by facilitating a critical infrastructure update, boosting participation in local events, and further strengthening our existing important regional relationships.

Rodrigo de la Parra

Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Managing Director, LAC Regional Office.



ICANN's Successful KSK Rollover

On 11 October 2018, ICANN successfully changed the cryptographic key that helps protect the Domain Name System (DNS). The Key Signing Key (KSK) rollover process required ICANN org to reach out to all of the parties that operate validating resolvers to make sure they were ready.

In order to help prepare for a smooth transition, the LAC team focused its efforts in Brazil, which is home to a huge number of Autonomous System Numbers and independent regional Internet Service Providers (ISPs). Ed Lewis from ICANN's Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) said during the [GTER46 | GTS32](#) meeting held in Sao Paulo that 18 percent of ISPs enabled with Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) are Brazilian. The LAC team partnered with the Brazilian Network Information Center ([NIC.br](#)) and travelled to eight Brazilian states (Sao Paulo, Piaui, Minas Gerais, Goias, Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe, Bahia, and Santa Catarina) to deliver KSK rollover readiness instructions during the [IX Regional Forum](#). It was a great opportunity to engage with the large community of professionals that provide Internet services to remote cities.

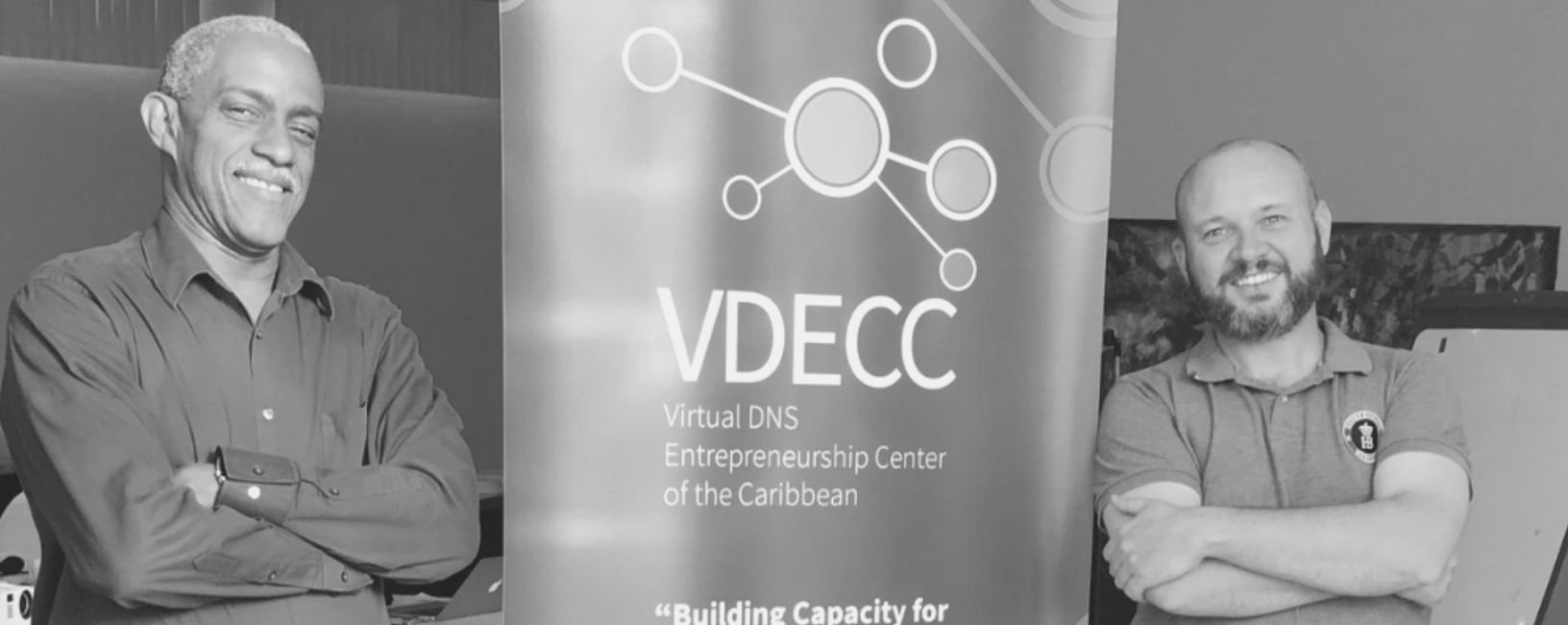
After the rollover, no significant problems were reported in our region or globally. The KSK rollover was a success due to significant outreach efforts, including the engagement from our regional stakeholders and technical community. This dedication helped achieve a critical update to the Internet's infrastructure.

Implementation of the Renewed LAC Strategy

More streamlined projects allowed us to be more effective in achieving our regional objectives and goals in 2018. Our traditional initiatives like the LAC-i-Roadshow and the LAC Space are now complemented by new projects that are proving useful to our community.

We have a new initiative designed specifically to provide our regional stakeholders with tools to facilitate greater participation in ICANN's policy development processes (PDPs) and other policy discussions. Our new LAC Session on PDPs was held at two ICANN Public Meetings (ICANN61 and ICANN62), and featured high attendance rates with meaningful interaction between community members.

We also launched projects aimed at raising awareness of key policy developments before, during, and after ICANN Public Meetings. Find out more about these below.



Enhancing Engagement In the Caribbean

Like many of our projects in the LAC region, it is enabled by our partnerships with local operators, in this case: the Caribbean Network Operators Group (CARIBNOG), Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU), Caribbean Association of National Telecommunications Organizations (CANTO), and the Latin American and Caribbean Association of ccTLDs (LACTLD).

In September 2018, over 300 participants who were taking part in the Caribbean Telecommunication Union (CTU) Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Week were able to check out what VDDEC has to offer.

The new [Virtual DNS Entrepreneurship Center of the Caribbean \(VDDEC\)](#) is one of our key LAC Strategy initiatives in the Caribbean. Launched on 19 February 2018 in Trinidad and Tobago, the VDDEC is a capacity-building center for Caribbean digital entrepreneurs. It serves as an information and networking resource for business opportunities tailored to the Caribbean region, allowing Caribbean organizations and entrepreneurs to engage with the DNS industry.

Additional 2018 activities and events in the Caribbean include the organization of a capacity building workshop for Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) members and ICANN's sponsorship and participation in the Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (CIGF14) held in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Engagement with LAC Registries and Registrars

In 2018, we collaborated with ICANN's Global Domains Division (GDD) to deepen our relationship with contracted parties. The LAC team shared recent ICANN policy developments and participation opportunities with generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries and registrars in the region, in addition to helping fulfill compliance obligations.

In November 2018, we held a training in Brazil after the LAC DNS Forum. Regional gTLD registries met in São Paulo for a workshop on registry operations and strategy organized by GDD and the LAC Global Stakeholder Engagement (GSE) team. With the support of ICANN leaders from the Brand Registry Group (BRG) and the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), the workshop provided a full day of activities addressing capacity-building and strengthening community ties. Since a large number of LAC registries are new, the workshop also covered topics related to contractual obligations, operations, and marketing strategies.



LAC Regional Office in Action

The LAC Regional Office at the Casa de Internet in Montevideo, Uruguay was renovated in 2018, allowing the LAC team to increase the number of activities held there. One of the first new events was a readout session to summarize key issues discussed at ICANN62. The first part of the session featured highlights from the Advisory Committee (AC) and Supporting Organization (SO) sessions. The second part focused on high-level topics such as the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) for the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. To cover these topics, ICANN Board Members Lito Ibarra and Leon Sanchez attended, along with other regional leaders from Peru, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, and Guatemala. More information can be found, [here](#). The LAC team will continue to hold readout sessions at the regional office after every ICANN Public Meeting in 2019.

The regional office also hosted an internal all-hands meeting in December 2018. ICANN org staff members from various departments attended to brainstorm new engagement strategies.

In the final section of this report, ICANN's Board Members from our region, León Sánchez and Lito Ibarra, share their thoughts on our main challenges and accomplishments during 2018 and our main focus for 2019: the new five-year cycle of ICANN's strategic planning process. Our regional team will be actively disseminating information and collecting input from our community to add our regional voice to this important process.

We will also continue to implement the projects of the renewed LAC Strategy and collaborate with our partners on our regional events like the LAC DNS Forum, LAC Space, LAC Session on PDPs, and the LAC-i-Roadshow.

We wish you all a very successful 2019 and we hope to see plenty of Caribbean and Latin Americans - either in person or remotely- at this year's ICANN Public Meetings and regional events.

Celebrating Five Years of the LAC Strategy

We are proud to have witnessed how the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) Strategy has evolved over the past five years into a critical tool for outreach, engagement, and capacity building in the LAC community. Working with our community members to implement the regional strategy has been very rewarding.

Below is an outline of some of the most relevant projects developed in 2018 in partnership with our vibrant and dynamic regional community.

Capacity Building and Outreach Webinars

215

Community members participated in nine webinars covering topics like Rights Protection Mechanisms (RPMs), the Fellowship and NextGen Programs, New gTLD Subsequent Procedures, the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and the Universal Acceptance (UA) project in Brazil.

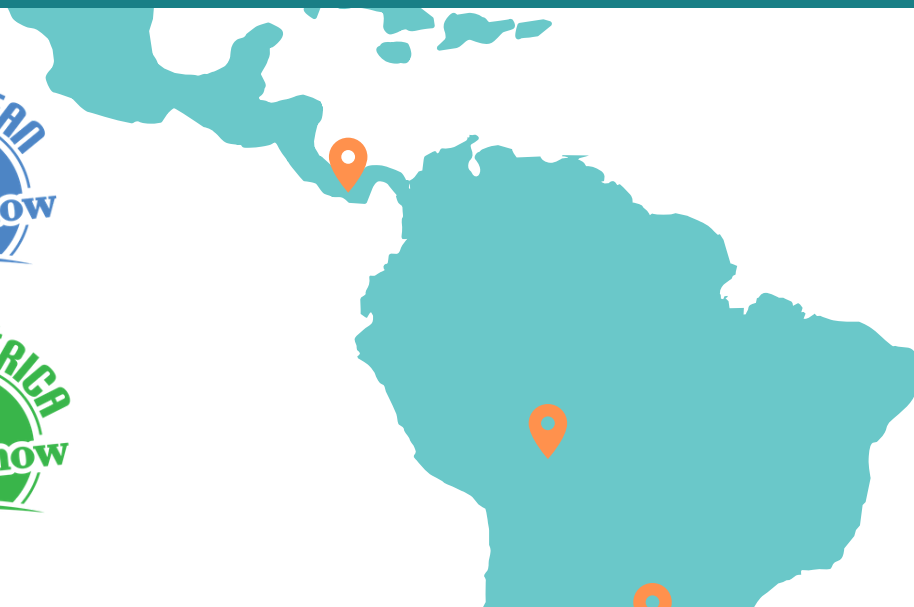
Support and Outreach

Each year, our team helps the Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization (LACRALO) community and Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) members promote their organizations and attend regional events. In 2018, Martin Silva, GNSO council member from Argentina, attended the LAC-i-Roadshow that was held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia on 22 November, where he gave a presentation on GNSO participation.

LAC-I-Roadshow

123

Regional community members attended three LAC-I-Roadshows in Bolivia, Uruguay, and Panama. These workshops covered key topics related to the critical infrastructure of the Domain Name System (DNS).



Mapping the LAC Community's Participation

This project guides our outreach and engagement efforts in the region. The LAC community's participation in the ICANN ecosystem is mapped and participation gaps in different demographic and geographic areas are identified.

In 2018, we published the first draft of the regional participation map. We asked for input from community leaders to help determine the optimal participation rates for each Supporting Organization (SO) and Advisory Committee (AC), as well as other metrics.

Communication and Awareness of Policy Development Processes (PDPs)

LAC Sessions on PDPs at ICANN Public Meetings

The LAC team held PDP sessions at ICANN Public Meetings in an effort to increase and support participation in policy development processes (PDPs). The sessions inform newcomers about PDPs and community members share best practices. In 2018, a total of 65 regional community members attended two PDP sessions held at ICANN61 and ICANN62.

LAC PDP Experiences Series

For our first edition at ICANN63 in Barcelona, Spain, GNSO Councilors Martín Pablo Silva and Carlos Raul Gutierrez, NPOC Communications Chair Juan Manuel Rojas, and Caribbean community member Jacqueline Morris shared experiences and some common challenges. They also highlighted the importance of participation from LAC community members. You can read their stories [here](#) and learn about how to get more involved in ICANN.

The LAC PDP Experiences series was launched to build meaningful connections in the LAC community and provide a platform to share participation opportunities at ICANN. Members of the community tell their story of how they became involved in ICANN and its PDPs.



LAC Space

The LAC Space is a unique networking opportunity for regional community members, where information and opinions related to the ICANN-related work can be shared either in person at ICANN Public Meetings or remotely. A total of 85 regional community members attended the LAC Spaces held at ICANN61 and ICANN63.

85

Contest and Awards

The LACRALO leadership recognized the need for increased participation from the LAC region in ICANN's policy development process (PDP) webinars. With this in mind, the Contest and Awards initiative was created to encourage participation from community members.

In 2018, the winner of the contest was Harold Arcos from Venezuela. Arcos visited ICANN's regional office at the Casa de Internet in Montevideo, Uruguay and learned more about partner organizations in the region. A blog detailing his experience is available, [here](#).



The Country-Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) Internship Program

ICANN and the Internet Addresses Registry for Latin America and Caribbean (LACNIC) sponsored a new technical training initiative for members of the Venezuelan National Information Center (NIC .VE). The ccTLD Internship Program was developed by the Latin American and Caribbean Association of ccTLDs (LACTLD) and its members with the goal of maintaining a safe and resilient Domain Name System (DNS).

During the first stage of the program, two representatives of NIC .VE, Gabriel Porco and Kevins Rangel, visited the NIC Costa Rica office. They received training in country code top-level domain (ccTLD) management, as well as commercial, communication, and policy related to the provision of value-added services. The initiative continued at LACNIC 30, LACNOG 2018, and at the LACTLD Technical Workshop in Rosario, Argentina in September 2018.

This initiative is the result of LACTLD cooperation efforts. It's also a key resource for the growth and development of the Internet in the region.

ICANN supported this initiative as part of its regional strategy. You can read more about this program, [here](#).

ICANN Managed Root Servers in LAC

The ICANN org partnered with LACNIC's +Raices project to increase the deployment of ICANN Managed Root Servers (IMRS) in the region.

The ICANN org is also partnering with the Latin American and Caribbean Association of ccTLDs (LACTLD) to conduct outreach on the benefits of deploying IMRS copies in the different registries.

In 2018, IMRS instances were installed in Salvador, Brazil (Tascom) and Varjota, Brazil (Online Telecom).

LAC DNS Forum

The annual LAC DNS Forum brings together industry, Internet policy, and technical professionals interested in DNS-related issues. On 29 November 2018, over 200 community members participated in the LAC DNS Forum held in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The National Association of Hosting and Internet Services Companies ([ABRAHOSTING](#)), local stakeholders including the Brazilian Network Information Center ([NIC.br](#)), and the Brazilian Software Association ([ABES](#)) contributed to the event by sharing their work in the domain name field and Universal Acceptance.

The LAC DNS Forum is a collaborative effort between ICANN and the Latin American and Caribbean ccTLDs Organization (LACTLD), the Latin American and Caribbean Address Registry (LACNIC) and the Internet Society (ISOC), the Public Interest Registry (PIR).



Communications Efforts Supporting the LAC Strategy

Our communications efforts are aimed at strengthening ICANN's presence in the region and providing the community with opportunities to engage with and learn more about ICANN. In 2018, the LAC regional strategy shifted its focus to drive more meaningful participation from the regional community in ICANN's processes. Our core communications approach - which includes content production, social media, and event support - is now guided by that goal.

We invite you to check the following infographic to learn more about our work.

1 Social Media



MOST RETWEETED & LIKED TWEET of 2018



2 Media

Scoop.it
Spanish and Portuguese-language media coverage of ICANN.

+34
ARTICLES
in 2018

4.6k
VISITS to the
Scoop.it page

3 Multilingual Content & Support

12+
blogs &
announcements

12+
newsletters

Participated in
5 REGIONAL EVENTS

Published
3 REGIONAL REPORTS

2017 LAC YEAR in Review
LAC Experiences in PDP
5 Years of the LAC Strategy

As part of our communications efforts to support the LAC Strategy, we produced a new report summarizing the highlights and achievements that made the last five years successful. For ICANN org and the LAC team, it was important to emphasize the community's contributions and hard work that ignited many of the projects developed and implemented so far. These contributions led the way for the creation of many initiatives. You can read the report and review our collaboration with the LAC community, [here](#).

Messages from our LAC ICANN Board Members

It is crucial for our region to have a meaningful participation in ICANN's processes. To have meaningful participation, we must be represented in ICANN's different advisory committees, supporting organizations and leadership positions. ICANN Board members from LAC, Leon Sanchez and Lito Ibarra, share lessons learned and give a preview of key projects ahead in the years to come. Your participation made 2018 a success, and we look forward to working together in the next year.

2018: A Productive Year for ICANN

The ICANN61 Community Forum in Puerto Rico in March was a great success, despite the difficulties .PR faced as hosts. The solidarity, strength, determination, and resilience of the Puerto Rican people in the face of the storm was truly remarkable.

The critical discussions held at the Public Meeting on the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) helped prepare the ICANN community, Board, and ICANN org to work together to find ways of address this new regulation. After the meeting, the Board issued the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, allowing registries and registrars to comply with their contractual obligations while also being in compliance with the GDPR.

In June, ICANN62 was held in Panama and proved to be a fruitful Policy Forum, with excellent discussions on GDPR, the Temporary Specification, and the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Working Group tasked with crafting a new consensus policy. A unified access model also continued to be an important discussion topic for the community. ICANN org published a draft version of the Unified Access Model for input. Additionally, at this meeting, the Cross-Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) held its final plenary meeting and public engagement session, wrapping up several years of work.

Over the summer, the Board continued to work on the new five-year Strategic Plan, while gathering and discussing the community's input.

In October, ICANN determined that the first-ever changing of the cryptographic key that helps protect the Domain Name System (DNS) was completed successfully, with minimal disruption of the global Internet. This was the first time the key was changed since its establishment in 2010, and involved significant outreach in the LAC region. Let me end this note by wishing you all a happy 2019 and reiterate that I'm always a few keystrokes from you. I look forward to continuing to work together. Let's stay in close contact.

León Sánchez
ICANN Board Member.



What Lies Ahead: A New Strategic Plan

ICANN's Five-Year Strategic Plan will be center stage in 2019. The draft plan, built on input from all community members, will focus on five key areas: security, governance, unique identifier systems, geopolitics, and finance.

In addition to a new vision statement, the plan will detail objectives, strategic goals, targeted outcomes, and key risks. Once completed, it will be a guiding compass for ICANN project development.

Considering the external impacts on the global growth and evolution of the Internet, the DNS, and other unique identifier systems ICANN helps coordinate, ICANN is prioritizing the following five strategic objectives over the fiscal years 2021 – 2025 to enable it to continue to fulfill its mission and achieve its new vision. The five strategic objectives are:

1. Strengthen the security of the Domain Name System and the DNS Root Server System.
2. Improve the effectiveness of ICANN's multistakeholder model of governance.
3. Evolve the unique identifier systems to continue to serve the needs of the global Internet user base.
4. Address geopolitical issues impacting ICANN's mission to ensure a single and globally interoperable Internet.
5. Ensure ICANN's long-term financial sustainability.

It is important that members of the LAC community participate in the conversations around the Strategic Plan, and in execution of this plan.

The budget is always a key issue to be considered with the community, including an annual contribution to the reserve fund. During discussions on planning, it became clear that we were lacking enough time to allow for more community engagement in the planning process. The organization has been organizing a discussion around whether to extend the planning process from 1 year to 2 years to allow community members more time to engage and participate. This will be a key development to watch over the next year.



Composition of the Board of Directors will change in 2019. Board Chair Cherine Chalaby will step down near the end of 2019 after 9 years on the Board and fulfilling his maximum period of service. Four Board members will decide if they want their respective electoral bodies to nominate them again. The Board committee and working group activity will continue uninterrupted. We appreciate the support of the ICANN executive team.

Lito Ibarra
ICANN Board Member



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