ICANN

GET STARTED   NEWS & MEDIA   POLICY   PUBLIC COMMENT   RESOURCES   COMMUNITY   IANA STEWARDSHIP & ACCOUNTABILITY

Resources

- ☐ **About ICANN**
  - ☐ Learning
  - ☐ Participate
    - President's Corner
    - ICANN Management Organization Chart
    - Staff
    - Careers
  - ☐ In Focus
  - ☐ For Journalists
- ☐ Board
- ☐ Accountability
- ☐ Governance
- ☐ Groups
  - Business
  - Civil Society
- ☐ Complaints Office
- ☐ Contractual Compliance
- ☐ Registrars

Welcome to ICANN!

Thanks for visiting! If you're new to ICANN, we built this page for you. It contains resources that can help you quickly understand who we are and what we do.

Welcome to ICANN's global community supporting the vision of "one world, one Internet." We warmly encourage your participation.

What Does ICANN Do?

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer -- a name or a number. That address must be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination, we wouldn't have one global Internet.

In more technical terms, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) helps coordinate the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, which are key technical services critical to the continued operations of the Internet's underlying address book, the Domain Name System (DNS). The IANA functions include: (1) the coordination of the assignment of technical protocol parameters including the management of the address and routing parameter area (ARPA) top-level domain; (2) the administration of certain responsibilities associated with Internet DNS root zone management such as generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domains; (3) the allocation of Internet numbering resources; and (4) other services.

Learn more. You can download a free *Beginner's Guide to Domain Names* and a *Beginner's Guide to Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses* from our E-Learning pages.

How Does ICANN Work?

Besides providing technical operations of vital DNS resources, ICANN also defines policies for how the "names and numbers" of the Internet should run.

The work moves forward in a style we describe as the "bottom-up, consensus-driven, multi-stakeholder model:"

- **Bottom up.** At ICANN, rather than the Board of Directors solely declaring what topics ICANN will address, members of sub-groups in ICANN can raise issues at the grassroots level. Then, if the issue is worth addressing and falls within ICANN's remit, it can rise through various Advisory Committees and Supporting Organizations until eventually policy recommendations are passed to the Board for a vote.

- **Consensus-driven**. Through its Bylaws, processes, and international meetings, ICANN provides the arena where all advocates can discuss Internet policy issues. Almost anyone can join most of ICANN's volunteer Working Groups, assuring broad representation of the world's perspectives. Hearing all points of view, searching for mutual interests, and working toward consensus take time, but the process resists capture by any single interest– an important consideration when managing a resource as vital as the global Internet.

- **Multistakeholder model**. ICANN's inclusive approach treats the public sector, the private sector, and technical experts as peers. In the ICANN community, you'll find registries, registrars, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), intellectual property advocates, commercial and business interests, non-commercial and non-profit interests, representation from more than 100 governments, and a global array of individual Internet users. All points of view receive consideration on their own merits. ICANN's fundamental belief is that all users of the Internet deserve a say in how it is run.

To learn more about ICANN's policy development processes:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

- [Diagram of the Multi-Stakeholder Model](#)

- [Bylaws](#)

- [Process Documentation](#)

What Has ICANN Accomplished?

Here are just a few highlights of what our bottom-up, consensus-driven, multi-stakeholder model has produced:

- ICANN established market competition for generic domain name (gTLD) registrations resulting in a lowering of domain name costs by 80% and

saving consumers and businesses over US$1 billion annually in domain registration fees.

- ICANN implemented an efficient and cost-effective Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which has been used to resolve thousands of disputes over the rights to domain names.

- Working in coordination with the appropriate technical communities and stakeholders, ICANN adopted guidelines for the deployment of Internationalized Domain Names (IDN), opening the way for registration of domains in hundreds of the world's languages.

- Verisign, ICANN and U.S. National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) jointly completed deployment of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) for the root zone in July 2010. These extensions make certain kinds of cyberfraud much more difficult to perpetrate. As of 30 June 2011, 70 TLDs had adopted DNSSEC, including two of the largest TLDs -- .com and .de.

- ICANN created the New gTLD Program, so that any established entity in the world can apply to operate its own top-level domain. Many of these new gTLDs will go online in 2013.

- The world broadly accepts ICANN as the place to work out Internet governance policies. As 2011 ended, the Governmental Advisory Committee represented 109 nations (plus the European Union and the Vatican). The Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) represented more than 120 country code domains. The At-Large Advisory Committee represented 134 At-Large Structures (ALSes) from all geographic regions.

ICANN Welcomes Your Participation

If you have an interest in global Internet policy related to ICANN's mission of technical coordination, we encourage you to participate. ICANN provides many online forums through this website, and the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees have active mailing lists for participants. Additionally, ICANN holds public meetings throughout the year.

At any given time, many of the groups working on policy issues are seeking public input. You are always welcome to lend them your perspective, on the Public Comment Forum.

For more information on the Supporting Organizations and Advisory Committees, please refer to their respective websites or pages:

- Address Supporting Organization ([ASO](#))

- At-Large Advisory Committee ([ALAC](#))

- Country Code Domain Name Supporting Organization ([ccNSO](#))

- Generic Names Supporting Organization ([GNSO](#))

- Governmental Advisory Committee ([GAC](#))

- Root Server System Advisory Committee ([RSSAC](#))

- Security and Stability Advisory Committee ([SSAC](#))

You Tube	Twitter	LinkedIn	Flickr	Facebook

Newsletters	Community Wiki	ICANN Blog

Who We Are	Contact Us	Accountability & Transparency	Governance	Help
Get Started	Locations	Accountability Mechanisms	Documents	Dispute Resolution
Learning	Global Support	Independent Review Process	Agreements	Domain Name Dispute Resolution
Participate	Security Team	Request for Reconsideration	Specific Reviews	ICANN Data Protection Practices
Groups	PGP Keys	Ombudsman	Annual Report	Name Collision
Board	Certificate Authority	Empowered Community	Financials	Registrar Problems
President's Corner	Registry Liaison		Document Disclosure	WHOIS
Staff	Specific Reviews		Planning	
Careers	Organizational Reviews		KPI Dashboard	
Newsletter	Complaints Office		RFPs	
Public Responsibility	Request a Speaker		Litigation	
	For Journalists		Correspondence	