The ICANN Experiment

ISOC-Israel

13-March-2000

Andrew McLaughlin

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 non-profit 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

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
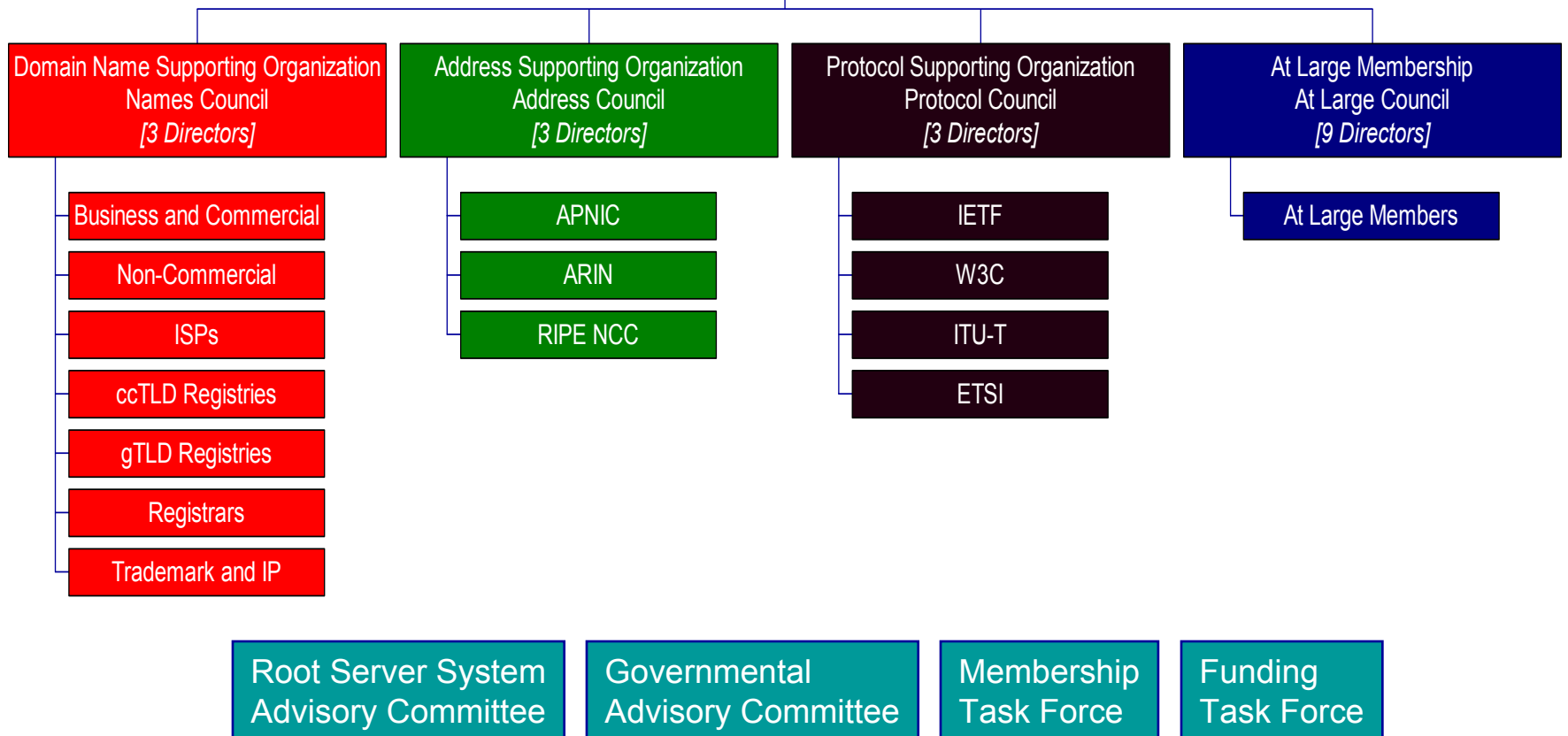
Structure of ICANN

ICANN

ICANN Board of Directors
[18 Directors + President and CEO]

Domain Name Supporting Organization
Names Council
[3 Directors]

- Business and Commercial
- Non-Commercial
- ISPs
- ccTLD Registries
- gTLD Registries
- Registrars
- Trademark and IP

Address Supporting Organization
Address Council
[3 Directors]

- APNIC
- ARIN
- RIPE NCC

Protocol Supporting Organization
Protocol Council
[3 Directors]

- IETF
- W3C
- ITU-T
- ETSI

At Large Membership
At Large Council
[9 Directors]

- At Large Members

Root Server System Advisory Committee

Governmental Advisory Committee

Membership Task Force

Funding Task Force

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 <u>coordinates</u>.
- 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

For Further Information:

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