ICANN: The Basic Idea

ICANN =
An Experiment in Technical Self-Management by the global Internet community
ICANN: The Basic Bargain

ICANN =

Internationalization of Policy & Management Functions for DNS and IP Addressing systems

+ Private Sector (non-governmental) Management
What does ICANN do?

Coordinates policies relating to the unique assignment of:
- Internet domain names
- Numerical IP Addresses
- Protocol Port and Parameter Numbers

Coordinates the DNS Root Name Server System
- through Root Server System Advisory Committee
Structure of ICANN
ICANN Organizational Chart

President and CEO
ICANN staff

Board of Directors

Ombudsman

Address Supporting Organization (select 2 directors - 1 Nom Committee seat)
- Address Council: 3 seats for each Regional IP Address Registry
  - ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE

Generic Names Supporting Organization (select 2 directors)
- GNSO Council:
  - Two representatives from six constituencies:
    - Generic ICANN contract gTLD Registrars, gTLD Registrars
    - Non-ICANN contract business, IGP and connectivity providers, non-commercial domain holders, intellectual property
  - Aggregate number of "under contract" constituency votes is equal to "non-contracted" constituency votes. In total, gTLD registrars and registrars cast two votes each, while the other constituencies cast one vote each.
  - The Nominating Committee selects three additional council members with one vote each.

Country Code Names Supporting Organization (select 3 directors - 1 Nom Committee seat)
- The ccNSO Council:
  - 18 voting members, including 3 put forward by the Nominating Committee.
  - To ensure geographic diversity, ccNSO members in each of the five recognized ICANN regions (the Region or Regions) shall be entitled to elect 3 Council members.
  - Observer status will be held by a liaison officer appointed by the GAC, ALAC, and each of the gTLD regional organizations may also appoint a liaison officer.
ICANN Budget 2003-4 = ~$8 million US

Sources of funding: Registry & Registrar agreements
- gTLD Registries (com, net, org, info, biz, etc.)
- gTLD Registrars (accreditation fees)
- ccTLD Registries (voluntary contributions, pending formal agreements)
- Regional Internet Registries (voluntary contributions pending finalization of agreements)

No funding from governments
ICANN Reform

• Launched by CEO Stuart Lynn in February 2002
• New Bylaws adopted December 2002
• Generated tons of input from all over
• Goal: Effective ICANN, focused on a well-defined mission, representative of the global Internet’s diversity
  – ICANN as technical coordinating body, not a market regulator or an experiment in global online democracy.
Elements of Reform

- Core Values
- Structure
  - Board composition & selection
  - Nominating committee
- Policy-development process
  - Generic TLDs & Country-code TLDs
  - Address Supporting Organization
  - Advisory Committees: At-Large, Governmental, Security, Technical Liaison Group, Root Name Server Operators
- Funding
- Participation
  - Manager of Public Participation
  - Regional At-Large Organizations
- Openness and Transparency
  - Ombudsman
  - Independent Review
- Governments & The Public Interest
ICANN = CyberGovernment?

• **A: No!**
  - ICANN has no inherent coercive power, only the ability to enter into contractual relationships through a process of consensus & consent
  - Objectives: Network of agreements, that formalize and make transparent
  - ICANN is not a substitute for the powers of governments (i.e., courts and laws)
ICANN = CyberGovernment?

• **No**: ICANN coordinates unique identifiers.

• **But**: Technical coordination of unique values sometimes entails non-technical policy issues:
  – Data privacy protection
    • (WHOIS database)
  – Intellectual property/trademark law
    • (UDRP)
  – Competition law
    • (Registrar accreditation for .com, .net, .org)
What ICANN doesn’t do

- Network security
- Financial transactions
- Data Privacy
- Internet Content
  - Pornography; hate speech
  - Copyright violations
  - Deceptive business practices / consumer protection
- Multi-national commercial disputes
- Definition of technical standards
  - Network surveillance and traceability
- Internet gambling
- Spam
What ICANN is NOT

- Technical Standard-Setting Body
- Internet Police Force
- Consumer Protection Agency
- Economic Development Agency
- Legislature or Court
What ICANN does do:

• Coordinate the Internet’s systems of unique identifiers
  – And address directly related policy issues

• Plus: Set policies for the gTLD registries
GET INVOLVED!
It’s an open process – your views are important!

www.icann.org