



Thursday 1 November

SUMMARY Thursday is dominated by the Public Forum. It should be a lively affair. A number of big policy issues have cropped up at the Los Angeles meeting, including Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs), new generic top-level domains (gTLDs), IPv6, ICANN's Strategic Plan – outlining the organisation's path forward – as well as the review of a set of new Accountability and Transparency principles. Plus of course it will be the last time that Vint Cerf chairs an open forum. Expect noise and laughter.



Vint Cerf at his Tribute event

TODAY'S MAIN MEETINGS

Public Forum

Time: 8:30

Room: International Ballroom

A full rundown of what ICANN has been accomplishing since the last meeting. Reports from the different supporting organisations and advisory committees, plus the various internal ICANN committees, an update on IDNs and the Ombudsman report. This will be followed by a public meeting open to all to express their views on anything that has happened this week, or that will concern ICANN in the future.

ALAC secretariats joint meeting

Time: 13:00

Room: Plaza A

A review of ALAC's work over the week.

GNSO Council Discussion of Input from Meetings

Time: 14:00

Room: Carmel Room

A summary and review of all the GNSO work during the week.

WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY

ccNSO meeting

A very productive meeting. The ccNSO Council will recommend to the Board that an IDN working group be set up to propose how to add a limited number of country code internationalized domain names (IDN) in a short timeframe – the so-called IDN fast-track.

At the same time it also recommended that no “names or meaningful abbreviations” that refer to a territory (as defined by the ISO 3166-1 list) be used as a gTLD in all scripts, including ASCII, and recognised languages. The Council also adopted a self-selection mechanism for itself regarding where territories fit into a given region. The current assignment is based on citizenship and approval of the relevant government. The ccNSO also picked up two new members: Serbia and China.

GNSO Council

A complex gathering of ICANN's main policy body. It approved opening a policy development process (PDP) on the issue of domain name tasting. The seemingly never-ending issue of Whois was tackled and the result was that the Council decided to take on an independent third-party to review what the consequences would be to changing the Whois.

The Council decided not to follow a suggestion that it formally review the issue of international intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and whether their domain names should be protected. But it noted there was nothing to stop people self-organising and study the issue on their own.

Translation meeting

After a slow start, the meeting to discuss ICANN's multilingual approach drew some passionate comments from non-English speaking members. A Chinese and Spanish speaker (ALAC and Board respectively) expressed how much they enjoyed being able to express themselves in their own language. There were some fears about the cost of a new translation policy, being devised by an independent expert ICANN has hired, and who was present. Practical issues did not make it to the discussion but there was a general feeling that the meeting was a good first step.

Strategic Plan, and Accountability and Transparency Frameworks

A free-flowing and open discussion about where ICANN is headed. Packed with ICANN heavyweights, the meeting was thoughtful and thought-provoking – although really for those interested in the organisation itself, rather than the work it produces.

ALAC workshop on the RAA

An impressive effort to explain the impact of changes in registrar contracts on average Internet users. In general, the meeting was very supportive of existing systems, and the policy of third-party rating of registrars was endorsed. There were a few suggestions for improvements: different enforcement measures, better monitoring of compliance; tighter accreditation.

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