MONTREAL – Q&A with ICANN Organization Executive Team
Thursday, November 7, 2019 – 15:45 to 16:45 EDT
ICANN66 | Montréal, Canada

BRAD WHITE: Ladies and gentlemen, if we could ask you to take your seats, we're going to start this session.

I'm pleased to welcome you all to the ICANN66 Q&A session with the ICANN organization executive team. My name is Brad White. I'm director of communications for North America.

The executive team is eager to answer any questions you might have and listen to your thoughts and comments. The execs will be focusing on the five-year operating plan, but they are open to your questions and comments on any subject.

This is an important part of our ongoing commitment to ensure the organization is accountable and transparent to you. So, please, don't hesitate to make your voice heard. This is your opportunity.

The exec team takes this responsibility very seriously. If for some reason they cannot answer your question during this session, whether because of legal requirements or because we need to research the question, an answer will be posted at a later time.

Before we get started, I'd like to briefly review how this session is set up and how remote participants can join in. Above all, we ask that everyone keep ICANN's expected standards of behavior in mind when

participating. You'll see them projected on the screen. They're also available on the ICANN website.

After some brief comments from each of the execs, we'll take your questions. We encourage you to ask a follow-up question if you feel like you need additional information.

Once a question has been posed, CEO and President Goran Marby will determine who is best suited to answer it. However, depending on the question, a subject matter expert from staff may be called upon to provide an answer. The point here is to provide you with the most accurate and timely information possible.

Once we open up the floor, please line up at the microphone in this aisle, right here. This helps ensure -- and, please, each time that you come up do three things: Speak as slowly and clearly as possible, state your name, and state who you are representing, if anyone. If you have multiple questions or comments during this session, we ask that you tell us your name and who, if anyone, you are representing each time. This helps ensure the scribe feed is accurate.

We'd like to keep this session a bit more informal, so we won't be imposing the traditional two-minute timer for questions and responses that you are used to in public forums. That being said, we respectfully request that you try to keep your questions or your comments brief and to the point. This will ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to have their voice heard.

If you're participating remotely, please submit your questions or comments inside the Zoom chat box. Our remote participation managers are monitoring the chat and will ensure that your questions or comments are posed to the executive team.

Before we get started, I will toss it to Goran so he can introduce his team.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you. You have a very soothing and calming voice, Brad. I appreciate that on a Thursday afternoon. Can we give him a big round of applause for that.

[Applause]

So we've done this a couple of times. First of all, this doesn't take away any other fora we have when asking the Board. We just decided a couple of years ago, we thought it was a good thing to bring the whole executive team on one table. It's actually one of the few occasions where I see all my colleagues at the same time as well.

And as Brad said, we want to keep this informal. I want this to be another thing we do to be a little bit more transparent and, therefore, accountable. And as we said, we're going to take any question you have about anything that relates to what we do in the ICANN org. And I also think -- for me, as you know, I like these opportunities. And I'm happy that so many people have joined us.

So before we start, I'm just going to go through the room -- sorry, table -- and ask them to present themselves.

I will start on my right side over there. Can you just say "hello."

SUSANNA BENNETT: Hello, Susanna Bennett, Chief Operating Officer.

CYRUS NAMAZI: Cyrus Namazi, global domains.

ASHWIN RANGAN: Ashwin Rangan, engineering and CIO.

DAVID OLIVE: David Olive, policy development support.

SALLY COSTERTON: Sally Costerton, head of stakeholder engagement.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Sally Cohen, senior vice president of global communications, language services.

MANDY CARVER: Mandy Carver, government engagement, global coordination.

JOHN JEFFREY: John Jeffrey, General Counsel and Board secretary.

THERESA SWINEHART: Theresa Swinehart. I oversee strategy and strategic initiatives.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Xavier Calvez, Chief Financial Officer.

JAMIE HEDLUND: Jamie Hedlund, contractual compliance and consumer safeguards.

DAVID CONRAD: David Conrad, CTO.

GORAN MARBY: I also didn't read my script 100%. So I should have also asked them to give a very short explanation: What's the most important thing they do within their faction? I'm sorry for that. I will blame a Thursday afternoon. I will ask them to do that now, but I would start in reverse order by asking: Hello, David. What do you actually do?

DAVID CONRAD: You mean other than annoy you?

So I am the Office of the CTO. We do a number of things, including anything having to do with the abuse or use of Internet identifiers. I'm also in charge of IANA.

JAMIE HEDLUND: So I also enjoy annoying you, but in addition I -- my department is contractual compliance, ensures compliance, adherence with ICANN's agreements with the registries and registrars along with the consensus policies. And for consumer safeguards, we help convene community dialogue on consumer safeguard issues, including most recently DNS abuse.

XAVIER CALVEZ: Thank you. I'm Xavier Calvez. The finance and procurement team has the mission to be the steward of ICANN's public funds, so we provide financial and accounting and procurement services to the organization, to the Board, and to the community. This is to support responsible decision-making and to fulfill the fiduciary duty of the organization that includes ICANN and PTI and also across the world. Thank you.

THERESA SWINEHART: So I receive the strategy, so strategic planning process and then the alignment with the strategic plan and any areas around that. The strategic outlook work, so that's around the trends that many of you have participated in. Reviews, both specific reviews and the organizational reviews that are bylaw-mandated along with the discussions that are occurring now about the streamlining or prioritization or resourcing of reviews and supporting that work.

And then other strategic initiatives, specifically right now the coordination of the GDPR-related work, both internal and external, and

running that across functions and some of the community dialogues and helping support that.

And then helping support other conversations such as those relating to the evolution of the multistakeholder model and the supporting community discussions and the facilitation work around that.

JOHN JEFFREY: I'm John Jeffrey again, General Counsel and Board secretary. So I help the Board in making sure that the minutes are published and that they remain transparent and fully accountable and they're both in their resolutions as well as in the rationales that are provided behind the Board's work.

I also manage the legal function for the global organization and for all of the component parts, including compliance with our bylaws and those aspects of the accountability mechanisms. And I help manage or oversee the complaints office function and the NomCom support function.

MANDY CARVER: So Mandy Carver. Government and intergovernmental engagement, intergovernmental organization engagement, or GE for short, is one of the outward-facing engagement functions within ICANN. And we work collaboratively with a number of the other engagement functions.

Our -- we do this engagement on behalf of ICANN org. And amongst the initiatives that we would be managing are the tracking of -- and the

monitoring of legislative and regulatory activity that has the impact -- the potential to impact ICANN's mission; the evaluation and alignment of the participation of ICANN in the ecosystem and also working with governments and intergovernmental organizations to increase their participation actively within ICANN.

SALLY NEWELL COHEN: Comms and language services is really a service provider to the community, the Board, and the org. Our primary objective is to ensure that we have clear professional and consistent communications that positions ICANN well internally and externally. And we do this in two different ways. One is through language services where we provide interpretation for meetings, realtime transcriptions, translations. And that's a primary part of what language services does.

The comms side is where we provide a variety of different supports. It might be regional communication support. It might be media relations, social media, content development of the website, certainly the front end of the website and the ITI initiative. And then also just support for all of the different functions within ICANN org.

SALLY COSTERTON: Thank you. We thought it would be helpful if we sat next to each other. Two Sallys. We might make a habit of it.

So I have responsibility for different parts -- a variety of different things. Firstly, most of you know me as the head of Global Stakeholder Engagement. And with that, the main responsibility of that team is to

act as the primary points of contact for all stakeholders around the world. So that is a regionally distributed team with eight heads of engagement in different regions working in very close partnership with regional communities and global community groups. And one of the main initiatives that we are focused on now in those different regional groups -- and I was in the session yesterday with the Africa team. The Africa space is aligning the regional engagement plans, which have existed for some time with the community-driven initiatives supported by the ICANN org staff against our strategic plan so that we bring those together and that will be rolling out over the next few months.

The second team is of the meetings team. I don't think I need to say much more about that. And you're all here at the moment benefiting from their wonderful support that gets us all to our big ICANN meetings. So I should say the ICANN meetings team also support between -- I don't know if Nick can tell me. But I'm thinking it's between 40 and 50, maybe more, meetings a year beyond the -- of many different types of meetings, sizes, beyond the three large ICANN meetings. So that group you're familiar with.

The third group is the public responsibility support team. And in that group, we do primarily newcomer programs, so the Fellowship Program, the Next Gen program and the Newcomer Days that we do ICANN meetings. The other big project we have in this group is our online learning platform, ICANN Learn.

 So this is very much a team that looks at developing support for the community occasionally, liaising between the Board, the org, and the

community. For example, we have just been working with the Board and we had a session at this meeting around global public interest which -- and kicking off the discussion around the Board goals around the framework for global public interest.

So it's -- that's very much a facilitation group that supports these kinds of newcomer projects to move forward.

And, finally, I most recently have responsibility for the international offices of ICANN outside North America.

Thank you.

DAVID OLIVE: David Olive. I head the policy development support team. This is a group of people who facilitate the services and operations for the three supporting organizations who develop policy at ICANN and the four advisory committees who develop policy advice and inputs to our processes here at ICANN.

Most of the work is done online, intersessionally, through working groups, although the importance of the ICANN meeting is an action-forcing event where people get together face to face to move their processes along to a development of a consensus to present to the board and the community.

In terms of the advisory committees, of course, they also work in a similar fashion, though an example would be our Governmental

Advisory Committee issues a communiqué each time. And that's another example of the work of an advisory committee.

We also have an Atlanta III summit, and our team does help support those additional activities that provide for the coordination of the domain name system within the ICANN function.

Thank you.

ASHWIN RANGAN: Ashwin Rangan. I head up the engineering and information technology arm in ICANN org. These are two distinctly differentiated functions where the information technology arm is primarily responsible for all the infrastructure. A good example of that would be what all of us use here in this meeting, whether it's remote participation or the Wi-Fi networks or the audio-visuals and all the aids that you have to conduct meetings.

On the engineering side, my team is responsible for delivering such assets as the information transparency platforms, on which icann.org is now being stood up and was demonstrated to many of you in the course of this meeting.

A couple of other examples, we talk with several groups about the Open Data Platform that'll be stood up in time for Cancun and the compliance portal that'll become a part of the naming services portal that currently serves registries and will start to be used by registrars as well.

Thank you.

CYRUS NAMAZI: Hello.   My name is Cyrus Namazi.   I'm responsible for the global domains team or GDD.

The primary role and function for GDD is to implement ICANN domain name policies. And we do this through contracts and services and by engaging the Internet community.

Related to our fiscal year '21 to '25 operating plan and strategic initiatives, there are a number of initiatives that GDD is in the lead role. And there are quite a few of them that we're in a support role.

The ones that we're actually in the lead role, I'll mention a few examples of them.

The readiness of universal acceptance and implementation of internationalized domain names is an example of what we have the lead role for.

Planning a properly funded new round of gTLDs is also within our plan. The timing for it is unknown at the moment.

And, of course, ensuring ICANN's long-term financial viability is a key strategic goal for us. And to that end, GDD is developing market expertise in the domain name marketplace to help with the forecasting of funding and keeping track of the market dynamics in the domain name space.

Thank you.

SUSANNA BENNETT: Hi. This is Susanna Bennett. I really have the privilege of overseeing some great teams, operational teams.

And the one is board operations. The teamworks extremely hard supporting the work of the board and work with the organization to support the board.

Then Security Operations team, you know all of them probably. And they work very hard all over the world to protect the organization's team and the board and the community wherever we work.

And risk management, working in a role closely with the board and the organization to protect ICANN.

Then also the operating planning function that work with the whole organization on the five-year operating plan -- operating and financial plan. And during FY21, we will be focusing on the reporting of the progress to us achieving the strategic plan. And also, we'll work on the rolling forward of the five-year plan to FY22-26.

Another important organization in my program that we manage is the Open Data Program, which is very important to the community and to ICANN. And we're looking at a launch soon.

Thank you.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you.

With that, I open the floor for questions.

PAUL FOODY: Hello?

Paul Foody speaking on my own behalf.

It is November the 7th today, it's not November the 3rd, as Cherine Chalaby said at this morning's board meeting.

The reason for my -- for standing here is, as you're probably aware, I am very opposed to the new gTLDs. I believe it's not -- not something that's going to augment the current .COM registry. It is something that will supplant it.

We've got the guy who runs the GDD here. How many domains do you think you can release into the public forum -- into the public arena before the new gTLDs actually supplant .COM and they -- in effect, you've ported all the goodwill value from .COM to these new top-level domains?

GORAN MARBY: Thank you. Thank you for asking the question.

The -- It's fine for you to not want to have a new round, but that is not in our decision-making power. The community makes a decision when the new round will happen. And I will remind that the community has

made the decision through policy-making process that they want to have a new round.

And you're entitled to have your opinion. ICANN org doesn't. We are just fulfilling the work that comes out of the community.

When it comes --

PAUL FOODY: (Indiscernible) the question about how many top-level domains can be introduced before the new top-level domains supplant the existing domains? It is not whether or not it's going to go ahead. This is about what point do the new domains supplant the existing system rather than augment it?

GORAN MARBY: Do you want to comment?

CYRUS NAMAZI: Thank you for your question. I am actually aware of your sentiments related to the New gTLD Program.

I'm not sure if that's the right way of asking the question, the way you're asking it.

The objective of the program is not to supplant anything related to the existing top-level domains or the top-level domains that have been added.

The overarching goal for having an opportunity for new top-level domain in the root is to provide an opportunity for creativity, for entrepreneurship, and being able to essentially open it up to people with the creative nature to actually do something with it. It's not to provide an unfair competitive opportunity to existing domains or anything like that.

And I think Goran said it eloquently, that it's not our role to actually decide whether there should be a new program or not. It's been really the community's wish that actually comes up through the board, over which we get the responsibility for the implementation.

GORAN MARBY: John would like to ask you a question. Is that okay?

JOHN JEFFREY: I'm actually curious why you think that is the objective. So I think in your question is an assumption that our goal is to supplant .COM. But that's never been a stated goal. We're interested in introducing competition in the marketplace, as has been discussed. But I've never heard that as a goal or objective of the New gTLD Program. So I'm just curious where that question comes from.

PAUL FOODY: It's a simple question.

The reason for it is that as soon as you have a million or 100,000, 10,000 gTLDs, 10,000 major corporations, each with their own gTLD, what you

see is that a company that is something dot something becomes secondary. It'll be seen as an inferior -- a company that you can trust less.

Why do I think that you're doing it deliberately? I think the fact that ten years after I first asked you to contact all the registrants and talk to them, and advise them of the policy, you still haven't done that.

Now you're telling me that it's illegal, it's spam, and all the rest of it. But we've had a quite interesting week in terms of domain name DNS abuse.

Do you not get that if there was direct communication between ICANN, which is the authority on domain name abuse, and the registrants, that that would considerably mitigate the problems that we're seeing? And that maintaining this -- this separation between the two serves only to enable ICANN insiders to carve out this hundred trillion-dollar pie amongst yourselves?

When you went ahead in 2007 with the idea to release new gTLDs, it was about competition. It was -- you know, for all your talk about these new gTLDs providing some sort of innovation, all a domain name is is a pointer to an I.P. address. So the domain name has no effect other than the fact it's more memorable, you know? So I own some domains that are memorable. But they are not going to be as memorable as owning .GOOGLE or .BOOK or something like that.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you very much. And I would recommend you to engage through the GNSO in the PDP, where your valuable opinions will be heard.

ICANN org's role is to implement the policies set by the community and decided by the board. It's not voluntarily for us to do that.

PAUL FOODY: There's one other part in 2007. It said that this policy should go ahead unless there are very good reasons not to go ahead. Okay?

The fact that if we get 10,000 new gTLD applications -- and that is absolutely the minimum. Okay? If you get 10,000 new gTLD applications, that's basically $2 billion into your coffers. So you guys here are making decisions that will enrich you billions. Let's say it's 100,000. That's $20 billion. How many different scripts are there that we're talking about?

GORAN MARBY: For the sake of the argument, we're a nonprofit organization. And all those decisions you're pointing at doesn't belong to ICANN org; it belongs to the community. And, therefore, I ask you humbly, we can argue, but those decisions are not made by us. They are made by the community through a process that we protect.

PAUL FOODY: So enlarge the community so that the people who you are depriving, whose assets are going to be diminished by these -- by your decisions can have a say in that.

Ten years, ICANN has avoided contacting registrants. Ten years. And you are going to profit -- So say there's a million new gTLDs.

JOHN JEFFREY: Paul, I think you're -- I think you're making the arguments you've made again and again and again at public forums for a decade. You're not bringing up anything new. This has been discussed with the community. The policy process is at the GNSO. And we suggest you take those arguments back to the GNSO, where the policy process is set.

Thank you.

PAUL FOODY: You are the guys who are going to live with this.

JOHN JEFFREY: Thanks, Paul.

JIMSON OFUYUE: Okay. Thank you. My name is Jimson Ofuyue, BC, but I'm not speaking on behalf of BC.

I just have two advice phrase. In the course of the meeting, ICANN66, I noted that, number one, we need to have a proper cap on our projects. When we do have a project, we should have start time and end time before it becomes business as usual.

When we cannot make, I just meant an underline. But it's good to always have a cap. Like, for example, the ODP, Open Data Program, you know, been on it for quite a while. We have had now not very much. We're going to get a launch, which is good. But ab initio is good for us to have, say, a projection of when something will be ended.

And secondly, over the course of the meeting, too, (indiscernible) people ask question about what is the rule or what value is ICANN bringing into sustainable development goal. And say that, oh, ICANN has a very narrow remit, just for concern of unique identifiers. But it's important to know that it's because of the management of the unique identifiers that when the World Summit on Information Society started, by and large, 2003, 2005, and then leading to IGF, and then enhanced cooperation. And also, we have a robust government engagement, which is good.

So my point is that, internally, we need to have a discussion, so that since we have strategic goals wherein security is important, your politics, and stability of the Internet, we also need to take a look at this SDG and say, well, for the sake of discussion, yes, we fit it into stability with regard to global economy. Now all over the world is digital economy. And underlying it is this infrastructure, too, which has a role.

So we need to say we are aligning it with this, and also even goal 17. Goal 17 talks about partnership. And ICANN is a bit of an example of partnership where you have government, you have the private sector, you have the academy, you have civil society. So we just need to make that (indiscernible) so that we are not entirely out of this system. We

belong to the same global ecosystem, even though we have a very narrow remit.

Thank you.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you. So there were several question. I will try to -- so the first one is about projects. During the last couple of years, ICANN org is growing through a pretty large system change which we called ITI, Information Transparency Initiative. It's one of the largest investments we have ever done. I think that the total budget is eight and a half million dollars. We are launching that April 1st. Don't we? He said April. I say April 1st. Somewhere in April we're doing a soft launch, which is the first Document Management System that ICANN ever had. We have indexed more than 100,000 documents. We're building completely new search engines that actually will make sense. I don't know if you agree with me when I say that ICANN org web page is not good.

And that has taken a lot of effort from a fairly small organization in terms of development and, therefore, they're also rebuilding a lot of underlying stuff. So, therefore, we have not been able to deliver on time some of the projects we have.

But I agree with you.

On the more systematic things, I think a lot of discussions this week has been about projects as such. When the community has many PDPs, many reviews, they take longer than expected, it actually puts a burden on my staff as well. We do work a lot to support those as well. And I

think that that conversation this week can be very beneficial. And as you know the Board has engaged with the community to talk about that as well.

When it comes to being a part of something, as you know, we decided this year to accept the invitation to be a member of the ITOD because we think that's the part of the U.N. system we should engage with because primarily it's about development, it's about bringing Internet to more people, and to work with our good partners in the world to help that.

But it's also important to remember that ICANN is a nonpolitical organization. Many of the discussions that happens through ground Internet space should not happen within ICANN because it's not in our mission, and it's not in our remit, and basically we have nothing to do with it.

And then we try to keep that balance all the time. So we are -- we are technical -- a technical organization that's primarily do technical things around the DNS system.

So it's a balance that we're always going to do. And we have had suggestions this month how to better interact with the community -- sorry, this week, how to better interact with the community about those things as well.

Personally, I think that bringing people online, online into the Internet and to connect people, something magical happens, but what the magical thing is is up to the end users.

JIMSON OLUFUYE: Yeah, thank you very much, CEO. But it's also important to know that it might not be so why to say we have nothing to do with it, because we have a lot to do with it.

So maybe better to just say, well, we recognize that, and we are doing our own part. At least by the benefit of the hindsight of the history of information systems, information society, and what have you.

Thank you.

JOHN BERARD: Good afternoon. My name is John Berard. I'm a member of the BC.

[Coughing]

 But my question is rooted more in my time as a member of large and small organizations, inside and in leadership roles. So I have two questions, easy ones, I think.

 First, do you conduct annual 360 reviews? And the second one is how do you create space for serendipity inside .ORG?

GORAN MARBY: Yes, we do. We do -- annual 360 reviews. Yes, we do employee surveys, if that's what you mean. What is the serendipity? My Swenglish doesn't cover that word. Would you please explain?

JOHN BERARD: Anybody else want to take a whack at that?

It's the opportunity to think a bit, without being steamrolled by the events of the day; to give yourself some time, space to consider what else you might be doing, how you might be doing something differently; the opportunity to be creative inside your own organization.

GORAN MARBY: So that's a very good thing. And we try -- So --

JOHN BERARD: Thank you.

GORAN MARBY: ICANN is -- oh, I can talk at length about this, and my staff will now listen carefully.

So to give you some basics, we are around 400 people, we are in 35 countries, and 12 states in the U.S. or something? I'm looking at -- More than that. So we have a very distributed organization.

I'm blessed to have a very professional and engaged staff. You can't work for ICANN org if you're not engaged in this. So we're trying to find new formulas to have that engagement also helping us to develop what we're supposed to do.

But there is one thing that's different between us and many organizations. We're a support organization. So our primary role is to support -- so we basically have three jobs: To facilitate the discussion within the community, to implement the Board decisions, because they

are the ones who tells us what to do, and the third thing is to defend ICANN as an institution, if I may say so. And are our primary roles.

So we don't sit inside to many could up with new policies or new products or anything else much that's not our job.

So what we are trying to do as much as possible is to create a better support, create a better facilitation, do better meetings, better weather -- no, we don't do that. But that's sort of what we're trying to do to build this -- I don't want to call it a machine. A more effective way.

When you're talking about giving people the opportunity to come up with new ideas, we have to limit it into what's in our role, because if we were to spend a lot of time talking about how this policy would look like, it's actually outside our mission.

I'm also blessed, I have to say, with many people who do speak their mind inside. We also have functions to report if there is something that's not going right inside the organization.

I hope that was an answer to your question.

Yes, please.

JOHN JEFFREY: Also, since Gina is not here, I will add the 360 reviews aren't the primary tool we use internally. We have employee reviews that occur twice per year for every employee, and 360 reviews I think are used in parts of the organization for a very unique purpose. As you know, it's a tool for a specific type of review rather than a tool which is used as a full review

JOHN BERARD: It's continuous improvement, that's all.

I was just curious about how you create continuous improvement, that's all.

GORAN MARBY: We -- I mean, because we also are blessed with a lot of good teams, we are also happy with the fact that we have a fairly low turnover of people internally which makes me very proud because it means they're engaged what we do, they like what we do, and sometimes actually enjoy the hard work. And I'm often grateful for the competence and loyalty these people shows to us, all of us, because, otherwise, we wouldn't have a meeting; otherwise, we wouldn't have subscription; otherwise, we wouldn't have all those people that are a part with you in your policy work, for instance. That's what -- that's our main product, to support you.

And we also have, by the way, the International Cinnamon Bun Day, of course, so it is very important to us. October 4. But you all celebrate that, I suppose.

BRAD WHITE:	Before we take the next question from the floor, I'm informed we have a remote participation question. I'll ask my colleague, James Cole, to read that question.
REMOTE PARTICIPATION:	This comes from Paul Tattersfield: If the ICANN.org's role is to implement policies set out by the Board coming from the community, why is GDD front running the community on rolling out URS to legacy gTLDs when the GNSO RPM Working Group is currently working on this?
CYRUS NAMAZI:	Thank you very much for your question. This is Cyrus Namazi. I know this question came in remote.

So to make a long story short, we're not front running any of the policies that are under consideration by the community.

I believe that perhaps this question has to do with the recent renewal of some of the so-called legacy gTLDs in which the registry operator and ICANN organization together bilaterally agree to adopt the new form of what we call the base Registry Agreement, within which there are many provisions, many new provisions since the legacy forms have been put in place, one of which is the adoption of URS.

Now, it is important to underline that we do not have a preference for these new registry -- these new renewals and the registry operator adopting new forms of rights protection mechanism, of which URS is one. It's completely at the discretion of the registry operator itself. And

to add to that, there is really no policy, actually, that prohibits a registry operator from adopting new forms of rights protection mechanism.

Thank you.

RAOUL PLOMMER: Hi, my name is Raoul Plommer. I work for the NCSG within the GNSO. I'm from Open Knowledge Finland. And I'd like to know about the ODI a little. I was told in this meeting that there hasn't really been enough interest so that it's sort of kept its priority on all the things that we need to do. But I just came here to sort of -- with Mark here, to show that we actually are interested in hearing new things about the ODI. And I just had a look at my email list, and I was put on this list I think almost two years ago, that the last email was from November of 2018. So if that can be, I don't know, refreshed a little. And obviously it's my fault. I missed the ODI update in Marrakech. I didn't realize it was there. But so my question is like what could we expect in that project to happen? And, like, what is going to happen, maybe, by Cancun?

GORAN MARBY: Thank you. I mean, there is someone else who is interested in this project, and that's me. But I'm going to be a little bit philosophical about this as well. First of all, there is no amount of data that we have that we don't share. My personal reflection is that we have a lot of the data already displayed, it's just that, admittedly, it's not easy to find because it's on ICANN org. Yes. I mean, it's actually true.

So we sort of -- we've gone -- we all have -- I especially have this iteration, it's actually called a pet project internally. And so we went through this iteration to really figure out how we can display data that we already do, because sometimes we did it in PDF formats and maybe you want something else.

We don't have this gigantic amount of some data that we don't show, because we use all the data in correlation with the community already. And then GDPR came around, and we take -- it's not about -- and I have said this several times this week. It's not only about the actual legislation. It's actually the fact that we care about privacy. Legislation could be a floor. But we have to think about it from a privacy perspective as well.

So we added that into the discussion.

It is later than expected. At the same time, as I said, we are rebuilding -- and I don't call it the website, we're rebuilding the whole database, the whole documentation management system so you can find something as well.

With that, I'm going to leave over to Ashwin.

ASHWIN RANGAN: Thanks, Goran.

We spoke about the ODP program as a program in one of the meetings with the business constituency and perhaps it may be helpful to look back at the notes that should be available. In addition to that, we have

thoroughly tested the platform that we will be using and we're in the process of cleansing the data that will be made available on the platform. We showed during that meeting that there are four target datasets that will be targeted for release during the Cancun meeting and we'll be sure to meet that particular deadline. Part of this process is also to make sure that we have a mechanism when any dataset is identified from the inventory already shared with the community that we can point that infrastructure at that dataset and quickly make it come into the ODP platform. That's part of the productionizing process which we have never done before. We have to do that and learn from doing that. And we're halfway through that process. So that's the reason we made the commitment that by Cancun we'll be ready. Thank you.

GORAN MARBY: David, you want to comment as well?

DAVID CONRAD: Just wanted to mention that the reason the mailing list has been quiet is because we transitioned from ODI which was the initiative, the pilot project, basically to approve a concept that was operated as a part of the office of the CTO into the production system, the ODP. So it went from departments, the initial mailing list was actually to discuss, you know, the sort of the, where we wanted to take the thing and then we figured that and then threw it over into the -- the office of the Chief Operating Officer.

I would actually like to pose a question to you, if I could. What data are you most interested in? Not to say we'll be able to do anything with it, but I'd be very curious as to which of the datasets, which data you have interest in.

MARK DATYSGELD: This is Mark Datysgeld.

GORAN MARBY: Could I add one more thing? Just to show how engaged we are in this, I actually want to give a sort of flag also to Ashwin. When Ashwin joined ICANN org we had about 160 different IT systems. I don't know if you've seen that in my yearly goals, that one of my goals is take it down to one. So primarily we have one -- we had -- everyone who was working for ICANN sort of half of an IT system and that is a very unsustainable way to run any organization. So Ashwin has been very successful. We're down below 140. Give him an applause. That's fantastic.

[Applause]

And what I'm simply trying to do now is not to add something on top of all the other IT systems -- and this is not Ashwin's or his fault. It was the natural progression of how ICANN grew. So right now we're trying to be really careful so we can build this -- anything we build new has to be built in some of the platforms we're trying to do. That's one of the reasons why we have some of our -- you know, it's a very complicated thing for us because of all of the systems we have. And we're trying to solve that issue, but it will take a couple of months more. Thank you.

MARK DATYSGELD: Thank you very much. This is Mark Datysgeld, BC. I'm standing here together with Raoul (indiscernible) because we didn't meet through this -- through this list, through our mutual interest in open data, but it's perceived at both on the commercial and non-commercial side we have equal interest in this. And we are very keen on continuing to discuss these issues. That's why we are talking about the mailing list, because it was very productive for a while. And then it went a bit one-sided from the -- from the org, and we did feel like we could have had more to contribute to the process because we're very interested parties. So that's why we would like to know if moving forward it would be possible to get this sort of conversation going again, possibly during the soft launch, but even before.

And as far as the datasets are concerned, from the ones that we do now recommend for the soft launch, I think the ones that are perhaps we are the most excited about are the ITHI data and the DAAR data. I think those are things that we have been really looking forward to having a stab at running our software through them and maybe getting a few for what we can do with that. So hopefully, we are communicating and we hope that, you know, we can establish a channel. Thank you.

DAVID CONRAD: Thank you.

BRAD WHITE: Seeing no one else in the queue, I'm told we have no more online questions. Goran, I don't know if you have any comments -- oh, Paul.

PAUL FOODY: Hello. If there are no questions, how many scripts in the IDNs are there at the moment?

CYRUS NAMAZI: Paul, I don't have the answer right off the top of my head, but I'll look it up and give it to you.

PAUL FOODY: Okay. I can't believe there's nobody going to ask questions.

GORAN MARBY: Go for it, Paul. We've done this so many times, go for it.

PAUL FOODY: Okay. You guys around domain names, yeah? Since I started coming to ICANN are more people accessing domains via the address or through Google or other search engines?

GORAN MARBY: I have no idea.

DAVID CONRAD: It's actually not possible for us to know. The way someone connects to a website or any other service on the Internet can be done through a domain name or can be done directly through an IP address. We have seen over time an increase in the number of DNS queries to the root, but that actually is not indicative of anything because most DNS queries are cached. So the amount of cached data, the number of queries is essentially impossible for us to divine unless Ted has come up with a new approach, the person behind you.

GORAN MARBY: Funny thing, Ted, I was just thinking of you this second. Welcome, Ted.

TED HARDIE: Just to clarify one thing, when Google answers a search query, it generally does so with a reference to a domain name and the URL string that includes domain name as part of the authority. As a result asking whether the DNS is consulted more often than Google but doesn't really reflect how Google responds to almost all of these queries.

There are unusual cases where the Googlebot found something with an IP address reference and it will give that with an IP address reference if that case. But generally speaking, in response to a query, we will give you the same URL at which we found the information which we are presenting to you.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you. I'll probably ask you for an explanation of an explanation later because it sounded really interesting, Ted.

[Laughter]

Sorry, and thank you, Ted, for saving our face. So Paul, I'll give you one more question because you know I enjoy this.

PAUL FOODY: Okay. So we go back to 2007 when the GNSO said, right, we need new gTLDs. At time you do a search in Google, the search engine and the address box were separate. Are you aware that today the two have been merged? So that if you do a search in the future for any of these generic terms that you're selling, okay, you -- so say I -- I was speaking to some guy with .BEST ands he's going to be doing a review site, an app. If I want to find that app, I've got to put .BEST into the address. So how many people are going to put .BEST? I would say 99% of users won't put the dot there. So what you've got is you've got the word "best." How do you -- how do you ensure that Google takes that query as a desire to go to best rather than as a search for best?

GORAN MARBY: I so much wish I had someone from IAB here to help us to answer that question so also I think works for Google. I dreamed I had that.

PAUL FOODY: Sorry.

GORAN MARBY: Oh, sorry. I got the acronym wrong. Can I go home now?

TED HARDIE: As it happens I also work for Google. So the --

BRAD WHITE: Sir, could I ask you something? Could I ask you to give your name for the scribes?

TED HARDIE: -- the browsers go to to describe what you're talking about which are browser input strings. It's called the What Working Group. I'm sure they would welcome your comments there. But they were the ones who decided that it was okay to combine that UI element, which we previously thought of as the URL bar, into something which included other browser inputs which might be served strings. So the What Working Group is the right place to go to provide that comment. I'm sure they'd be happy for your input. Thank you very much.

PAUL FOODY: Could you stay?

[Laughter]

Because this comes down to a really, really important issue. What you're selling off is language. There were three applications from which Google withdrew. One of them was .AND. What were the other two?

GORAN MARBY: Could I interrupt?

TED HARDIE: There are 100,000 people at Google and I had nothing to do with it. I have no clue.

GORAN MARBY: Hello, Paul, please. Please, Paul. I love having discussions with him and I had the pleasure of doing it several times. I think for the sake of the audience, I -- you know, I need to figure out, because I'm actually learning things, so thank you for asked Ted. Ted I don't know. But thank you very much, Paul. I think we should give him a big round of applause.

[Applause]

PAUL FOODY: Thank you very much. I'll be here all week.

BRAD WHITE: Thank you very much for everybody who participating. We're running out of time. I'm told we have no more online questions. So with that,

we'll bring the session to an end. Goran, I don't know if you have closing comments.

GORAN MARBY: Thank you, Paul. Thank you, everybody, for coming. We appreciate, from ICANN org, the ability to interact with the community this way. I also appreciate the fact that I can have most of my executive team here at the same time. And I also would like to thank you for what I think -- and I'm going to do that later anyway. This has been the best meeting ever. Don't you think so? Thank you very much.

[Applause]

BRAD WHITE: One final note, the second public forum will begin in this room in about 15 minutes. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]