



Round Table on “IANA Transition and ICANN Accountability Process and India’s position”

30th May, 2015

Silver Oak 1 Hall, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Time: 10.30am – 2:30pm

Concept Note:

CCAOI invites all interested individuals and agencies - Government, Civil society, Industry, Industry Associations, Academics, Consultants, Students, etc., to participate in the day long round table and share their views on concerns and options in the proposed IANA transition.

Objective of Round Table

We, CCAOI, an association representing the ecosystem of Internet stakeholders in India, propose to conduct a round table in order to:

- Share and discuss the salient points of our study of India’s options in the proposed IANA Transition.
- Initiate deliberation between all stakeholders on India’s approach to the queries raised by CCWG Accountability group.
- Discuss issues, in the IANA transition, which are relevant to India but not receiving adequate attention
- Identify best way forward for India



Background

Last March, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), an agency of the US government, which supervises the IANA functions through a contract, announced to relinquish its oversight and shift key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community when the IANA contract expires in September 30, 2015^[1].

NTIA entrusted ICANN with the responsibility to convene stakeholders to develop a transition plan to replace their role in the IANA functions. The IANA Stewardship Transition coordinating group (ICG) was set up with responsibility of preparing the transition proposals. It asked the "operational communities" of IANA to undertake consultations and recommend a transition proposal.

The protocol and number communities, viz The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) working group called IANA PLAN and Consolidated RIR IANA Stewardship Proposal Team (CRISP), were operational and have submitted their final proposals^{[2][3]} to ICG. The Cross-Community Working group (CWG) set up to develop the proposals on Naming Related Functions is yet to submit their final proposal. Also, their proposal is dependent on the Cross Community Working Group (CCWG) - Accountability team's proposal on improving ICANN accountability and transparency.

The CCWG Accountability^[4] has two work streams, one is responsible for drafting a mechanism for enhancing ICANN accountability, which must be in place before the IANA stewardship transition (Work Stream1) and the other for addressing accountability topics for which a timeline may extend beyond the IANA Stewardship Transition. Work is currently underway on the same (Work Stream 2).

On receiving the final proposals from the three communities - Names, Numbers and Protocol, ICG would compile the final proposal which would be based on broad consensus and subsequent comments from the larger community.

As the effects of the domain name functions have a far reaching impact on communities both connected or unconnected to the internet, the transition process has gained immense interest of governments, business houses, academics, civil societies, etc. The discussion on the transition, addressing the concerns pertaining to the existing DNS process, has enlarged to the accountability of ICANN as well.

^[1] <https://www.netnod.se/iana-stewardship-transition>

^[2] http://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/draft-ietf-ianaplan-icg-response/?include_text=1

^[3] <https://www.nro.net/wp-content/uploads/ICG-RFP-Number-Resource-Proposal.pdf>

^[4] <https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2014-11-05-en>



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Since emerging nations like India have a critical stake in the success of the IANA function and especially the entire transition, CCAOI with the support of NIXI has conducted a study on “The Indian Perspective on the IANA transition”.

Current status

With approaching timelines, the discussions pertaining to the transition, is moving very rapidly. Currently the proposal of CWG Naming community and CCWG accountability team is open for public comments. As the proposals are being finalised, it is pertinent that the Indian community now comment on these proposals by either consenting, suggesting or raising their concerns so that their views can be heard and assimilated by the bodies formulating these proposals, before it is too late.

A brief outline of the two proposals currently under discussion has been shared below:

The **2nd draft of CWG proposal^[1]** proposes to:

- Create a separate legal Post-Transition IANA (PTI) entity which would be a “wholly owned subsidiary of ICANN”.
- A community board comprising of representatives from the three communities to oversee the PTI operations.
- A PTI board having representatives from RIRs and IETF
- An Independent Appeals Panel (IAP)
- A Customer Standing Committee (CSC), comprising of representatives from all communities and individuals. CSC would ensure that the SLA/MoU between ICANN and Post Transition IANA are met.

The **CCWG Accountability group’s proposal^[2]** is deliberating on a wide array of corporate governance changes to make ICANN, especially its policy making process more accountable. These include, changes in the bylaws, restricting ICANNs mission and scope, improving the appeals mechanism and review process, etc. Few of the points being discussed are:

- Power to veto or approve changes in bylaws,
- Empower the community to:
 - Recall and remove ICANN Board of directors,
 - Reject board decisions on Strategic Plan and budget, or where the Board has failed to appropriately reflect community inputs in these documents.

^[1] <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/cwg-stewardship-draft-proposal-2015-04-22-en>

^[2] <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/ccwg-accountability-draft-proposal-2015-05-04-en>



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- Enhance the independent review process of ICANN, with a standing panel of 7 independent panellists, who could be proposed by ICANN board and whose decision would be binding even upon the ICANN Board.
- Improving the accessibility of the Independent Review Process and reforms, expansion of the scope of permissible requests to include Board/staff actions or inactions that contradict established policy, ICANN's Mission, Commitments, Core Values,
- Extension of the time for filing a Request for Reconsideration from 15 to 30 days.

We invite all interested individuals and agencies - Government, Civil society, Industry, Industry Associations, Academics, Consultants, Students, etc., to participate in the half day round table and share their views to draft an India approach.

There is provision for remote participation using : <https://icann.adobeconnect.com/apacmtgrm>

Expected Outcome of the Round Table:

At the end of the round table we expect to:

- Sensitize the stakeholder communities on issues pertaining to IANA Transition
- Assimilate the views shared during the round table into a draft India approach paper.
- Encourage individual stakeholders/ communities to submit their comments to ICANN CCWG Accountability draft, within 2nd June 2015