

# IANA TRANSITION IMPLICATION FOR NIGERIA

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## WASHINGTON

- To support and enhance the multistakeholder model of Internet policymaking and governance, the U.S. Commerce Department's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) today announces its intent to transition key Internet domain name functions to the global multistakeholder community.
- As the first step, NTIA is asking the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) to convene global stakeholders to develop a proposal to transition the current role played by NTIA in the coordination of the Internet's domain name system (DNS).

News Media Contact:

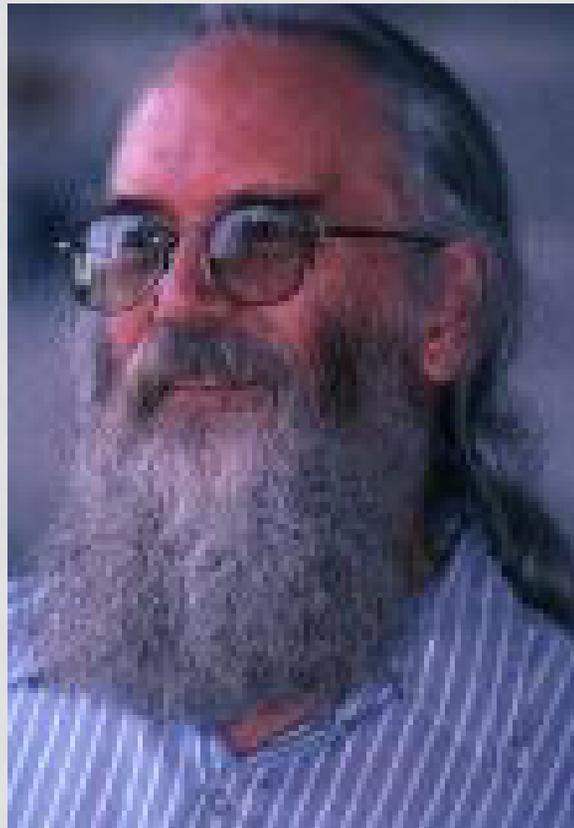
NTIA, Office of Public Affairs, (202) 482-7002, [press@ntia.doc.gov](mailto:press@ntia.doc.gov)

# IANA

“Internet Assigned Numbers Authority”

- A set of technical management functions (root management; IP address bloc allocations) previously performed by the Information Sciences Institute (ISI) at the University of Southern California, under a contract with DARPA
- Includes protocol parameter and port number assignment functions defined by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- A part of ICANN

# IANA



*Jon Postel*  
*1943-1998*

# IANA TRANSITION IMPLICATION

- Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions now to be administered by the global multistakeholder community.
- ICANN to submit a proposal on how to achieve the transition.

# THE IANA FUNCTIONS

The IANA functions involve the coordination of unique Internet identifiers.

These include:

1. Maintenance of the protocol parameter registries on behalf of the IETF;
2. Allocation of Internet Numbers in cooperation with the Regional Internet Registries;
3. Management of the .ARPA and .INT domains;
4. Administrative responsibilities of the DNS root zone; and
5. Coordination of root zone management. The IANA functions are administered by ICANN.

# IANA FUNCTIONS FOR TRANSFER?

- The IANA functions are not under consideration for transfer.
- The IANA functions will continue to be administered by ICANN.

# WHY AND HOW?

- The transition from the U.S. government has been envisioned since 1997 as reflected in “Framework for Global Electronic Commerce” and the subsequent “Statement of Policy” in 1998.
- The US government always envisioned its role as transitional and this is the next step in the concept of globalization of the IANA Functions that was called for and begun sixteen years ago.

# WHY ICANN AS RECIPIENT?

ICANN, in its role as the administrator of the IANA Functions, has performed these functions since 1998, ensuring the continued security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet.

# ICANN: THE BASIC IDEA

**ICANN =**

An Experiment in  
Technical Self-Management  
by the global Internet  
community

# ICANN: THE BASIC BARGAIN

**ICANN =**

Internationalization  
of Policy Functions for DNS and IP  
Addressing systems

+

Private Sector  
(non-governmental) Management

# NEED FOR CHANGE

- ◆ Globalization of Internet
- ◆ Commercialization of Internet
- ◆ Need for accountability
- ◆ Need for more formalized management structure
- ◆ Trademark/domain name conflicts

# DETAILS OF THE PROCESS

- The multistakeholder-designed process that is consensus-driven, participatory, open, and transparent was launched at the ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore in March 2014.
- Subsequent to this meeting, input from the community discussions were compiled and put out for public comment and community feedback.
- Feedback was also taken at the April 23-24 Netmundial meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil
- The conversation is to continue at the ICANN 50 Meeting in London later this Month.
- More feedback from the community will inform the process going forward.

# CORE ELEMENTS OF THE TRANSFER PROCESS

- As outlined in the U.S. government's press release, ICANN anticipates that the transition process of the U.S. government's stewardship of the IANA Functions will be determined by a proposal developed by the multistakeholder community and will not be replaced with an intergovernmental solution.
- The process will meet the following criteria:
  - Supports and enhances the multistakeholder model
  - Maintains the security, stability and resiliency of the DNS
  - Meets the expectations of affected parties
  - Maintains the openness of the Internet

# TARGET DATE

Depending on the progress of this process and flow of community consultation, ICANN and the community could be ready to complete the transition before the renewal of ICANN's contract with the U.S. government in September 2015.

# EXPIRATION OF ICANN CONTRACT WITH USG

- The contract between the U. S. government and ICANN is a zero cost contract.
- This means that ICANN has been providing this service for the benefit of the community for sixteen years without compensation from the U.S. government.
- ICANN's financial stability and statements are publicly available.

## Verisign's contract to operate the .com registry

- That is a separate contract between Verisign and ICANN.
- For Verisign, the only potential change will be the maintenance and publication of the Root Zone, which Verisign has performed as a community service spanning three decades.

# ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM IN PLACE BY ICANN

- Currently ICANN has Service Level Agreements with the IETF for the maintenance of the protocol parameter registries.
- In addition, ICANN has had a third party auditor audit DNSSEC as well as the Security of the IANA functions systems. Performance Standards for timeliness and accuracy of processing stakeholder's requests are also published on a monthly basis.
- This information is published on ICANN's IANA website. The accountability mechanisms for post-transition will be determined and informed by on-going consultation and subsequent feedback from the global multistakeholder community.

# DOES IT ALL MATTER?

- Internet operations will not be affected by the status quo. ICANN will continue to administer the IANA Functions in coordination and cooperation with the IETF and the RIRs.
- For nearly sixteen years, ICANN has performed the IANA Functions with increasing autonomy, demonstrating in the process both operational excellence and maturity in organization – as illustrated by the findings of the IANA Functions Satisfaction Survey of December 2013.

# IMPLICATIONS

- Although multistakeholder driven process, the stakeholders (IETF, IAB, ISOC, top level domain name operators, VeriSign) are largely dominated by US entities or are, like ICANN, US-based, and subject to US laws.
- Thus, there is serious need to get more non-Americans involvement in the process, and an expansion of the consultation beyond ICANN's usual platforms.
- The challenge, then, would be to develop a truly global consultation that equally results in a truly global new order, and not just a repositioning of US players.

## DOES IT ALL MATTER?

Two House hearings, three House bills, and at least two think tank discussions !!!

## THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION (AUC) ON TRANSFER OF THE IANA FUNCTION BY NTIA

“This is an historical decision for an inclusive governance of the Internet critical resources.

This US announcement is important for the entire global Internet Community and particularly for African countries. The African Union Commission will work together with the US and other stakeholders to ensure that IANA functions will be well governed and efficiently operated for the benefits of all citizens of the world.”

DR (MRS) ELHAM M. IBRAHIM,  
THE AFRICAN UNION COMMISSIONER FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY WITH THE ICT PORTFOLIO.

## AFICTA STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE IANA FUNCTION BY NTIA

- **AfICTA** - the Africa Information and Communication Technology Alliance, notes the announcement by the United States' **National Telecommunication and Information Agency (NTIA) of the Department of Commerce** regarding its role related to the Internet **IANA function** and calling for a process of engagement by the global multi-stakeholder community by 2015.
- AfICTA is a private sector member of the global multistakeholder community, representing the interests of the ICT sector in Africa; our members will actively participate in the processes leading to a responsible, accountable transition toward actualization of the NTIA announcement.
- Africa is the world's second largest continent, and the Internet and online services are vitally important to the socio-economic development of Africa. With African businesses and socio-economic development being increasingly tied to the Internet, the need for a single, robust, stable, secure and trusted internet cannot be over-emphasized.

## **AFICTA STATEMENT ON THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE IANA FUNCTION BY NTIA**

- As the dialogue among stakeholders therefore intensifies in the coming months, great effort on the replacement of the NTIA role should be focused on an Internet that remains accessible, unified, stable, secure and trust-worthy. Whatever solution that will evolve should be balanced and unamenable to takeover by any political or economic interest. It should also be such that it operates under the highest environment of respect for the rule of law.
- Finally, the potential new oversight regime should have inherent features that would enable it to surpass the stewardship of the regime it is to replace. AfICTA's members look forward to continuing our contribution to a transition that reflects bottom up, multi-stakeholder participation and full engagement.

**JIMSON OLUFUYE PHD  
CHAIR, AFICTA, 20 MARCH, 2014**

## IMPLICATION FOR NIGERIA

Critical! Because:

- Our socio-economic life is increasingly dependent on the Internet – telecommunication, banking, commerce, etc. As such
  - our government should be actively involved in the ICANN Government Advisory Committee (GAC) where governments on equal footing discuss the IANA transition
  - our businesses and users should engage through the ICANN Stakeholder Groups (eg Business Constituency – comprised of business users of the Internet. AfICTA is a member.) to ensure the continuous stability, resiliency and predictability of the Internet.
  - NIRA (.ng) should continue to play active role in the ccNSO.

## SCENARIOS

- ICANN's bankruptcy
- ICANN moving the base of its operations out of the U.S.
- A change from consensus to majority voting
- ICANN adding a new top-level domain despite security and stability concerns and so on.

# CONCLUSION

- The transfer of IANA oversight from NTIA to the multistakeholder community is supported by Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Cisco, Verizon, the Motion Picture Association of America, and the Chamber of Commerce.
- Those are powerful constituencies.
- But their motivations – expanding their global markets – are decidedly different from government motivations.

# CONCLUSION

- The multistakeholder replacement must provide stronger assurance of one stable, resilient and secured Internet.
- Nigeria as the no 1 economy in Africa with 50% of Internet users in Africa should be interested and be strongly involved in the discussion leading to the outcome of the new oversight regime.

# FURTHER READING

- SEE –
- [www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)
- [www.icannwatch.com](http://www.icannwatch.com)
- [www.ccnso.icann.org](http://www.ccnso.icann.org)
- [www.aso.icann.org](http://www.aso.icann.org)
- Questions?