

Andrés Piazza: Andrés Piazza, Argentina.

Vanda Scartezini: ...from NomCom. Welcome. I'm here to invite you to join in some way other places in the ICANN.

Rodrigo de la Parra: Rodrigo de la Parra from ICANN of the Region of Latin America.

Heidi Ullrich: Heidi Ullrich, I'm Director for At-Large.

Gisella Gruber: Gisella Gruber, ICANN staff.

Seth Greene: Seth Greene, ICANN staff.

Sheldon: Good afternoon, I'm Sheldon (inaudible) for ICANN for the Caribbean.

Lyndel McDonald: Good afternoon, I'm Lyndel McDonald, ICANN fellow.

Male 1: Christina, please.

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

Christina Rodriquez: Good afternoon, my name is Christina Rodriguez. I'm the Language Service Manager for ICANN.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, thank you everyone. I should ask who else is on the bridge?

Ken Crispin: Ken Crispin, technical guy at ICANN.

David Clausen: David Clausen, staff IT.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you all. Erick.

Erick Iriarte: My name is Erick Iriarte from (inaudible) the LACRALO.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Good to see you, Erick. Is there anybody on the bridge? Confirm that, Matthias.

Matthias Langenegger: There are people on the bridge but unfortunately it's not possible to turn up the volume at the moment, because there is somebody in here



apparently who is connected to the Adigo bridge, so it creates a feedback and they're not able to turn up the volume.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay.

Matthias Langenegger: So if anybody in here is connected to Adigo for whatever reason, please stop.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Jose, quickly.

Jose Arce: My name is - it's a presentation. I want to introduce myself, yeah?

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Just introduce yourself quickly.

Jose Arce: My name is Jose Arce, I am from Argentina. I don't know...

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: That's good enough.

Jose Arce: Okay. This is my second time as a fellow here, so I'm very glad to be with all of you.



Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you all. We do have some action items, but I know that the at large staff -

Lance Hinds: Did you ask about who was on the bridge?

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Yes - that has some announcements and also a busy schedule. So we want to just move that to the top of the agenda, specifically the the transitions that the at large team will undergo within the next few weeks. Heidi, do you wish to summarize this?

Heidi Ullrich: Yes, thank you. As you know, we have Matthias leaving us after three very fruitful years at ICANN. He'll be actually leaving us at the end of this week. So in transition, we are going to bring Seth Greene in. Now those of you who have been active in the At-Large Improvements Work Teams will know Seth from his work as project manager for that program.

So he's actually going to be covering all of the support for the LACRALO from the 21st of March through at least - we're going to estimate mid-June, end of June. Now we're interviewing for two positions, one being the Regional Manager. So if that person, or when that person is in



place, that person will take over all five RALOs just like Matthias did, okay.

Now, also I'm going to be away for four months on maternity leave. So in that time, that's going to be May through end of August and during that time, Seth will be covering the ALAC and the Executive Committee activities. So we're going to ensure that we have full support for all of you again.

You know we don't want any kind of reduction, and hopefully not too much of an improvement, so I'm welcome back. But that's the transition plan, we are very much working to get people in place on time so that there will be no interruption at all. Thanks.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you, Heidi. Okay, let's now quickly look at the action items from the 17 of February, 2011, actually it's a very short list. Vanda will send the staff an email, what the email address you would like to use, I presume Vanda , was that done, or was it just forgotten. The action item regarding you would send an email to staff specifying which email address you wish to be added to the list, that was done?

Vanda Scartezini: Yeah, well it's working on.



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Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, great, so that action item is done.

Vanda Scartezini: Yeah, the only problem was when I stepped down from the Board, they disconnected generally. So all the transitions through ICANN just to stop it, and then -

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: I see.

Vanda Scartezini: -and starting with a lot of duplications, and that now is working, thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Great, excellent, so that action item can be struck off. So we're up to forward the regional input to the SWOT analysis to Work Team C, I think I know that - that has been done. And thank you Sylvia for putting together the Google doc and putting together the contributions from various members of LACRALO on that. So I know that has also been done.

Okay, item number three is the open public consultations. Well, there's like 12 policies that are out for comment. So does anyone wish to talk about any particular policy that is of interest to them. I know I have one.



Andrés Piazza: Yes, first of all, I prefer to introduce Rodrigo and to have his presentation in order to - then he can maybe leave.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Excellent idea, Andrés, sorry about that, and please go ahead, welcome.

Rodrigo de la Parra: Thank you very much. I would like to take some minutes of your time to introduce myself. I am Rodrigo de la Parra. I am the new regional representative of ICANN for Latin America. I have been working for ICANN since January 2010 so I am at your disposal, because I want to near the community in Latin America and of course, we believe LACRALO is a fundamental part for this model. So through the LACRALO and the Chair of LACRALO I would like to provide you with my personal information, and contact information and I am at your disposal. Thank you very much.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you. Erick, you want to say something go ahead.

Erick Iriarte: Yes, just to mention two things. First of all, I would like to say the incorporation of Rodrigo for Latin America ccTLDs of the region is how it's complete and fully support, but also a strong desire for the incorporation of the activities into the ICANN community. And this implies an acknowledgement of all the effort of the liaison for the



Caribbean has done during this time in which - a period of time in which we didn't have a liaison for the Continental region. And his family didn't want him to work so much, but I think it is important to thank Sheldon for his efforts for the regions which is sometimes unknown. So thank you very much.

Sergio Salinas Porto: Dev?

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Sergio, go ahead.

Sergio Salinas Porto: Just for the record, I think it would be interesting for us to say our name whenever we speak to be recorded. The previous speaker was Erick Iriarte. Thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, and this the - now the next item on the agenda, open public consultations. I'm actually want to put that towards the end because I'll cut the update and move to item agenda number four, which is the update from the ICANN San Francisco meeting, since some of those policy discussions - public consultations, sorry, did take place or have been taking place in this week. Would anyone like to give a quick update on the San Francisco meeting? I can say, I can give a brief overview of the Sunday meeting.





Carlton, do you wish to try?

Carlton Samuels: I could say a few things.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Go ahead.

Carlton Samuels: Thank you, Dev. The San Francisco 40th meeting for ICANN got off to I would think a good start. The anticipations of the issues that would have been compelling as kind of panning out, the big issue here is the outcome from the GAC Board discussions in Brussels, and the impact of that on the new gTLD program. In the LAC world it is very interesting to note that in a LAC GAC meeting yesterday afternoon, we had a confirmation from the GAC that they're very much interested in hearing from the at large through ALAC our prospective on the GAC's scorecard, which is the instrument that the GAC is using to track the status of the issues pertaining to the new gTLD program that they have been discussing with the Board.

The GAC it appears have accepted that the at large and themselves do have commonality of interests in some areas and they have actually invited the ALAC to respond formally to the GAC scorecard and to demonstrate for or against whether or not we agree with them on the issues, and if we do not agree, should show them where we don't agree.



The Vice Chair for the ALAC Evan Leibovitch who is from the North American region, I believe did an effective presentation of the at large interests in that meeting. And I think it is principally because of that intervention I believe that the GAC now have a better understanding of where the at large interests and their interests might coincide. So we are looking forward to having a fulsome report done for the GAC with regard to the positions they have kind of put forward on the new gTLD program on that scorecard.

Another issue that seems to be getting a lot of play, is of course the whole matter of abuse, DNS abuse and so on. So far the - it appears as you look at the actors, there is no consensus view, in my opinion, that the WHOIS record is indeed a very vital piece of information in the suppression or the management of the DNS abuse. It appears that the law enforcement agencies how now made that the center piece of their attempts to manage respond to DNS abuse. That's a good thing.

The role of ICANN in regard to the RAA, which is the Registrar Accreditation Agreement and how that might impact the validity, and I say validity of WHOIS data seems to be now front and center of their concerns. That's a good thing for the at large I believe, because from the out set, the at large position was that if we accept that the WHOIS data is central to identity and reaction, when there is abuse, then it is in ICANN's interest, and ICANN has a duty of care to ensure that the DNS



and the WHOIS record is valid. I think what you're hearing from law enforcement now on underscores that perspective for us. So I think we're on the right track with that.

There is a disquiet, I might say for me, because there seems to be an attempt to conflict two issues. The one issue that seems to be conflicted is an economic crime in the use of DNS by online pharmaceutical companies. In my view, that is a separate issue from the DNS abuse. I do not see that as a DNS abuse at all. The fact is you can't buy anything online without a long transaction record created, money sent to banks, and I mean money sent to banks, whether they're in New York City, or in London, or in Paris, or in Frankfurt, or in Hong Kong, or in Tokyo are at the end of those transactions.

It is required for settlement and those of us - well, I'm an ex-banker, so I understand what settlement means. But when you make any transaction that involves money, the banking system is invoked to pay somebody or other. So the DNS - it works, if the DNS did not resolve, you could not have the transaction.

So I believe and this is my opinion now, but I believe that is conflicting two separate issues. In any event, I think it's a welcome addition to the at large voice from the law enforcement organizations about the role of WHOIS and the validity of the WHOIS data in terms of managing and responding to DNS abuse.



This afternoon, later on, we have a significant event off site as it were, this is the NCUC sponsored town hall meeting, and I believe that the topic to be discussed there should be of interest to all of the at large. So I would urge those of you who would have a yearn to know more about what's happening, follow the links online from the ICANN 40 meeting page and you might be able to join the conversations or at least gain some information from that meeting.

The rest of the schedule is packed, lots of us are trying to make as many meetings as we can outside of the at large agenda, and hopefully we'll have more to tell you by the end of the week. Thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:

Thank you, Carlton, and I agree with you regarding the - regarding the importance of WHOIS that it has to be accurate and verifiable so that - I mean otherwise - so sorry - I see Vanda wants to say something to respond to that. But first I want to just correct something actually. Regards to that event, that internet town hall event, it's a Tuesday, 15th of March -

Carlton Samuels:

It's later.



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Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Yeah, yeah, not today. Later, okay, so that's to confirm that. Vanda go ahead. Do we have the remote?

Vanda Scartezini: Carlton, I was attending the DNS abuse this morning, and I was puzzled about the position of Interpol. Did you hear about that?

Carlton Samuels: Yes.

Vanda Scartezini: So it was something. We need to start to think because it's something like well, whatever you say is not convenient for the users for my point of view, it's crime, it's done. If they give some damage for the order, sorry about that, but a lot of innocent people will rot in the jail, something like that. So it was, you know, a little- We have a very huge debate about blocking and the consequences of blocking in ISOC, and you know looks like it's - you know useless, because whatever the community will do it's not - not important for the authorities, so that's freaked me out about that. So just to remember that. And I was also talking with Andrés, asking if LACRALO paid attention or respond to the deadline for 31 of - the 31st of March.

Andrés Piazza: Yes, for the policy.

Vanda Scartezini: Yeah, for the policy.



Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Just to clarify, which policy are you referring to?

Vanda Scartezini: Yeah, we thought the Rod talk... Yeah, Rod talked today about the IANA and the AOC things and they're asking for everybody to put their opinion, blah, blah, blah. And I'm asking if we already have some position on that.

Carlton Samuels: Can I respond to that?

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Go ahead, Carlton.

Carlton Samuels: Thank you, Chair. First of all Vanda, I like you heard the Interpol presentation, I was a little curious. I didn't want to say too much more about that, because I think it requires a full discussion and the WHOIS Working Group is going to be involved in this. It is quite interesting to note that the blocking mechanism that is developed as one way to respond to DNS abuse, what happens is that Interpol apparently has a worst - worst list of domains that the worst perpetrators of this abuse and apparently that list plus others can then be used by national authorities to block access to them.



So it is a national kind of response, and everybody in the country, would probably not be able to get it from the IP addresses that are connected to that country. It bears some analysis, I think. And as you say Vanda, it is something for us to look at and see how it is - there's a (circum) group, I think they call it, and they're a lot of Northern European countries that are part of that group. I myself have not looked at the details of it, so I wouldn't want to say much more about it until then.

Regarding the IANA contract, and I'm glad you brought it up again Vanda, note well that the NTIA, which is the US government agency that is overseeing the IANA contract arrangements have put out the contract - the contract is up for renewal, and so there's a proposal to renew and they're asking for comments from interested parties, and if you go to the NTIA or Department of Commerce website, you could find a link to that and so on. I think we did have it on the list. It was sent out on the list. This is the LACRALO discuss list.

I believe it is - it is a good opportunity for us to be - to look at what the contract is offering, whether there are any changes that might be amicable to user interests and it's not just the North American interests, but certainly our users in Latin America Caribbean. I believe it would be good, as Vanda suggestion, and I endorse that fully for LACRALO to make a formal response to that, I believe. This is not within the ICANN constructs, but I believe it is important enough for us to look at it with the view that we should make a collective response and submit some kind of comment on it.



So I agree with Vanda in that, notwithstanding, because I had intended to make my own comment on it, speaking as an individual and from my - with my interests on it. So I am also going to suggest to you that those of you who do have an interest, particular interest, should go and make comments on the NTIA website on this as well. I would encourage you to do that.

In my own view at this time, there are some stark choices, and it seems that there is an opportunity to leverage the renew of the IANA contract against some things that are happening in the name and numbers management space. I won't say anything further on that. Thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you, Carlton and Vanda. Heidi is also put in the chat that the NTIA notice of inquiry, there will be an at large discussion at 14:00 hours local time. So that we have an opportunity to have here some further - get more - learn more about this issue. What is it?

Carton Samuels: I was going to write something.

Andrés Piazza: Excuse me, this is Andrés speaking. On the one hand, evidently Carlton and myself yesterday spoke about our interest in the IANA contract, the public comment period will be due on March 31st. I like Carlton's idea





in that every single individual may voice their opinion in the public comment section. However, I do believe that we can aspire to a regional position on this issue.

As regards - the substance or the matter of this discussion I believe that our regional position should be linked to what will happen tomorrow at the ALAC policy discussion. I think this is on the agenda, on the ALAC agenda, for tomorrow and the Latin American region is not excluded from this public interest. We are part of the global public interest.

We have more voices that need to be heard; and evidently I am no expert on addresses and these issues, but evidently promoting internationalization may be a concept for us to aspire to and maybe there are different views. So if possible I would like to go deeper into this topic. Thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Sergio, you wanted to say something, go ahead.

Sergio Salinas Porto: I'm Sergio, I want to second Andrés' view, we are - we think along the same lines. It would be interesting for us to get together in these remaining days and maybe reach a regional position or idea, and take that idea to the ALAC meeting, perhaps we can spread our viewpoint to other ALAC components and maybe come up with some regional position, leveraging the diversity of our RALO.



Andrés Piazza: This is Andrés. Do you have a specific stance? Have you taken a specific stance regarding the content of these contract.

Sergio Salinas Porto: Now, no. I have doubts about certain questions or issues. I am of the impression that we have the United States as an important continental force, and on the other hand, we face ICANN's role and ICANN's position in this situation and we need to consider the user's positions. So we need to strike a balance.

Vanda Scartezini: Just remember that's a good opportunity to rethink about the IANA function. This is two functions you know very well, that's not the problem. The problem is how in the future - who is going to be in charge of that. It's the model that we have here in ICANN that needs to be improved. Certainly we'll need to (englove) the idea of IANA, because it's the basic of the DNS in that. So that is the future that we're talking about.

So it's - from my point of view the importance of talking about that is to not talking about its function or not, it is. But that is not what we're talking about. It's how we going to governance this kind of fantastic, and deep, and the most important you know infrastructure for our countries, whatever we are. Okay, thank you.



Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you, Vanda. You want to follow up Carlton, I saw your hand.

Carlton Samuels: No, no, no.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, thank you. One of the other items - that I do want to address, and I guess I'll shift the agenda again because of our time and move to item number five, which is a review of the LACRALO mailing list translation -

Andrés Piazza: Could I have two seconds?

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Very well, Andrés, go ahead.

Andrés Piazza: About policy, Jose is here, he's active in LACRALO from a couple of years, but most following the least, but he's a member of am ALS. Now he's for the fellowship program, and he did some work some time about the possible direction of domain recovery, maybe he could - I don't know if I'd say represent, but he could be sent from LACRALO to ALAC contributing in that addition because this is one of the other public comments that are going on in the policy session for tomorrow. We will be talking about that.



I remember yesterday people from ALAC could volunteer about following one topic or other, and nobody from our region volunteered to do that, to follow that topic, so I ask Jose. Sorry, were you Carlton?

Carlton Samuels: (Inaudible).

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Yes, could you just clarify Andrés, which topic are you referring to?

Andrés Piazza: Post expiration domain recovery. So I suggest that Jose could be one participant from LACRALO on this topic and be active tomorrow in the ALAC policy discussion.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you, Andrés, anything else?

Andrés Piazza: Jacqueline, can you introduce yourself? And also I want to - if there people in the remote channel and they can speak, I would like them to introduce also.

Jacqueline Morris: Okay, hi, I'm Jacqueline Morris from the Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society. And I'm the Associate Chair of the NomCom and I'm just here one as a member of the TTCS to sit in on the meeting; and two, as the associate chair of the NomCom to please remind everyone that we are



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looking for good candidates from Latin America and the Caribbean, especially for the ALAC position this year. We have eight positions open, Board, GNSO, ccNSO, and ALAC. And would like you to encourage your friends, colleagues and so on to volunteer, or you can just submit names to us, and we will try and persuade them. Thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you, Jacqueline. I also see Cintra is there. Cintra, do you want to introduce yourself?

Cintra Sooknanan: I'm Cintra Sooknanan, also from the Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society. I just wanted to mention as well as the Adobe Connect room, Lance, well myself and Maria had used a previous link, so if we could share that with them, the correct one.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thanks, Cintra, and well I have to find out what is the exact link.

Lance Hinds: (Inaudible).

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay. Sorry, now just going back Andrés, yes, I think that Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery Working Group proposed final report is important, and the executive summary of that report is available in Spanish, so it deals with the series of recommendations regarding the expiration and to what extent registrants should be able



to renew the domain name after they expire. So again, I would encourage everybody to actually read that report, because I think it's a very - it really affects all registrants of any generic top level domain.

Sergio Salinas Porto: (Inaudible).

Andrés Piazza: So Jose, are you on ir? Are you on the -

Sergio Salinas Porto: Yes, yes of course. This is Sergio and you can definitely count on me.

Jose Arce: So this is Jose speaking, of course, absolutely. I will literally dive into this matter and Sergio, please feel free to count on me.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: I just want to move ahead with the agenda. Yeah, because - agenda item number five, a review of the LACRALO meeting list translation. With us we have some of the persons who have helped set up a new translation list that is different from the existing LACRALO translation used for the LACRALO English and LACRALO Spanish.

With us is David Clausen, I hoped I pronounced your surname correctly, and also Kent Crispin and also we have Christina Rodriguez, the Translations Management manager. Thank you very much for



attending. For those who don't know in the last LACRALO meeting in Cartagena it was widely expressed, I think universally ,that the existing translation is unsatisfactory to put it mildly.

[background conversation]

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: And what we were told was that a new form of translation was going to be done and that the beta test will be done within the coming months since Cartagena, and perhaps David or Kent might want to just simply talk about what exactly is this new translation before we give our feedback on it. On how it differs from the existing translation of the LACRALO list.

Kent Crispin: Hi, this is Kent Crispin. The fundamental difference is that we are using a Google backend instead of a SYSTRAN backend, and there has been some minor modifications to the software to support that, but other than that the interface is basically the same. The people - when we were asked to do this, we were told that they preferred the translations that Google did to the translations that SYSTRAN did.

And so we set that up and we tried some internal testing, and I will have to say that the reviews have been mixed. I'm not sure that it's an improvement or not. Unfortunately, I don't really speak Spanish well enough to be able to say. And to me it's the same. So we just depend



on your feedback to see whether this is worth doing or not, to tell you the truth.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Go ahead, Heidi, sorry.

Heidi Ullrich: Yes, sorry, just very quickly, sorry Sergio. But just to let you know what this is in front of you, the front page is the original English version of the message, the second page is the old list translation and then the third page is the list translation of the new - of the new one.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Sergio, you wanted to say something, you had your hand raised. Sergio, you had your hand raised, I'm sorry - you wanted to say something?

Sergio Salinas Porto: It's Sergio speaking. I would like to say something about it. Good afternoon, I do speak Spanish. And this has improved a lot, some formats, idiomatic linguistic formats are respected in our vocabulary and this allowed us to understand the text in a better way. The only thing that I would object and I don't know if it can be improved is that we have ampersand in some lines, you have ampersand characters and numbers are decomposed, so I think this is a programming item or issue.





And I think this could be improved. So I suggest seeing this in detail but I think this can work for us. I don't know how this is in English, the translation from Spanish into English.

Sylvia Herlein-Leite:

Thank you, Chairman. I would like to say that now we can understand the idea of the paragraph, when we read the paragraphs, we can understand the idea, and this was not so before. So we still have problem with words in Spanish, for example with the accents or with certain symbols appearing, and we have also problem with numbers, when in the last page you see the schedules or the times UTC for example is not understandable. UTC is an example. This is something we have to improve, but we are better now than before, absolutely. Thank you.

Andrés Piazza:

I will say this in English because I want maybe to explain to the people who is here why we were making so many criticisms to this system. Well to other - I agree with Silvia and with Sergio and with Matthias, people who are bilingual maybe can know the difference. Some links are also broken and weren't broken in the previous system, here there is a link that is broken - that is broken.

I think there is a substantial improvement of the system, so I'm glad about that, but I think that the main issue is that if this improves, the possibility of expressing ourselves freely or not, if this helps or not. So maybe it's up the people who is using that. So for me I would have - I



have so many other examples, but I would have shown an example from an original Spanish text into English, because many of the people from LACRALO who writes their emails in Spanish and doesn't know English, it's the highest population, let's say.

So maybe this could be the test we need in order to find out - find out if the system works or not. For me it's good. I don't know the people who will actually use it, because I don't use for me this system, but for me it's a good improvement and we will - maybe we should keep the system. Because before we were thinking about erasing the system and come back to a plain text and no semantic translation. So for me we should check the other example from Spanish to English and if it is the same, we could change those - the numbers issue, the links issue, and I don't know the accents, and the rest is fine.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:

Thank you, Andrés. Just to clarify what the links issue is, it's more - it's the HTTPS links, HTTP links are left untouched as they should be, but the HTTPS links are being translated which is obviously what breaks the link obviously. I see Cintra Sooknanan and then I see Carlos. Go ahead, Cintra.

Cintra Sooknanan:

I just wanted to (inaudible) what Andrés was saying, but instead of having a preference from... Because this example is just from English to Spanish, but we shouldn't have a preference, even though the majority of the correspondence on the mailing list does originate from Spanish to



English, ICANN documents are all English to Spanish and that kind of thing.

So to me we should dovetail both of them, they should both have equal weight. Also in terms of the issue with the links, maybe that could be certain with names and that kind of thing that would be stored and not translated.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Hold on. Is there a question coming from the bridge? Okay, well while we sort out the problem with the bridge, I guess we'll hold on until that. I see, Kent – do you want to immediately respond to that?

Kent Crispin: Yes, I think the links problem is probably something that can easily be solved in software. I can't guarantee that but I think so. The translation is done by an automated system over which ICANN has no control, so we send this to Google and Google translates it. So however well it does from English to Spanish or vice versa is purely under Google's control. We don't have any way of affecting that.

So I suspect that the translation is equally good both ways, and there have been- I don't know if the beta testers would care to comment on that. There have been people who have been looking at this. I don't know that they have done much of the Spanish to English checking, though. Anyway the software problem I think can be fixed easily.



Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Thank you. Carlos?

Carlos Aguirre: Thanks, Dev. I'm Carlos Aguirre. Regardless the problem we have with the translations of emails, I've just talked with the person responsible for this and she told me that they are getting involved into this topic and trying to find tools to solve the problems. They're working very well to find a solution for us, so I think as Sergio said before we have moved forward a lot in this respect. We have great translations when we have the translations of Maya. They're very good, and when we receive Rita's translations they are really, really good. So I would also like to greet Rita because it was her birthday yesterday.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Carlton, please.

Carlton Samuels: Can I just tell you I use Gmail and I use the Google translation engine in line and it seems to work just fine. I get mail in Spanish, French, and I simply toggle on the translate and I say "I want to translate this," and bang – it's done. I don't know if it makes sense to put too much effort into trying to fix this behind the scenes when we might adopt a free available solution and impact it straight away. I am not so sure.



I am saying this to say that if you put the Google engine behind the scenes and you have to engineer on top of that to make it work, you might want to look at the cost/benefit analysis for that. That's all I'm saying. I believe that it is rational for you to take a look at that, because what we're using here is the Google translation engine directly in the Gmail interface. And I can demonstrate to you that I just simply say "I want this translated" and it does it and I can understand it. I don't know what is the difference but you might want to look at that.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Just a quick follow-up- Alright, Jacqueline, go ahead.

Jacqueline Morris: Okay, just to follow up on Carlton. Two things – one, there are many, many people who don't use the Gmail interface so that; but the translation actually does work quite well. And I would put my vote if there is any such behind the continuing of using the Google translator on the mailing list because it does work a lot better than the SYSTRAN one. And yet again, as I said, most people don't necessarily use the Gmail interface so you can't lock people into a particular interface to make it easier. So when I'm using my phone, I don't have that ability to translate on my phone or anything.

Carlton Samuels: No, the big thing is it's the engine behind it. It's the same engine. So the point is if I have to reverse engineer the engine to make it work I might want to look at an alternate.



Jacqueline Morris:                   What reverse engineering of the engine do they need to do? Cause the translation engine is the same one, right? It's just the interface to the list, yeah.

Kent Crispin:                           Google supplies an API to their translation interface and that's all we're using, so it is the same engine and there is a standard interface for it, and there isn't any real- It actually isn't too difficult to do so there's nothing to reverse engineer really.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:           Okay, I'm seeing some questions in the chat here so let me just- I think Fatima is asking are we going to keep both lists, one for English, one for Spanish? That's what she's saying, right? I think the intention, and clarify me if I'm wrong – the new system is going to be like three lists if I understood the technical – one for English, one for Spanish and one containing the original emails in their original untranslated format. Or am I incorrect in saying this?

Kent Crispin:                           Every translated message has at the bottom a link to the original untranslated source in both the new and the old interface. It's not a separate list; it's just a direct link to the untranslated source. It doesn't show at the bottom of this because it's been cut off, but in the previous one, on the SYSTRAN one you can see down at the bottom it says "Original text in English is at this URL."



So for every translated message the original text is available just a click away. It's not a separate list; it's just a direct link to it.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Oh, okay, thanks for clarifying that. And a question from Cintra was "Can we forward some words that are not to be translated, for example names?" Is that possible? Is that possible with the program?

Kent Crispin: Well, it's a mere matter of programming. There are a couple of options here. One would be to put in some kind of markers in the text that would enable a person to say "Do not translate this"; you know, maybe something like HTML that would say "Do not translate" around some block of text and then the translation engine would leave it alone.

Another possibility would be that you supply a list of words and then the software effectively does that same thing: whenever it sees one of those words it doesn't do a translation. That's very, very tricky because almost always translation, whether you want to translate or not depends on context. And sometimes you want to translate and sometimes you don't, and it's very difficult to make that machine smart enough to know when it is you want to translate and when you don't.



Dev Anand Teelucksingh: One of the things I've noticed while they're testing this is I've noticed that the names under- I think, I don't know if it's a part of Google or the work done by you is that the names weren't translated at all. So because I know that's a big problem with the existing translation, that our names get translated and sometimes you don't even know who actually posted it in the first place. So Cintra, you wanted to follow up with that? Okay, Cintra first and then Carlton.

Cintra Sooknanan: Not just with names as in for persons but also in terms of organizations. I mean can we effectively just give a string? Like say Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society – that should stay as that rather than be translated.

Kent Crispin: As I said you could. I mean that mechanism doesn't exist at present but it could certainly be put in, and as I said, I can think of at least two ways to do it: one is that you give me a list of such strings, and another is that I tell you that you just put this little mark around the string and it won't translate it.

From my perspective, the mark around the string is much simpler because then I don't have to have any intelligence in the program that says when to translate or not. I just see the mark and I don't translate. If you give me a list of strings not to translate then it becomes tricky because parts of that string may appear in other words or places, and then they'll be all of a sudden not translated in the midst of a context





where it should be translated. And it's very hard to know when that's appropriate to do that and when it's not.

So it would be easy to put in some kind of marker that says "Don't translate." That I could do in a day or two probably. But to do a list of words that you don't want to have translated, that's a more complicated matter. Also I could point out that these are not mutually exclusive. I mean we could do both of these things and we could have a list of common terms that you didn't want translated and we could just have that on a list; and we could also have these special markers for people who wanted to have more control over the translation.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, well actually I see four people here. Christina, then I see Lance, then Sergio, then Jacqueline. Christina, please.

Christina Rodriguez: Just a thought, maybe it might be even more useful and simpler if instead of them giving you a list I'm thinking from a machine translation point of view- I know that when you do machine translation or when it translates or when you get assisted translation or translation memory, what gets translated are actually the segments.

So in a context like this, like on Google for example, couldn't they maybe just tell you exactly what they want to translate and not what they don't want to translate? And if they want to translate something,



why not just be the message that they want to send? So everything else within the mail does not get translated – dates, URLs, links and all that.

So let's say you configure the Google Translate to say "Okay, all the text within these columns or whatever, or from here to here is to be translated." So every time they send a message, they open a paragraph or a segment and they indicate that that's what they want to translate.

Kent Crispin:

The question is how do you do that? How do you indicate that? Markers.

Male 2:

So this is a generalization of the marker idea then?

Christina Rodriguez:

Yeah, what I'm saying is instead of using the markers to say "don't translate this but just this one and the other one," which makes it more complicated for the machine to understand because as you said, one of these words could be used in a different context and maybe in a segment I do want to translate that word but I've already told the machine not to translate or the system not to translate that word. And the system does not know in which instance it's supposed to be translated or not.



So instead of indicating the system “Do not translate” something, why don’t we indicate the system “Okay, translate this between these markers,” which will be actually the message that you’re sending. And in that message you need to make sure that you don’t indicate dates or anything like that, and that could be actually in some other place.

Kent Crispin: I must confess I’m a little concerned about that because I think what you really want to have happen is you want the translation to be as transparent as possible.

Christina Rodriguez: Exactly.

Kent Crispin: You want the translation to occur when you want it and you don’t want it to occur when you don’t want it. And you want to do the minimal amount of having to indicate things. And since the-

[background conversation\

Kent Crispin: Since the purpose- You know, it’s going from one list to another, so the assumption is that- The whole point of that is that you’re translating to get from there to there. There’s so many possibilities here that it’s hard to make a definitive statement.



Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay. We're going to take a long time on this and I know that we wanted to speak on this. Jacqueline? Sorry.

Jacqueline Morris: How many of these comments are from the actual test list? Because I've been following the test list and the Google Translate does not translate names. It does break some of the links but it really hasn't been doing too badly with guessing what it should and should not translate, as opposed to SYSTRAN which always caused Sergio silliness – "I Carry," right. But it hasn't done that to you on the Google at all. It doesn't translate, I've not seen it translating names.

So a lot of this discussion to me seems to be not applicable to the new testing; it seems to be applicable to the old that we've already agreed has lots of problems. And if so, if people are finding that in the new list then yeah, go ahead with the conversation. But if it is the old list you're talking about then we can stick a pin right there because it doesn't apply.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, thanks Jacqueline. I think yes, I think if you have to think too much about where you're going to insert flags and what to translate and what not to translate, you're just going to think be- It just adds to the difficulty of sending a message, yeah. So perhaps if I may suggest we



forward or suggest that we close off this topic. Okay, David, a quick response. Go ahead.

David Clausen:

Maybe we should just convert the list to use this new mechanism and then I am very willing to hear whatever comments people may have. And as we get more people using it I'm sure we'll get more comments, and if there are improvements we'll be happy to make them.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:

Well that's the other way of doing it. I was wondering if we can just simply expand the existing translation beta test to more people and continue to get more feedback?

[background conversation]

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:

Yeah, I know. And I wanted to just close off this thing but I do see Lance, and I'm so sorry, Lance, for not responding earlier. And I'm sorry for not being in the chat room to respond to you. Is it that you're able to speak it or is it the question you've posted in the chat?

Well I'm just going to read- I'm sorry, Lance, we seem to have some technical problems on our bridge unfortunately. We'll give him a few more seconds. But I think definitely I would like the other persons to join the beta test list rather than switch- Let me ask you: is it very



difficult to switch the list, I mean from the beta test to replace it while we're trying to get Lance on it?

Kent Crispin: No, it's not very difficult.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: It's not difficult at all.

Kent Crispin: I just change where it goes.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay. And it's not like the existing list archives would be lost in any way, or-

Kent Crispin: I think it would just be changing the underlying translation tool and it wouldn't be changing the list structure at all. It would just, you know, the messages would just now go through the new interface, and it would presumably, I think, would just be completely transparent.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Alright, well let's be cautious and be on the safe side. Let's just simply expand a bit the beta testers. Currently there's only like four beta testers of this. Who else wishes to actually be on this beta test list and start trying to translate? Is there anybody in the room who wants to volunteer or not to go on the list?



Sergio Salinas Porto: Dev, this is Sergio. I would like to be on the list in order to check how this works. Thanks, Dev.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, great. Right. So are we able to get Lance in or not? No?

Cintra Sooknanan: I just messaged Lance. He said that we should be hearing him now.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay. Okay, Lance, then well this'll be the last comment on this topic because we really want to move ahead on it. Go ahead, Lance.

Sergio Salinas Porto: Dev, this is Sergio speaking. Maria Mendes is telling me that she cannot receive Lance properly. There's bad communication and she can hardly hear him.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Apologies for our technical issues there, and I'm sorry, Lance. We want to close off this issue though because we have spent a lot of time. But I am truly grateful for Kent and Christina for taking the time. As you can tell, this is a very important aspect.

Female 2: Well, it seems Lance is here.



[background conversation]

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Nope, unfortunately we're going to just have to close it off. I'm so sorry, Lance. But I want to thank Christina and Kent and David. We spent a lot of time on this issue but I think the reason why we're spending a lot of time on this issue is because it's so very important for us to understand each other; and it's like, I mean the translation on the list is something that's very important for us to understand each other, to understand what each of us is saying to each other. And while there may be some small flaws with this new beta test I think it's a step in the right direction, so thank you for those comments and your work done on this so far. Thank you.

So, well we started late and now we've just reached 3:30. What would you like to suggest we want to do? Sergio, go ahead?

Sergio Salinas Porto: This is Sergio speaking. There's something I will put forward to the ALAC but I would like to discuss it here. Every time, on every occasion I attended the meetings I have been given a thumb drive with a document in several languages but when we open the Spanish documents or the documents in Spanish- So let me go back on my words. Every time I attend a meeting, shall I wait? What shall I do? Okay, I'll start again.





Every time I attend an ALAC meeting I find that I am given a thumb drive that contains folders with files in several languages. When I click on the Spanish folder with any luck I find two or three documents in Spanish and the rest of the documents are in English. By chance a member of our RALO on this occasion wanted the documents, wanted to receive the documents so that he or she could participate in the meeting.

Now, the documents being in Spanish, our opportunities to participate would have been higher. So once again, please – if we have a Spanish folder, please let us include all the documents that ALAC considers important in Spanish so that they can be disseminated and replicated within our RALO. Thank you.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:

I mean I think obviously that will be taken under advisement. As you know, most of the policy documents are still English-only so it may simply be a lack of availability of those documents available. I'm sure if there are documents available in Spanish I'm sure it would have been included.

Sergio Salinas Porto:

Yes, yes. This is Sergio. What I'm saying here is we need to do our best so that these documents may be translated before the meetings take place.



Andrés Piazza: This is Andrés speaking now. I think this is a policy, the translation issues, and a budgetary issue as well. The staff includes the documents that are available evidently and every time the fiscal year starts At-Large as a whole and LACRALO is leading the process, and Hong also leads the process. We are the leaders in asking for translations and we see a higher budgetary allocation year-on-year as regards translations. Then we have to take into account the Board resolutions that need to be published in the five languages but there's nothing much we can do right here and right now.

Sergio Salinas Porto: Okay, I just wanted to inform you of the situation. Just that.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: I think getting documents translated at the beginning, at the start of the comment period is one of the recommendations from Work Team D, the At-Large Improvements. And I believe one of the other Work Teams is involved in translations and I can't remember what Work Team it is. I'm sure Seth will magically answer me on this.

Seth Greene: Yes, B, Dev.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay, thank you. Yes. So I think when those recommendations do come up obviously for ALAC to consider that, the ALAC reps will consider this of importance and express support for it. Go ahead, Seth.



Seth Greene:

Thank you, Dev. I'm sorry, probably of more interest to you than the letter "B" of the Work Team is just one point, and that is I just want to ensure you – Sergio and everyone – that the documents get into that folder in let's say not the most systematic prioritized way. It's a bit of a document dump and it's not as though there are many documents that are of enormous importance that do not get translated. The important ones hopefully, or at least that's been the goal, is to get them translated. Of course as Andrés said, the issues are time which frankly we as staff – you know, it is part of our guilt in that regard and we'll try to improve that absolutely.

But then there is the budgetary side also which of course we as staff are somewhat innocent of. But I just want you to know it's not as though you're missing out on that much. We kind of just throw a lot of documents in there. Thank you for the point, Sergio, I'll get it back to Heidi.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh:

Okay. Well since we started late I don't really want to extend it too late because we already have other meetings to attend. I think there is probably just one quick agenda item I want to bring up, and that is of course the officer positions. As you know, the Chair and the Secretariat terms expire in April and the call for candidates has been issued, so Andrés is willing to stand as Chair and myself, Dev Anand, is willing to stand as Secretariat for one more year.



So I believe the deadline for candidates, if anybody else wants to submit a candidacy for that, either the Chair or the Secretariat... And I'm trying to find the email here. I believe it's in-

Male 3: Four months? Four weeks?

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Four weeks, yeah. So I think sometime towards the end of March. It's on the mailing list. But before I close off is there anybody who wishes to say any other business? Going once, going twice, okay. Thank you all for attending this call and thank you for the attendants.

Andrés Piazza: I have one. Thank you, Dev, for chairing it. You did a wonderful job. I think this should be like a more stable policy from LACRALO. This doesn't affect the function, the role of LACRALO Chair being the main lead for the teleconferences, and we should and we look for people volunteering for duties in the next teleconferences. I think this is an important initiative in order to get some engagement and participation, so if there are candidates who want to be the Chair for the next monthly teleconferences they can email me. Thank you, Dev.

Dev Anand Teelucksingh: Okay. And I just want to formally also apologize for the connection problems for the bridge. Hopefully at the next LACRALO call going



through Adigo we won't have these problems. And I apologize to the remote participants and thanks to the actual translators here in the room with us. Thank you very much indeed, thank you.

[End of Transcript]

