ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

Policy Briefing

Cross Community Working Group (CWG) to Develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions

What is this about?
The primary goal of the CWG is to produce a consolidated transition proposal for the elements of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions relating to the Domain Name System.

Why is this important?
It was determined that Stewardship Transition proposals for each of the IANA functions should be developed by the directly affected communities, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and Internet Architecture Board (IAB) for IANA functions related to Internet Protocol Parameters; the Number Resource Organization (NRO), the Address Supporting Organization (ASO), and the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) for functions related the management and distribution of numbering resources; and the GNSO and ccNSO for functions related to the Domain Name System. These efforts will inform the work of the IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG), whose responsibility is to develop an overall integrated transition proposal from these autonomously developed components.

Two of IANA's global directly affected communities, the addressing and Internet protocol parameter communities, have responded to the NTIA's announcement and the formation of the ICG, by establishing working groups to provide input on their specific needs and expectations with respect to the IANA Stewardship Transition.

This CWG was formed as an integral part of this transition process, and to develop a proposal for the elements of the IANA Stewardship Transition that directly affect the naming community.

What is the current status of this project?
The CWG published its draft transition proposal for public comment on 1 December 2014. Following the close of the public comment forum, the CWG conducted two surveys of the in order to get a high-level sense of the CWG's views regarding different suggestions made in the submissions from the public comment period. The surveys were based on suggestions arising from the public comment submissions, as well as additional, related questions. The results of the survey were used to guide the CWG in considering the public comments and continuing its work toward development of a final proposal for submission to the ICG.

Expected next steps
In striving to develop a consensus proposal, the CWG is considering and integrating the outcome of the weekend sessions as well as focusing on the critical next steps required. Key next steps include; obtaining legal advice on relevant elements of the proposal and further engagement with the CCWG-Accountability (see https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2015-01-26-en), as well as informing and preparing to seek support from the Chartering Organizations, all of which the CWG recognizes will affect the current timeline. The CWG is planning to publish a discussion document ahead of the ICANN meeting in Singapore to encourage community feedback and input on some of the remaining issues.

Background
The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has requested that ICANN "convene a multistakeholder process to develop a plan to transition the U.S. government stewardship role" with regard to the IANA Functions and related root zone management. In making its announcement, the NTIA specified that the transition proposal must have broad community support and meet the following principles:

- Support and enhance the multistakeholder model
- Maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS
- Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services
- Maintain the openness of the Internet.

NTIA also specified that it would not accept a proposal that replaces the NTIA role with a government-led or an intergovernmental organization solution.

On June 6 ICANN proposed the creation of an IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG) "responsible for preparing a transition proposal reflecting the differing needs of the various affected parties of the IANA functions."

The charter of the CWG has been adopted by the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the Country Code Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) and the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).

How can I get involved?
Participation in the CWG is open to members and participants. In addition to members, who are appointed by the chartering organizations, anyone interested in the work of the CWG, can join as a participant. Participants may be from a chartering organization, from a stakeholder group or organization not represented in the CWG or currently active within ICANN, or self-appointed. Those interested in in joining should contact Grace Abuhamad (grace.abuhamad@icann.org), or the secretariats of your Supporting Organization or Advisory Committee.

Where can I find more information?
- Charter of Cross Community Working Group (CWG) to develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions
- CWG Wiki
- CWG Working Session on Wednesday 11 February from 17.15 – 19.15 local time - http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/wed-cwg-stewardship
- CWG Q & A session on Thursday 12 February from 10.30 – 11.45 local time - http://singapore52.icann.org/en/schedule/thu-cwg-stewardship

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