Brief overview of domain names regulatory system

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Orgs, ecosystem

- Internet Corporation for Names and Numbers (ICANN) - 1998
- IANA – operated by ICANN through NTIA contract
- ISO 3166-Part 1 and 3166
- SBOs (IETF, W3C, etc)
- gTLD registries, ccTLD registries (e.g. 21 Nov 11 new SLD judiciary.uk)
- Registrars ~2,000
- LACTLD, CENTR, AFTLD, APTLD

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ICANN

Responsible for administration of:

• Domain Names
  – (generic part of the DNS system ASCII; ccTLDs are predominantly managed at the national level but apply for IDN equivalent at ICANN)

• Internet Protocol IP Addresses
  – policies for IP allocation devised by 5 RIRs, (NRO) and IETF

• Port and parameters
ICANN

- Co-ordinates the development of the DNS system and act in “Public Interest”
- Public Interest not defined in ICANN Bylaws
- Stable and Secure Operation of the Internet
- New gTLD round to be launched...
  - Jan 2012 – April 2012
  - JAS WG fund for needy applicants
  - New gTLD IDN applications in line with rfc5892
- Hearing at the US Senate...
Abstract

This document specifies rules for deciding whether a code point, considered in isolation or in context, is a candidate for inclusion in an Internationalized Domain Name (IDN).

It is part of the specification of Internationalizing Domain Names in Applications 2008 (IDNA2008).
ICANN structure

IPv4/IPv6
TCP
UDP
DNS
DNSSEC
FTP
HTTP
...
a. root-servers.net
...
m. root-servers.net

ISO 3166
.CN
.JP
.ME
.RU
.UK
.US
.ZA
...
.AERO
.ASIA
.COM
.GOV
.INFO
.MUSEUM
.NET
...
ICANN structure (board view)
Questions relating to permanence

• Domain Name Permanence
• Domain Name Life Cycle
• Top-Level-Domain Life Cycle
  sunset of ccTLDs
  Redemption grace period
• nTLD Domain Name Life Cycle (min 3 years?)

http://example.com/somepath-somewhere/something.html

ICANNs control

not ICANNs control
URI Shorteners

Bad idea

• v.gd & is.gd (“very good” & “is good” under Grenada)
• g.me (under Montenegro)
• t.co – (Twitter under Columbia)
• o.co – (Overstock under Columbia withdraws)
• bit.ly – (Libya)
• Delicio.us relaunching as delicious.com and d.me
• Facebook buying Gowalla links

• Market for a service designed to retrieve pages that are intended to be persistent citations, with guarantees of permanence. Presumably for a fee. Kind of tinyurl crossed with archive.org.
Not helping either...

- DNS filtering
- Various proposed Internet bills and acts:
  - COICA – US – Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act (Sep 2010 proposed but opposed and didn’t make it into law)
  - SOPA – US Stop-Online-Piracy-Act (October 2011)
- DNSSEC – makes DNS filtering much harder
SOPA (US) – “Stop Online Piracy Act”

"I'm still reviewing the legislation, but from what I've already read, this would mean the end of the Internet as we know it," Lofgren told CNET.

The legislation allows a DOJ-requested court order to order domain name registrars to take down websites (and more!).
What to do and improve?

• Is ICANN the right place for addressing URI permanence?
• Scheme for failing new gTLDs?
• Archiving?
• Permanence, discovery, visibility, provenance,
• Authenticity, identity, distribution
• Enforceability of guidelines and best practices?
• Stability in commercial as well as public namespace?
Questions