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## **ccTLD Governance Project**

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## **Introduction**

This project reviews the relationship between **country code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs) and governments** in 45 countries. Included are 1) tables which highlight the main relationships,<sup>1</sup> and 2) country-specific information. The preliminary findings include:

- Ten ccTLDs are government agencies or departments. In these cases the relationship is typically formalized between government and agency.
- Nine ccTLDs are private, for-profit enterprises. Of these two (United States, Japan) have a established a contractual relationship with the government, three have established an informal relationship, and four have no relationship with the government.
- 20 ccTLDs are non-profit organizations. Four have formal, contractual relationships with their governments along with an ICANN agreement that governs their relationship. Five do not have a government relationship. Ten ccTLDs have informal relations with their government, of these, at least 3 are awaiting formalization of their relationship in the near future (Russia, South Africa, Italy).
- Five ccTLDs are academic institutions; of these two have no relationship with their government. Two ccTLDs (Guatemala, Columbia) have battled takeover attempts by their government.
- One ccTLD is managed by an individual. It is battling government attempts to take over the ccTLD management.

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<sup>1</sup> Appendix I provides an overview of the ccTLD-government relationships in tables.

## **Country Specific Information**

### **Argentina**

Name: Computer and Network Department of the Argentinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores Comercio Internacional y Culto Reconquista - MRECIC)

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

- The .AR ccTLD was established in September 1987. Its administration was originally delegated to the UNDP Project AR-86/026 which was developed at the Ministry.
- Some years later, when the old Project's personnel went to work under direct contract with the Ministry, the ccTLD manager data at the IANA database was amended to reflect the updated Ministry's name and address as 'Sponsoring Organization'. In 1994/1995 the name 'NIC-Argentina' was adopted for the function, and shortly afterwards a website for automated registration was established at the Ministry's HQ, in addition to the already existent primary and secondary DNS.

Links:

<http://www.nic.ar/>

### **Australia**

Name: AuDA

Type: Non-profit

Relationship with Government: Formal

Endorsed by the Australian government December 2000. Endorsement was contingent upon auDA demonstrating to Government its ability to meet several criteria.

- Subject to the ultimate authority of NOIE (National Office for Information Economy) for national policy interests and ICANN for global technical-coordination interests.
- Government has observer status on auDA board.
- Signed sponsorship agreement with ICANN on October 25, 2001

Legislation: *The Telecommunication Legislation Amendment Bill* of December 2000 amends the *Telecommunication Act 1997* (Subsection 474 (1) and 475 (3) ) and *Australian Communications Authority Act 1997* (Section 4) clarify the Australian government's ability to "declare" and "direct" a manager of electronic addressing and assume responsibility if self-regulation prove inappropriate.

Links:

<http://www.auda.org.au/>

Manager-Government communication:

<http://www.iana.org/cctld/au/alston-to-watson-31dec00.htm>

Government-ICANN communication:

<http://www.iana.org/cctld/au/alston-to-lynn-04jul01.htm>

<http://www.iana.org/cctld/au/alston-to-lynn-16aug01.htm>

Sponsorship Agreement: <http://www.icann.org/cctlds/au/>

The Telecommunication Legislation Amendment Bill, 12/2000 -

[http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num\\_act/tlaa2000n1522000433/](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/num_act/tlaa2000n1522000433/)

## **Austria**

Name: Internet Foundation Austria

Type: Non-profit Corporation

Relationship with Government: Informal

- Civil servants of the Ministry of Public and Traffic and the regulator are members of the Domain Council (which decides fundamental issues of registration policy) and actively participate in setting the guiding principles of the .at domain name policy.
- The civil servants participate in "a professional, personal role" and not as delegates of the ministry.
- Internet Foundation Austria (IPA) was created and is managed by ISPA (Internet Service Provider Austria). The purpose of the trust is to foster and advance the Internet in Austria, in particular to fulfill the administration of the .at top level domain as a trustee of the local Internet community and in the public interest.
- Before the foundation of nic.at, domain registrations were handled by the University of Vienna.

Legislation: The government has a supervisory role according to the *Telecommunications Act* (100/97 s.61 TKG), which highlights the public interest in a functioning domain administration as far as unfettered provision and access to public networks and services is concerned.

Links:

Information about the Internet Foundation Austria -

[http://www.nic.at/en/company/internetaustria/ia\\_internetaustria.asp](http://www.nic.at/en/company/internetaustria/ia_internetaustria.asp)

Austrian Telecommunications Act (see § 61) - In German -

[http://www.bmv.gv.at/sixcms\\_upload/media/64/1997a10000.pdf](http://www.bmv.gv.at/sixcms_upload/media/64/1997a10000.pdf)

## Belgium

Name: DNS.be

Type: Non-profit organization

Relationship with Government: Informal

Advisory members of DNS.be include the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Belgian Institute of Postal and Telecommunications Services (the regulating entity of the postal and telecommunication sector in Belgium).

Links: <http://www.dns.be/eng/index.shtml>

## Burundi

Name: CNI (Centre National de l'Informatique)

Type: Non-profit

Relationship with Government: Formal

- In 2001, IANA received a request to change the technical contact and sponsoring organization from an informal, out-of-country operation of the .bi ccTLD to the local Centre National de l'Informatique (CNI). According to the request, the technical management of .bi was to be performed by CBINET, a subsidiary of CNI providing Internet services in Burundi.
- CNI signed an ICANN-ccTLD Manager Memorandum of Understanding in May 2002, and a redelegation agreement with ICANN July 16, 2002.
- The Ministry of Communication of the Republic of Burundi endorsed the redelegation to CNI and the MOU in March 2002.
- CBINET, the technical contact, has been regulated by Burundi legislation since August 1998.

Links:

<http://www.cbinet.bi/>

<http://www.nic.bi/>

MOU - <http://www.icann.org/cctlds/bi/>

IANA Redelegation Report: <http://www.iana.org/reports/bi-report-16jul02.htm>

## Canada

Name:CIRA

Type: Not-for-profit corporation

Relationship with Government: Formal

- The .ca was delegated to John Demco of University of British Columbia in 1987.
- In 1997, the Canadian Internet community set up a public consultation about .ca (through the Canadian Domain Name Consultative Committee - CDNCC). They recommended that a private-sector, not-for-profit corporation be set up to take over the administration of .ca. A framework for the administration of the .ca domain name system was outlined by the committee in a 1998 report.
- In 1998, CIRA, the Canadian Internet Registration Agency, was incorporated.
- In a 1999 letter the Canadian Government recognized CIRA as the new administrator of the .ca domain. In this letter general principles were set out that it expected CIRA to adhere to in its management of .ca.
- In May 2000, an Umbrella Agreement was signed between the government, CIRA and UBC which provided for an orderly transition for the management of the domain space as well as highlighted mechanisms that facilitate input from the Government. The agreement was structured so that the redelegation came from ICANN and not the Canadian government.
- The agreement lays the base for a legal relationship between CIRA and the Government of Canada that ensures that those two entities and ICANN can perform their respective responsibilities for stable operation. Governmental guidance is stated in broad, public-interest terms, and requires that any governmental action to replace CIRA be justified by substantial reasons.
- 1 out of 13 directors of CIRA represents the government of Canada in an ex-officio capacity.
- In October 2000, a letter was sent to ICANN on behalf of the government of Canada to formally designate CIRA as the .ca delegee.

Links:

<http://www.cira.ca>

March 1999 letter from the GOC to CIRA: <http://www.iana.org/reports/industry-canada-letter-11mar99.htm>

Umbrella agreement between UBC, GOC and CIRA:  
[http://www.cira.ca/official-doc/31.umbrella\\_agreement.pdf](http://www.cira.ca/official-doc/31.umbrella_agreement.pdf)

Dec 2000 IANA report on .ca: <http://www.iana.org/reports/ca-report-01dec00.htm>

CDNCC FINAL REPORT - Framework for the administration of the .CA domain name system  
[http://www.cira.ca/official-doc/12.CDNCC\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.cira.ca/official-doc/12.CDNCC_Final_Report.pdf)

## China

Name:China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)



Type: Public Institution

Relationship with Government: Formal

Business management of CNNIC is by the Ministry of Information Industry. Administrative management of CNNIC is by the Chinese Academy of Science. CNNIC Work Committee supervises and evaluates the construction and administration of CNNIC.

Links:

<http://www.cnnic.net.cn/e-about.shtml>

## **Columbia**

Name: NIC Columbia

Type: Academic

Relationship with Government: Informal

- NIC Columbia operates under the auspices of the University of Columbia.
- The Colombian government passed a resolution in December 2001 to assume the management of the ccTLD. That takeover has yet to occur.
- An analysis of the resolution by Erick Iriate finds that domain name policy in Columbia should not be regulated by telecommunications legislation. He suggests a consultative committee with government representatives would be a more viable alternative for Columbia.

*Legislation:* Radicación 1376 del Consejo de Estado (Sala de Consulta y Servicio Civil) sobre Nombres de Dominio. (link to document)

Links:

<http://www.nic.co/>

December 2001 Resolution (In Spanish) –

[http://www.alfa-redi.org/documento/documento\\_list.asp?idCategoria=97](http://www.alfa-redi.org/documento/documento_list.asp?idCategoria=97)

December 2001 Resolution (Translated to English) –

[http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/columbia\\_12\\_2001.pdf](http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/columbia_12_2001.pdf)

Analysis of the Resolution by Erick Iriate - [http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/columbia\\_analysis.pdf](http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/columbia_analysis.pdf)

## **Denmark**

Name: DIFO (Dansk Internet Forum)

Type: Non-Profit Organization

Relationship with Government: Informal

- DIFO was established in 1999 by users and companies with relations to the Danish Internet. It is an independent legal body with its own executive committee.
- DIFO's establishment was sanctioned by the Ministry of Information Technology and Research in 1999.
- ICANN agreed to DIFO's role as ccTLD in February 2000.
- The Danish Government has no control over DIFO's work. There are informal contacts and talks that occasionally take place between DIFO and The Ministry of Information Technology and Research.

Links:

DIFO - <http://www.dk-hostmaster.dk/dkhostcms/bs?pageid=32&action=cmsview&language=en#1>

## **Finland**

Name: Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority (FICORA)

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

FICORA is an agency of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. It issues technical regulations and coordinates standardisation work at national level. It also supervises the technical functioning and security of communications networks, coordinates numbering in telecommunications networks among other things.

Legislation: *Regulation on Finnish Domain Names on the Internet*, THK 34 A/2000 M, grants the right to FICORA to manage .fi domain names.

Links:

<http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/index.html>

Regulation on Finnish Domain Names on the Internet -

<http://www.ficora.fi/englanti/document/THK34A2000MENG.pdf>

## France

Name: AFNIC (Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération)

Type: Non-Profit Organization

Relationship with Government: Informal

Persons from the Ministries of Industry, Research and Telecommunications serve on the AFNIC board of directors. The board is composed of 5 elected members (2 ISP, 2 users and 1 international organisation) and 5 nominated members (Institut National De Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique, Ministries of Industry, Research and Telecommunications)

Links:

<http://www.nic.fr/>

## Gambia

Name: Jorn Grotnes - Nic.gm

Type: Individual

Relationship with Government: None

- According to a cctld-discuss posting by a director at Gamtel (Gambia's telecommunications provider), there is currently no government involvement in the administration of the .gm ccTLD, but the government is keen to have a committee from the local Internet community handle the management of the .gm.
- Requests from The Gambian government to ICANN for assistance in transferring the domain have not been successful, since the .gm domain is currently being run efficiently from both a technical and a procedural point of view. However, it was agreed that the current manager will discuss with the representatives of the local Internet community and the government on how to resolve the issue.

Links:

<http://www.nic.gm/htmlpages/gm-policy.htm>

## Germany

Name: DENIC

Type: Non-profit

Relationship with Government: Informal

- There is neither legislation nor a contract in place.
- DENIC is in permanent contact with representatives of the Federal government, and a representative of both the Ministry of Economics and Ministry of Justice are observers in DENIC's legal advisory council. The council has a purely advisory function.
- The federal government is satisfied with DENIC's work and sees no need to step in. This position has been confirmed in an answer to a parliamentary query.

Links:

<http://www.denic.de>

Parliamentary Query - 28. 07. 2000 (In German) -

[http://www.denic.de/doc/recht/sonstiges/kleine\\_anfrage\\_2000.pdf](http://www.denic.de/doc/recht/sonstiges/kleine_anfrage_2000.pdf)

## Ghana

Name: Network Computer Systems (NCS)

Type: Private Sector

Relationship with Government: None

NCS is the premier Internet and computer services provider in Ghana. NCS is the trustee of the top level country domain GH and also the authorized local internet registrar for West Africa.

Links: <http://www.ghana.com>

## Guatemala

Name: Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG)

Type: Academic

Relationship with Government: None

Although the .gt ccTLD is currently operating without government involvement, the government did attempt to assume control in February 2000:

- The university had been administrating the ccTLD since 1995 - however since the university did not have the connection capability at that point it was decided to operate the DNS from the National Council for Science and Technology (CONCyT), an organization from the Ministry of Economy.
- Operations were moved in 2000 to the University following numerous public complaints about the service. Written agreement from the Secretary General of CONCyT was received.
- The Secretary General was removed from the position and some members of CONCyT complained to the VP of Guatemala that the University had moved the DNS without consultation.
- The Government asserted they had rights over the .gt ccTLD, and that the ccTLD was being illegally administered. They wanted the DNS immediately transferred to them. The University refused, stating they had to consult IANA.
- The Government dropped the demand after other political events in the country demanded more attention. There has not been any resolution of the issue.

Links: <http://www.gt/>

## **Hong Kong**

Name: Hong Kong Internet Registration Corporation Limited (HKIRC)

Type: Non-profit corporation

Relationship with Government: Formal

- The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the HKIRC in April 2002 to designate the corporation as the ".hk" domain name administrator. The MOU encompasses a tripartite relationship amongst ICANN, the Government and the HKIRC.
- The government is represented on the board of directors to provide input pertaining to public policies. The Information Technology Services Department represents the HKSARG as an ex-officio director at the HKIRC Board to provide the necessary steer and assistance.
- The HKIRC was established as a private, non-profit-making and non-statutory organization in order to be more flexible in responding to new situations.

Links:

HKIRC - <http://sheep.hkdnr.net.hk/hkdnr/index.jsp>

GAC Briefing Notes on .hk redelegation -  
<http://www.noie.gov.au/projects/international/GAC/news/hkReDelegation.htm>

HK Government Information on .hk - [http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/structure/dnip\\_adm.html](http://www.info.gov.hk/digital21/eng/structure/dnip_adm.html)

## India

Name: National Centre for Software Technology (NCST)

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

- NCST is a scientific R & D institution under the Ministry of Information Technology (MIT).
- Policy is overseen by The Internet Management Group, a committee formed by the Government of India, whose members include representatives from the MIT, NCST and various business interests.

Links: <http://domain.ncst.ernet.in/>

## Indonesia

Name: IDNIC

Type: Private Sector

Relationship with Government: Informal

- The Indonesian ccTLD currently operates without any legislation or government interference.
- Talks are underway to get the government more involved. Draft legislation to this effect has been written (April 2002).

Links: <http://www.idnic.net.id/>

## Ireland

Name: IEDR

Type: Non-Profit Corporation

Relationship with Government: None

The ccTLD was transferred from University College Dublin in 2001. The Irish government is content to let the existing administration continue operation.

Legislation: The Irish government has enacted legislation, *Irish Electronic Commerce Act, 2000, Article 31*, which allows it to take control of the .ie ccTLD. The legislation is a fall-back in case there is ever a crisis in the operation of the ccTLD.

Links:

<http://www.domainregistry.ie/>

Irish Electronic Commerce Act, 2000 - <http://www.irlgov.ie/tec/communications/comlegislation/act27-00.pdf>

## Israel

Name: Israeli Internet Association

Type: Non-Profit Organization

Relationship with Government: None

- The Israeli Chapter of the ISOC is the ccTLD.
- The registry operates without legislation or government involvement (though with government's blessing). An analysis by the Ministry of Justice on the need for regulation or legislation was done, and the decision was that there is no such need.

Links: <http://www.isoc.org.il/>

## Italy

Name: Italian Naming Authority

Type: Non-Profit Organization

Relationship with Government: Informal

- Although the activities of the Italian Naming Authority are under the auspices of MURST (Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology), it was decided that the ccTLD should be handled autonomously.
- Recently there have been efforts to formalize the management of the Italian Internet and to involve government representatives in the ccTLD. To that extent, some ministerial representatives have been invited to join the executive committee of the Naming Authority.
- A commission has been established to coordinate the participation of Italy in the GAC, and to start the debate on how to participate in the agreement with ICANN for the delegation of the TLD .it.
- It is also anticipated that the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications will produce a complete set of rules on the running of the cctld.

Links:

<http://www.nic.it/>

What is the Italian Naming Authority? - <http://www.nic.it/NA/index-engl.html>

The evolution in the management of Top Level Domains: ".it" as a case study - <http://www.terena.nl/conferences/archive/tnc2000/proceedings/6B/6b3.html>

## Japan

Name: JPRS Japan Registry Service Co

Type: Private Sector

Relationship with Government: Formal

- The ccTLD was originally held by a foundation, the Japan Network Information Center, which transformed itself in 1997 to a non-profit corporation. A new company was established in 2000 to manage the ccTLD more profitably.
- On 27 February 2002, ICANN and Japan Registry Service Co., Ltd. (JPRS) entered into a ccTLD Sponsorship Agreement under which JPRS is recognized as the manager of the .jp ccTLD. The Japanese governmental authority was informed in writing of the execution of this Memorandum and endorsed it on the 30 January 2002.
- A January 2002 letter from the Minister of Public Management, Home Affairs, Post and Telecommunications to Stewart Lynn ensures the public interest in the .jp top level domain and emphasizes the most important parts of the MOU:
  - Article 6 sets out the responsibilities for JPRS.
  - Article 7, the "Securement of Public Interest" stipulates that the Japanese Governmental Authority and JPNIC will examine cooperatively whether JPRS complies with the responsibilities set out in Article 6.
  - If JPRS violates any Article 6 responsibility, necessary measures such as a correction directive and, in case of continuous breach, redelegation shall be taken by the Japanese Governmental Authority and JPNIC.

Links:

Letter from Sakamoto to Lynn - <http://www.iana.org/cctld/jp/sakamoto-to-lynn-30jan02.htm>

November 2001 memorandum - <http://www.iana.org/cctld/jp/jprs-jpnic-memorandum-09nov01.htm>

JPRS - <http://jprs.jp/eng/>

## Korea

Name: Korea Network Information Center (KRNIC)

Type: Non-profit organization

Relationship with Government: Formal

- KRNIC was established by the government to oversee .kr Internet addresses and domain name policy.
- KRNIC obtained approval on June 21st 1999 from the Ministry of Information and Commerce to operate as a non-profit foundation

Links: <http://www.nic.or.kr/center/english/center2.html>



## Libya

Name: Nic.ly

Type: Private Sector

Relationship with Government: None

- The IANA listed ccTLD for .ly is Alshaeen for Information Technology, a Tripoli based company. According to ICANN the registry does not exist.
- Al Foursan International Co is calling itself the ".LY cc TLD Manager", led by a Dr. Tayeb. It is registering domain names under nic.ly on a website called www.lydomains.com which includes a whois service.
- According to ICANN/IANA, neither Dr. Tayeb nor Al Foursan International Co. has been appointed as a ccTLD manager, but are called "caretakers". Libya has a redelegation pending, but in the meanwhile ICANN is letting Dr. Tayeb run the .ly registrations.
- Libya is a member of the GAC, which suggests that it is concerned with ccTLD issues.

## Malaysia

Name: MYNIC (Malaysian Network Information Centre)

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

MYNIC is a division of MIMOS Berhad, a mission-oriented research and development (R&D) government agency. It acts as registry and registrar for the .my domain, and decides Internet policy issues.

Links: <http://www.mynic.net/>

## Malawi

Name: Malawi SDNP

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

- Malawi SDNP (Sustainable Development Network Programme) is a UNDP funded government programme that assists with the development of the Internet in Malawi.
- Malawi has recently signed (June 28, 02) a ccTLD-ICANN MOU which confirms the ccTLD management.

Links:

<http://www.registrar.mw/>

Malawi SDNP - <http://www.sdn.org.mw/>

IANA Report - <http://www.iana.org/reports/mw-report-12aug02.htm>

MOU - <http://www.icann.org/cctlds/mw/>

## **Mauritania**

Name: NIC Mauritanie

Type: Academic

Relationship with Government: None

Administered by the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Nouakchott with the blessing of the Office of Post and Communication.

Links:

[http://www.univ-nkc.mr/nic\\_mr.html](http://www.univ-nkc.mr/nic_mr.html)

## **Mexico**

Name: NIC-Mexico

Type: Academic

Relationship with Government: Informal

- NIC-Mexico is based at the University of Monterrey, Technology Center (ITESM), but is independently administrated.
- A committee is now looking at the development of NIC. A working group at the 2001 meeting of the Mexican Congress Commerce Commission proposed regulation of the ccTLD in its conclusion.

Links:

[http://www.nic.mx/nic/plsql/nic.nic\\_Inicio](http://www.nic.mx/nic/plsql/nic.nic_Inicio)

Mexican Congress Commerce Commission conclusions (translated to English) -  
<http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/mexico.pdf>

## Morocco

Name: L'Agence Nationale de Réglementation des Télécommunications (ANRT)

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

The ccTLD is officially managed by ANRT. Reports suggest that Maroc Telecom is the primary administrator.

Legislation: *The Post and Telecommunication Law n°24/96* (7 August 1997) created ANRT and conferred upon it the responsibility of regulating the telecommunications industry, including the Internet in Morocco.

Links: <http://www.anrt.net.ma/>

## Netherlands

Name: SIDN (Stichting Internet Domeinregistratie Nederland) - the Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands

Type: Non Profit Organization

Relationship with Government: None

- There is no formal contractual relationship between the ccTLD and the government. At no time since '.nl' was delegated (1986) has there been any direct government involvement in or statutory regulation of the registration activities.
- The government informally monitors SIDN's practices, however, and in 1998 announced that self-regulation of the industry through SIDN would be reviewed against the framework for self-regulation set out in the policy document Legislation on the Electronic Highway.
- A cabinet review of SIDN took place in April 2000, under the auspices of the Directorate-General of Telecommunications and Post (DGTP), which is part of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management. The findings were considered by the cabinet, leading to the publication of a cabinet memorandum entitled *Assessment of the Operating Practices of SIDN*. In the memo the government suggested that it would like to have legislated, formal relations with SIDN.
- The new regulations come into effect on 29 January 2003.

Links:

SIDN - [http://www.domain-registry.nl/sidn\\_english/flat/Home/index.shtml](http://www.domain-registry.nl/sidn_english/flat/Home/index.shtml)

Cabinet Memorandum- Assessment of SIDN - [http://www.domain-registry.nl/sidn\\_english/flat/\\_shared\\_resources\\_Downloads/Cabinet\\_Memorandum\\_Assesment\\_SIDN/notatoetsingSIDN-UK.doc](http://www.domain-registry.nl/sidn_english/flat/_shared_resources_Downloads/Cabinet_Memorandum_Assesment_SIDN/notatoetsingSIDN-UK.doc)

## New Zealand

Name: Internet Society of New Zealand (InternetNZ)

Type: Non-profit organization

Relationship with Government: Informal

- New Zealand is known for "light handed" approach to regulation and the government thus far has not become involved in the management or policy of the CCTLD.
- In a 1999 position paper, *Government Position Regarding the Control of Internet Service Delivery* in New Zealand by the Information Technology Policy Group, the New Zealand government expressed comfort with the current management of the .nz domain: "There are no indications that there is a need for the Government to introduce sector specific regulation or control mechanisms in relations to the Internet".
- The Society is discussing whether to execute a simple MOU between the Society and the NZ government.

Links:

NZ government position - <http://www.med.govt.nz/pbt/infotech/internet/index.html>

Internet NZ - <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/>

## **Norway**

Name: NORID

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

- There is currently no formal contract, however the registry operates informally in close cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and with an understanding with the Norwegian Post and Telecommunications Authority.
- Both the registry and the government have expressed a desire for a more formalized relationship. A working group consisting of different government representatives and the registry concluded that the best solution is that the government sets a regulatory framework, and that the registry operate within that framework.
- The proposal was released for public consultation - most of the comments seem to be in favour of the proposal, but as yet there has been no resolution.

Links:

<http://www.norid.no/>

English summary of workgroup report -  
[http://www.npt.no/eng/publications/other\\_reports/dot\\_no\\_report\\_summary.htm](http://www.npt.no/eng/publications/other_reports/dot_no_report_summary.htm)

## **Peru**

Name: Nic.pe

Type: Non-profit organization

Relationship with Government: None

Legislation was enacted to transfer control of the .pe domain to a government department. Following intense political and judicial lobbying by the local Internet community, this legislation was later withdrawn.

Legislation:

- Resolution No. 292-2001-RE, *Assign to INDECOPI the administration of the domain name corresponding to Peru in Internet of July 2001*, addresses the transfer of control of .pe to the National Institute of the Defense of the Competition and of the Protection of Intellectual Property.
- Resolution No. 548-2001-RE, acknowledges the need for increased Internet community participation and input in the transfer process. It also extends the time limit for a multi-sectoral committee to develop a national Internet plan.

Links:

<http://www.nic.pe/>

The first resolution of Peruvian government (in English) - [http://www.nic.pe/interna-ingles/07-resolucion/resolucion\\_292-2001.htm](http://www.nic.pe/interna-ingles/07-resolucion/resolucion_292-2001.htm)

The second resolution (in Spanish) - [http://www.nic.pe/interna/07-resolucion/resolucion\\_548-2001.htm](http://www.nic.pe/interna/07-resolucion/resolucion_548-2001.htm)

The second resolution (translated to English) - [http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/peru\\_548-2001.pdf](http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/peru_548-2001.pdf)

## **Poland**

Name: The Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK)

Type: Non profit corporation

Relationship with Government: None

- The Research and Academic Computer Network (NASK) was established as a research & development unit whose mission was to connect the Polish scientific and academic community to the Internet. It now administers the .pl domain.
- NASK operates with the government's approval.

Links: NASK - <http://www.dns.pl/english/index.html>

## **Russia**

Name: Coordination Center for the RU TLD

Type: Non - profit organization

Relationship with Government: Informal

- The Coordination Center for TLD RU was founded by the Regional Non-profit Center for Internet Technologies (ROCIT), Internet Providers' Union, Russian Association for Networks and Services, and Russian Institute for Public Networks (RIPN). RIPN does the technical administration of the .ru domain, while The Center handles policy.
- The Russian registry has no formal contractual relationship with the Russian Government.
- According to current legislation there is no ministry responsible for the coordination and development of the Internet in Russia. However, several ministries are vying for the responsibility and the question of Internet policy is handled by the Russian Government from time to time with no clear result. According to the Director of the ccTLD, it is likely that the Ministry for Telecommunication will assume responsibility.
- The ccTLD has good working contacts with the Ministry for Telecommunications, and has discussed problems concerning the .RU with them.
- Once government responsibility has been established, the ccTLD intends to establish a veto seat on its council for a ministerial representative. Moreover, The Center hopes that its activities will be confirmed by an appropriate legislative act. These expectations are based on a verbal understanding with officials from Ministry for Telecommunications.

Links:

Coordination Center for the RU Domain - <http://www.cctld.ru/en/about/about.shtml>

## **South Africa**

Name: Mike Lawrie - Namespace

Type: Non-Profit (moving to Government??)

Relationship with Government: None

- Mike Lawrie has administered the .za TLD since 1994 with the support of the local Internet community. Along with ISOC-ZA, Lawrie is committed to moving the administration to a non-profit, community-led organization, Namespace.
- The Government has faced severe criticism from the Internet community and the current ccTLD for its attempt to set up a new Domain Name Authority under the auspices of the Ministry of Communication.
- Although no authority has yet been established, the Ministry of Communications has recently (8/8/02) reiterated its goal to establish an authority that was comprised of representatives of various stakeholders - government, private sector, academia, and the Internet community.
- The Minister of Communications is currently appointing a 5-member Panel who will advise her on a 9-member board whose mandate will be propose regulation of the .za ccTLD and ancillary matters.

Legislation: Chapter 10 of the *Electronic Communications and Transactions Bill*, Number 8 of 2002, proposes to set up a new .za Domain Name Authority within South Africa with board members chosen by the Minister of Communications. The new authority is being proposed in order to be more representative and to enable all South Africans to have a voice in South African Internet governance.

Links:

Namespace - <http://www.namespace.org.za/>

ISOC ZA - <http://www.isoc.org.za/>

Information about .za domains - <http://www2.frd.ac.za/uninet/zadomains.html>

## Spain

Name: Red.es

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

- The .es domain is managed by a state company, the Entidad Pública Empresarial Red.es. It is under the domain of Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The government intends to approve a national plan on Internet Domain Names. A draft version (v. 12.04.02) has been published for public commentary on the website of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Society.

Legislation:

- Article 27.13 of the Royal Decree 1651/1998 (*General Law for Telecommunications*) states that the Ministry of Science and Technology will determine which body shall manage the Registry for domain names and addresses.
- *The Resolution of the General Secretariat of Communications*, February 10, 2000, designates Red.es as the manager of the .es domain.
- *The Order of March 21, 2000* regulates the system of assignment of Internet domain names under the cctld .es.
- On December 30, 2000 the Law 14/2000 of December 29, is published in the BOE (Spanish Official Gazette) for fiscal administrative and social order measures, where in Article 55 Red.es is ratified as the competent authority for the assignment of domain names in Spain.
- The Decree of 164/2002, of 8 of February, approves the statute of Red.es.

Links:

Red.es - <http://www.red.es/>

The following links are in Spanish unless noted:

Resolution of the General Secretariat of Communications, Feb 10, 2000 - <http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/http://www.nic.es/avisos/resolucion.html>

Resolution of the General Secretariat of Communications, Feb 10, 2000 (translated to English) - [http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/spain\\_02\\_10.pdf](http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/spain_02_10.pdf)

The Order of March 21, 2000 - [http://www.nic.es/avisos/orden\\_21demarzode2000.html](http://www.nic.es/avisos/orden_21demarzode2000.html)

The Law 14/2000 of December 29 - [http://noticias.juridicas.com/base\\_datos/Admin/114-2000.t5.html#da18](http://noticias.juridicas.com/base_datos/Admin/114-2000.t5.html#da18)

The Decree of 164/2002 - [http://noticias.juridicas.com/base\\_datos/Admin/rd164-2002.html](http://noticias.juridicas.com/base_datos/Admin/rd164-2002.html)

Draft version of National Plan - [http://www.setsi.mcyt.es/reg\\_internet/notabplan.htm](http://www.setsi.mcyt.es/reg_internet/notabplan.htm)

Draft version of National Plan (translated to English) -  
[http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/spain\\_draft\\_plan.pdf](http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/spain_draft_plan.pdf)

Summary of Draft version of National Plan (translated to English) -  
[http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/Internet\\_Domains.pdf](http://www.michaelgeist.ca/cctldinfo/Internet_Domains.pdf)

## Sweden

Name: Foundation for Internet Infrastructure

Type: Non-Profit Organization

Relationship with Government: None

- There is no governmental involvement in the ccTLD, however a committee examined the issue in 1998. Their report was published in April 2000 and recommended that although the domain name system functioned "excellently", the ccTLD should sign an agreement with the government according to the GAC principals. The report was released for public consultation in 2000 and received strong opposition.
- A new government committee is looking at the legislation aspects for the whole field of electronic communication including .se and the Internet. No report has yet been published.

Links:

<http://www.nic-se.se/>

Government Committee Report on ccTLD (Pages 13-19 is a summary in English) -  
[http://naring.regeringen.se/propositioner\\_mm/sou/pdf/sou2000\\_30.pdf](http://naring.regeringen.se/propositioner_mm/sou/pdf/sou2000_30.pdf)

## Switzerland and Liechtenstein

Name: SWITCH, the Swiss Academic and Research Network

Type: Academic

Relationship with Government: Formal

- SWITCH is an academic foundation set up by the Swiss federal government and Switzerland's universities.
- The Federal Office for Communications regards itself as the authority for domain names because they consider domain names as addressing elements that fall under federal law. They have delegated management to SWITCH and there are contracts and a communications decree formalizing this arrangement.
- Relations between SWITCH and the federal government is governed by a contract that is in the process of being negotiated.



Legislation: A communication law, *AEFV (Adriessierelementeverordnung im Fernmeldebereich)*, RS 784.104, formalizes the assignment and management of domain names in the ".ch" zone within a legal framework since April 2002.

Links:

SWITCH - <http://www.switch.ch/id/>

The Federal Council decree on telecommunications (Press Release) -  
<http://www.bakom.ch/en/medieninfo/medienmitteilungen/uvek/artikel/00628/index.html>

AEFV decree (in French, German and Italian) - [http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c784\\_104.html](http://www.admin.ch/ch/d/sr/c784_104.html)

## **Tunisia**

Name: L'Agence Tunisienne d'Internet (ATI)

Type: Government Agency

Relationship with Government: Formal

- The ATI operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Technology and Communications. Regulations for the Internet's management in Tunisia were introduced by the Ministry in 1997.
- In 1999 a national commission on electronic commerce released a final report on the regulation of the Internet and e-commerce infrastructure in Tunisia.

Links: ATI - <http://www.ati.tn/>

## **Tuvalu**

Name: The .tv corporation

Type: Private

Relationship with Government: None

The .tv Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of VeriSign, has served as the manager/delegee for the government of Tuvalu for .tv extensions since 1998. The corporation pays royalties to the government for its usage of the ccTLD.

Links: <http://www.tv>

## **Ukraine**

Name: Hostmaster

Type: Private Corporation

Relationship with Government: Informal

- The .ua domain is operated by a private company that does not have government representation or government control.
- There is an ongoing relationship with the departments of Security and Telecommunication of the Ukrainian government in the operation of the DNS. However, this relationship is casual and ad hoc at best and there are no consistent government representatives on the ccTLD board.

Links:

.UA Domain Network Information Centre - <http://www.nic.net.ua/>

## **United Kingdom**

Name: Nominet

Type: Non-profit Corporation

Relationship with Government: Informal

- Nominet is not covered by existing telecommunication regulation and there is no contract with the government. A government representative sits as an observer on Nominet's Policy Advisory Board.
- Nominet has a relationship with the Department for Trade and Industry, Nominet had received affirmation of its position as the .uk ccTLD manager and confirmation that the Government preferred industry self-regulation to intervention.
- There has been recognition that the relationship needs to be formalized and this is being developed. Both sides are negotiating an agreement on an exchange of correspondence that would allow the .uk ccTLD to continue to be managed in the interests of the Internet community as a whole, while also giving the Government scope to intervene if Nominet fails to perform its duties.

Links: Nominet - <http://www.nic.uk/>

## **United States**

Name: Neustar

Type: private company

Relationship with Government: Formal

- Neustar has a contract with the Department of Commerce. The DOC has final authority on structure and the policies of the ccTLD and can reject the contract if Neustar does not perform its duties adequately.
- Neustar maintains that it has a collaborative partnership with the usTLD community and the public interest. In particular, NeuStar has created a Policy Council as an advisory body for usTLD policy operations. This body will interface with the public and provide an independent forum and mechanism

for future development of the usTLD. In the last Policy Council meeting (Oct 2002) agreed to invite The Center for Democracy and Technology as a member.

Links:

Neustar - <http://www.nic.us/>

Neustar contract with U.S. Department of Commerce Neustar's proposal to DOC to manage the .US cctld (July 2001) - links to table of contents - <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/domainname/usca/cafiles/neuindex.htm>

**Appendix I - Tables which highlight the main relationships**

**Table 1: countries where the ccTLD is part of the government**

Country	Code	Name	Government Relationship	Government Activity	ICANN Agreement
argentina	AR	MRECIC	Formal	none	none
china	CN	CNNIC	Formal	none	none
finland	FI	FICORA	Formal	Legislation	none
india	IN	NCST	Formal	none	none
malawi	MW	Malawi SDNP	Formal	none	MOU
malaysia	MY	MYNIC	Formal	none	none
morocco	MA	ANRT	Formal	Legislation	none
norway	NO	NORID	Informal	Workgroup	none
spain	ES	RED.ES	Formal	Legislation	none
tunisia	TN	ATI	Formal	Legislation	none

**Table 2: countries where the ccTLD is private sector**

Country	Code	Name	Government Relationship	Government Activity	ICANN Agreement
gambia	GM	nic.gm	none	none	none
ghana	GH	NCS	none	none	none
indonesia	ID	IDNIC	Informal	none	none
japan	JP	JPRS SDNP	Formal	endorsement	Yes
libya	LY	Nic.ly	none	none	none
tuvalu	TV	.tv corporation	none	none	none
ukraine	UA	Hostmaster	Informal	Ad hoc	none
united kingdom	UK	Nominet	Informal	Government sits on board	none
united states	US	Neustar	Formal	contract	none

**Table 3: countries where the ccTLD is a non-profit corporation**

Country	Code	Name	Government Relationship	Government Activity	ICANN Agreement
australia	AU	AUDA	Formal	Legislation	Yes
austria	AT	Internet Foundation Austria	Informal	Legislation	none
belgium	BE	DNS.be	Informal	none	none
burundi	BI	CNI SDNP	Formal	Legislation	Redelegation
canada	CA	CIRA	Formal	Agreement	Yes
denmark	DK	. DIFO	Informal	none	none
france	FR	AFNIC	Informal	Government reps serve on council	none
germany	DE	DENIC	Informal	Observer on Legal Advisory Committee	none
hong kong	HK	HKIRC	Formal	MOU	redelegation
ireland	IE	IEDR	none	Legislation	none
israel	IL	Israeli Internet Association	none	Analysis by Government	none
italy	ID	IDNIC	Informal	none	none
korea	KR	KRNIC	Formal	approval	none
netherlands	NL	SIDN	none	Cabinet Review	none
new zealand	NZ	InternetNZ	Informal	endorsement	none
peru	PE	Nic.pe	none	Legislation	none
poland	PL	NASK	None	endorsement	none
russia	RU	RIPN	Informal	verbal understanding	none
south africa	ZA	Namespace	Informal	Legislation	none
sweden	SE	II-Stiftelsen	Informal	Government Committee	none

**Table 4: countries where the ccTLD is academic**

Country	Code	Name	Government Relationship	Government Activity	ICANN Agreement
columbia	CO	University of Columbia	Informal	Legislation	None
guatemala	GT	Universidad del Valle de Guatemala	None	attempted takeover	none
mauritiana	MR	Nic-Mauritanie	None	none	none
mexico	MX	NIC-Mexico	Informal	proposed legislation	none
switzerland	CH	SWITCH	Formal	Legislation	none

## **Appendix II - Methodology**

Data for this project was obtained from ccTLD websites, ccTLD contacts and GAC representatives between June and September 2002. The following questions were posed:

- What type of relationship exists between the ccTLD and the government?
- Has legislation been enacted on ccTLD governance or ccTLD-Government relationship?
- Has any other government activity such as a memorandum of understanding or a government review of ccTLD management been pursued?
- Is there an agreement with ICANN?

The government-ccTLD relationships have been categorized in the following manner:

### **Formal:**

1. Where ccTLD is part of government, or
2. Where there is an official agreement or contract between the ccTLD and government.

### **Informal:**

1. Where ccTLD has a working relationship with government, or
2. Where the ccTLD is sanctioned by government, without an official agreement, but with some contact.

### **None:**

1. Where there is no relationship with the government, or
  2. the ccTLD operates with government sanction, but no contact.
-