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Please note that the full document is not yet available.

Abstract

ICANN has a well-defined mission: to coordinate the administration of the Internet's systems of unique identifiers (domain names, Internet protocol addresses, and protocol port and parameters numbers). In this context, ICANN also develops global policies as reasonably necessary to its main technical mission. In simplest form, ICANN's core mission is the stability of the Internet's naming and addressing systems.

To accomplish its mission, ICANN fosters collaborative relationships with Internet stakeholders worldwide, including governments, infrastructure providers (such as country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries, generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries and registrars, IP address registries), Internet service and connectivity providers, the community of technical experts and architects, the private sector, business and non-commercial users, and a wide range of advocates, interest groups, and associations.. ICANN is a global public/private partnership dedicated to operating in an open and transparent manner. There are no membership fees and anyone can participate in its work. In essence, ICANN is an open forum for building consensus.

ICANN operates according to a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Commerce. Under the MOU, ICANN handles matters relating to the domain name system's top-level domains, including any changes to be made to the DNS Root Zone File, subject to the final approval of the DoC. Under this agreed framework, a request for delegation, redelegation, authoritative name server changes, and so forth, are submitted to and processed by ICANN. ICANN is not a government or a regulator, but acts as an experienced, neutral, expert gatekeeper for the DNS root zone file, working closely with local Internet communities (including governments) to nurture responsive, accountable operation of country-code top-level domain registries.

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