

**DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP**

**Source:** ICANN

**Title:** Administering the Root: Delegations and Redelegations – Every country is unique

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Please note that the full document is not yet available.

**Abstract**

Country-Code Top-Level Domains, or ccTLDs, were initially delegated by Dr. Jon Postel (the remarkable Internet architect originally entrusted with responsibility for deployment of the Internet's domain name system) with the objective of enabling local Internet communities worldwide to develop their own locally-responsive and -accountable DNS services, and to encourage all parts of the world to 'get online'. Initially, from the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, ccTLD registry responsibilities were typically delegated to Internet pioneers, often from the academic or research communities. In 1994, Dr. Postel published the basic policy and technical requirements for TLD delegations, redelegations, and operations in a document known as RFC 1591.

Today, in a vastly more complex global Internet environment, ICANN carries on Dr. Postel's work by seeking to institutionalize and document the framework for ccTLD delegations, consistent with the existing published policies. In this role (known as the IANA function"), ICANN has the responsibility to investigate and assess requests on all matters relating to changes in the DNS root, including ccTLD delegations and redelegations. ICANN/IANA processes all requests for delegation and redelegation of ccTLDs, and encourages local Internet communities (including governments) to evolve broad-based, community-oriented policymaking and administrative structures. These frameworks of accountability help to advance stability and clarify responsibilities both at the local community level and for the overall global Internet.

There are approximately 15 different categories of redelegation requests, each presenting or resulting from very different types of problems, challenges, and local situations. Additionally, there are numerous ccTLD management models, often reflective of the national situation. Every country and territory is obviously unique, with its own particular institutions, populations, interests, history, connectivity, stakeholder interests, form of government, public policy objectives, and so forth. Accordingly, the exact contours of each such framework of accountability will vary in certain respects, subject to the fundamental global policies designed to ensure global interoperability and

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operational stability of the Internet's DNS. Each request for delegation or redelegation is processed by ICANN with sensitivity to its unique situation, following the policies documented in RFC 1591 and ICP-1, and in accordance with the ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee's Principles on Delegations and Redelegations.

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