# ccTLDs, national governments & internet governance

michael geist canada research chair in internet and e-commerce law university of ottawa, faculty of law February 26, 2004

### outline

- ccTLD governance project
- 2003 itu/geist survey
- key findings
- myths
- what can we draw from this for the internet governance discussion?

# ccTLD governance project

- 2002 project to examine ccTLD relationship with gov'ts
- survey 50+ ccTLDs
- governmental involvement greater than anticipated
  - legislation
  - contract
  - oversight mechanisms

- april 2003 sent to 189 itu member states
- deadline extension to Oct. 03
- 56 countries listed in preliminary report (Nov. 03)
- 66 countries now covered in updated report
- all data available online via itu

- north america (canada, us, mexico)
- <u>europe</u> (denmark, finland, france, germany, greece, italy, spain, netherlands, norway, sweden, switzerland, uk, czech, slovak, romania, lithuania, kyrgyzstan, ukraine)
- <u>asia</u> (cambodia, china, japan, indonesia, malaysia, korea, pakistan, singapore, thailand)

- <u>australasia</u> (australia, nz, niue)
- <u>africa</u> (botswana, kenya, lesotho, congo, seychelles, suriname, tanzania, uganda, zambia)
- middle east (iran,jordan, kuwait, oman)
- <u>latin america</u> (chile, costa rica, ecuador, peru)
- caribbean (jamaica, trinidad & tobago)

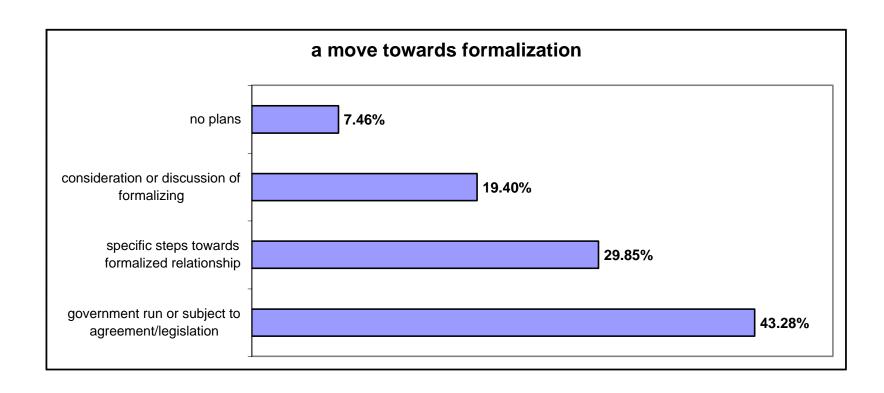
### • Questions

- gov't involvement in ccTLD
- status of gov't ccTLD relationship
- internet governance participation
- ccTLD structure
- ccTLD policy priorities
- public interest in policy making
- whois
- dispute resolution
- idn
- registration policies

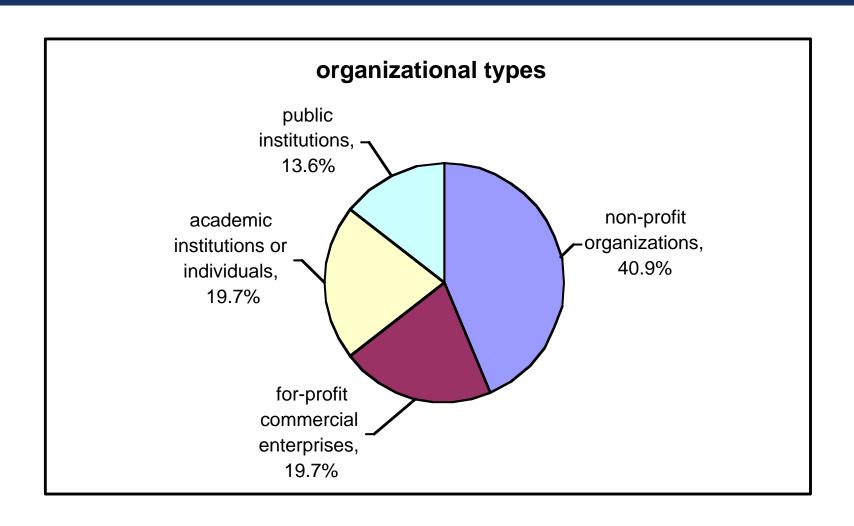
### key findings among those surveyed

- governments deeply involved in domain name administration at national level
- policy priorities differential -
  - public ccTLDs cite public interest
  - commercial ccTLDs cite size
- correlation between public interest and presence requirements
- commercial ccTLDs offer competitive registration services

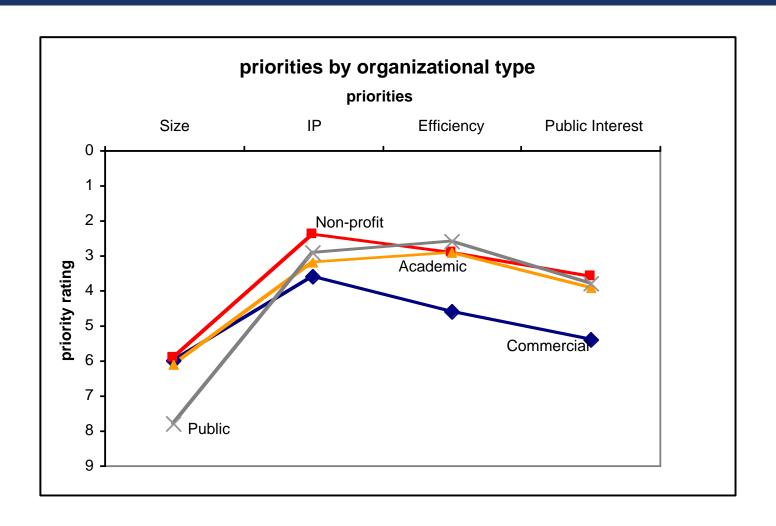
# governments & ccTLDs



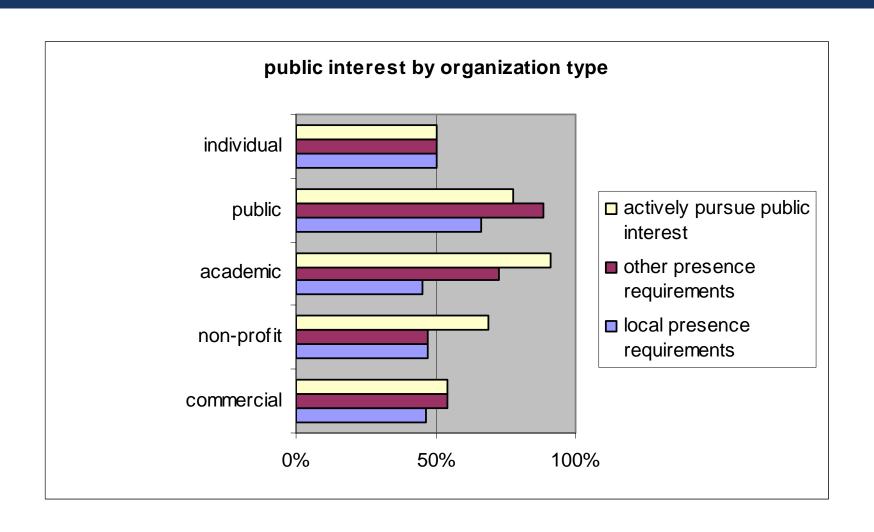
## ccTLD structures



# policy priorities

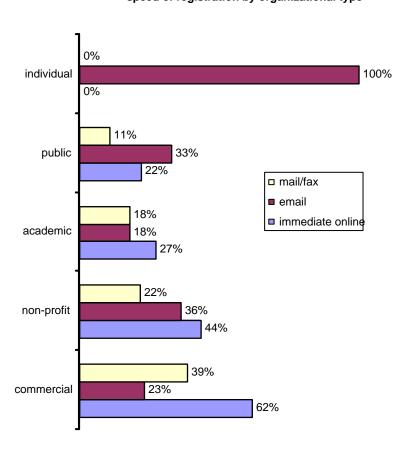


# public interest & presence requirements



# speed of registration

#### speed of registration by organizational type



## myths

- myth #1 self-regulation and the internet
  - int'l and multinational agreements
    - eu data protection (whois)
    - coe cybercrime (network requirements)
  - laws of general application
    - antitrust (icann)
    - intellectual property (drps)
  - laws and oversight specific to domain names
- myth #2 size matters
  - many ccTLDs do not judge success by registry size
- myth #3 government as all or nothing
  - ccTLDs subject to government oversight but commercial innovation

### internet governance - stages

technical	standards, interoperability
commercial	the business of selling domains
me and my domain	issues that arise after the domain registered
blended	issues that combine two or more of the above

### internet governance - policy

technical	root servers, idn
commercial	presence requirements, registration restrictions
me and my domain	dispute resolution, whois
blended	sitefinder, wls

### internet governance - national level

technical	standards body participation, general law applies
commercial	some involvement with oversight, some direct participation, general law applies
me and my domain	very active - legislation or contractual oversight
blended	unknown - issues tend to be global, not national

## internet governance - global level

technical	increasingly active global influences national; seek protection of national resource and interests
commercial	seek national treatment for business opportunities
me and my domain	seek protection of national interest; resolution for conflict of laws (globalsantefe.com)
blended	issue specific - seek forum for influence

### internet governance and gov'ts

 governments will act to protect national interest both nationally and globally

### but

- government interests differ in national and global arenas
- government vs. private sector often a false choice often compatible

# mgeist@pobox.com