

DOCUMENT FOR ccTLD WORKSHOP

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1 AFNIC and the International College

1.1 Presentation of AFNIC - ".fr" domain manager

AFNIC, the French Association for Cooperative Internet Naming, a non-profit association governed by the law of 1 July 1901, is the French authority responsible for Internet naming. It was set up in December 1997 as the result of a joint initiative by the National Institute for Research in Informatics and Automation (INRIA) and the State, represented by the Ministries in charge of telecommunication, industry and research¹.

Membership

As an association, AFNIC is open to all actors (public or private) concerned with the development or use of Internet.

Its membership consists of:

- founder members, public sector represented by the INRIA and the three ministries;
- Internet provider members;
- private and corporate user members;
- members from national or international associations or organizations, known as the International College.

Altogether, AFNIC has a membership of about 1 000.

Tasks

AFNIC's tasks are those of a Network Information Centre (NIC):

- establishment and implementation of the ".fr" domain naming plan, in conformity with French law, and dissemination of resulting information;
- operation of domain name system (DNS);
- national and international transfer of acquired knowledge and know-how;
- any Internet management task assigned by the public authorities.

AFNIC, whose work is deemed of public interest, ensures national and international coordination.

Governing Board

AFNIC's governing board comprises five members appointed from the public sector, five elected members, two provider members, two user members and one member from the International College.

1.2 The AFNIC International College (IC)

IC membership and representation on the AFNIC governing board

The International College currently has 30 members from 16 countries, including 13 NICs. Three continents are currently represented: Africa, America and Europe (see annexed list of International College members).

The International College also includes educational bodies (universities, etc) and providers.

¹ The Association's statutes are available on line at: <http://www.nic.fr/presentation/statuts.html> .

In accordance with the association's statutes, the representatives of the International College elect one representative to sit on the AFNIC governing board, the decision-making body consisting of ten directors. Mr Ahmedou Ould Haouba (re-elected) has represented the International College since 1998.

Annual meetings

The members of the International College meet once a year for two days in Paris, on the day before the AFNIC general meeting. On that occasion, they discuss the progress achieved with the implementation of the previous year's decisions and look ahead to new projects, placing an emphasis on the regional (or continental) pooling of resources.

1.3 Contributor: the Coordination and Co-Development Committee (C3)

In the work it does to assist developing countries, the International College is supported by political and financial partners, who meet as a **Coordination and Co-development Committee (C3)**. This committee's aim is to anticipate problems of a financial nature.

At present the partners are:

- **ADETEF**² (Association for the Development of Exchanges in Economic and Financial Technology);
- **INTIF**³ (Intergovernmental Agency of French-Language Countries), set up under the Niamey Agreement, on 20 March 1970;
- **French-Language Information Highway Fund**⁴ (established under a plan of action decided at the 7th Francophonie Summit in Hanoi on 16 November 1997) - part of the Single Multilateral Fund (FMU);
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**⁵;
- **Ministry of Education**⁶;
- **UNESCO** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

External advisers may also join in the partnerships in a personal capacity, such as Mr Youcef Mentalecheta, former Director of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Informatics Programme.

The C3 committee offers the International College's action greater continuity, by first developing infrastructures and then stabilizing and harmonizing them. Thanks to this structure, the International College can work towards longer-term objectives and avoid locally trained skills being drained off to industrialized countries.

In view of the success of its projects and its growing membership, one of the International College's main concerns is to ensure sufficient political and financial support.

² <http://www.finances.gouv.fr/adetef/> .

³ <http://www.agence.francophonie.org/> .

⁴ <http://francophonie.org/fonds/> .

⁵ <http://www.finance.diplomatie.fr/> .

⁶ <http://www.education.gouv.fr/> .

2 Training activities organized by the AFNIC International College for developing countries

AFNIC supports the establishment of Internet in developing countries.

The general policy followed by the International College is one of multilateral cooperation with developing countries. Its strategy for promoting Internet uses focuses on training in the new information and communication technologies (NICTs). The training courses it organizes are recognized as activities of public interest and are considered as a public resource.

Based on past experience, the International College is considering extending its activities in the area of the transfer of knowledge and know-how, especially for nationals of the countries involved in joint development.

2.1 Information technology instructor training (FFTI)

Some ten one-week regional instructor training courses have been organized since 1998, chiefly in French-speaking Africa⁷, in partnership with other organizations involved in training activities⁸. The purpose of the training is to enable participating countries achieve a reasonable degree of technological independence.

Through instructor training, a pool of local instructors has been set up in developing countries, leading to the subsequent launch of training courses by local instructors.

FFTI workshops are developed and implemented through the joint efforts of volunteer members of the International College, the organizing committee of the host institution and multilateral partners.

Two instruction levels have emerged from this experience:

- FFTI1: introduction to NICT in general and network management in particular;
- FFTI2: advanced courses (IPv6, DNSsec, etc.).

On average, some 15 engineers are trained on each course.

Two or three courses are planned for 2003, one FFTI1 in Guinea and two FFTI2s in Mexico and Morocco.

2.2 Generic NIC: technological transfer of registry management software

Within the framework of the International College and the EUREG project (management of the ".eu" domain), AFNIC has been working to establish a platform for the coordination of registry management technologies. Although every NIC develops its own technologies, a certain uniformity tends to emerge, allowing the development of "ready-made" solutions, written and circulated as free software.

Know-how is transferred by means of a "generic NIC" platform, including technologies required for the management of a partner NIC⁹, based on those developed by AFNIC or other organizations using open software. Back-up implementation guidance is provided by three AFNIC instructors for ten or so NIC managers.

AFNIC's "generic NIC" technical training lasts one week and covers the following items:

⁷ Mauritania, Senegal, Tunisia, but also Haiti, Mexico, etc.

⁸ UNESCO, French-Language Information Highway Fund, INTIF, etc.

⁹ NIC: Network Information Centre (ICANN-delegated top-level domain (TLD) management and registry).

- general registry architecture: interface with registration offices, registration form, ticket system, database (Whois and DNS);
- internal plan for a registry data system and relationship with Whois and DNS services;
- advanced DNS courses, registry problems arising from DNS, presentation and use of ZoneCheck tool.

2.3 Design of multimedia tools for information technology instructors (COMFTI)

The design of multimedia tools for information technology instructors (COMFTI) adopts a self-training approach. The tools it provides are intended chiefly for DNS professionals but also for instructors (universities, engineering schools, etc.) and may be used prior to and after courses requiring the presence of instructors.

The objective is to produce a CD-ROM version, which will be distributed free of charge to interested members of the International College. This interactive teaching tool has been considered an essential prerequisite for preparing and completing regional training courses.

Both AFNIC and the International College began to be interested in the self-training method in 1998. Two CD-ROMs ("[Initi@tion à l'Internet](#)" and "[A ch@cun son site web](#)") were designed, the first of which was translated by the LANIA (a member of the International College) in Mexico. An agreement was signed with UNESCO for the distribution of French and Spanish versions.

2.4 Virtual campuses and distance training platforms

A virtual campus project has been launched jointly by partners of the International College and UNESCO. Two campuses are being set up, one in Mexico and the other shared by Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire. The IC partners involved are the LANIA in Mexico, UCAD in Senegal and the Félix Houphouët Boigny National Polytechnic Institute in Côte d'Ivoire, which have joined forces with other national and regional partners.

The project's objectives are partly to establish a model virtual campus adapted to national requirements and including help facilities for learning, and partly to assess the model in practice. Each project includes three phases: the definition of campus components, the establishment of a distance training platform and related courses, and lastly the development of contents and assessment of their use in real university situations.

In the light of the availability of market products, the distance training systems are intended to be part of the public domain.

3 Support for ccTLD management and transfer

3.1 Presenting AFNIC's organization model and creating awareness among local decision-makers

AFNIC is frequently asked to present its organization model and to explain its international involvement, especially at meetings (in Madagascar, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia, amongst others). This non-profit model allows joint management of the registry with private or public actors, which guarantees neutrality in relation to the competitive sector. The added value of AFNIC's experience is recognized by local decision-makers.

3.2 Technical support: ccTLD follow-up action and implementation assistance

Technical support consists in distant monitoring of the start-up of the generic registry - or "generic NIC" - by every partner NIC after training, with the option of local help by an instructor on request. The training takes place on an annual basis and includes two visits by an engineer after each "generic NIC" course. The number of participants tends to vary.

With the development of better suited tools, a "self-training" approach will gradually be adopted, in order to reduce the time given to training sessions requiring an instructor's visit.

Conclusion - Convergence of International College actions and ITU-D

The International College runs activities jointly with its members, with the support of the C3 committee, in order to facilitate exchanges and the transfer and mastery of information and communication technology and to reduce the digital divide. These activities include:

- high-level training in ICT for managers, technicians and engineers;
- NIC guidance for management and the development of naming charts;
- transfer of know-how over a "generic NIC" platform, comprising the technologies required for the management of a partner NIC¹⁰;
- design of multimedia tools for information technology instructors, virtual campuses and distant training facilities;
- management support at the time of a ccTLD transfer;
- implementation of ccTLD studies.

In order to ensure long-term continuity for its activities, chiefly aimed at developing countries, the International College is aiming to develop real cooperation with national and international institutions supporting NICT programmes in southern countries, especially in partnership with UNESCO, ITU and the ECA.

These joint activities could take the form of information exchanges, support for the organization of training courses and meetings, and the development of studies and training tools for developing countries.

¹⁰ NIC: Network Information Centre (ICANN-delegated top-level domain (TLD) management and registry).

Annex

**List of AFNIC International College members
at 15 February 2003**

NIC: Network Information Centre

ORG: Non-profit organization

S: Private sector corporations

Organization	Country	Person signing the membership form	Status
ARK MANAGEMENT	Albania	Agim Gashi	S
ALBANIAN NIC	Albania	Vojo Spahiu	NIC
SAN	Albania	Agim Cami	S
CERIST	Algeria	Hocine Lourghi	NIC
GECOS	Algeria	Younès Grar	S
INI	Algeria	Abderrazak Henni	ORG
ONEFD	Algeria	Mohamed hadj-Djilani	ORG
SOLI.NET	Algeria	Yacine Zerrouki	S
SWAN INFORMATIQUE	Algeria	Ali Kahlane	S
CAMTEL	Cameroon	Emmanuel Nguimba Nloutsiri	NIC
OPERATEL CAMEROON	Cameroon	Chretien Talelo	S
INP-HB	Côte d'Ivoire	Souleymane Oumtanaga	NIC
MEDIXINE OY	Finland	Jokinen Tapio	S
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE	Guinea	Abdoulaye Diakité	ORG
SCIENCE FACULTY	Haiti	Max-Larson Henry	NIC
RDDH	Haiti	Jean-Marie Noel	NIC
NIC-MG	Madagascar	Lala Andriamampianina	NIC
CENTRE RESAUTIC	Madagascar	Nicolas Raft Razafindrakoto	ORG

Organization	Country	Person signing the membership form	Status
PROMO NTIC	Mali	Bintou Mariko	ORG
ANRT	Morocco	Rachida Jouhari	NIC
NIC MAURITANIA	Mauritania	Ahmedou Ould Haouba	NIC
LCE	Mexico	Renaut Zorola Villarreal	ORG
ANIA	Mexico	Cristina Loyo Varela	ORG
SEP	Mexico	Francisco R. Medellin Leal	ORG
UANL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE	Mexico	Luis-Eugenio Todd	ORG
IC NIGER	Niger	Iro Adamou	NIC
NIC SENEGAL	Senegal	Boubakar Barry	NIC
STT	Chad	Tarouss Ndoumanbe	NIC
TUNISIAN INTERNET AGENCY	Tunisia	Ferial Beji	NIC
CNI TUNIS	Tunisia	Noureddine Mrabet	ORG
