ICANN Acronym Guide

Navigating the Language of Domain Names in That Inscrutable World Known as ICANN

Do you speak ICANN? This guide was designed to serve as an alphabetical reference to decode the common acronyms used by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). INTA’s goal in preparing this guide was to familiarize members with common ICANN and Internet Governance terminology to increase ICANN participation and advocacy and to put a little fun into what is seen as an extremely complicated process.

The first column, “ICANN Speak,” provides an acronym and the corresponding definition. This definition was intentionally written in a manner that uses other acronyms and common ICANN shorthand. This language is then de-coded in the “I Can Speak” column, with a clear and concise definition. Further notes appear below connecting each acronym to its relevance in the IP community, its importance in the ICANN community and its overall effect on governance.

Now you are ready to join a **WG** (Working Group), **ALS** (At-Large Structure), or **AC** (Advisory Committee) and attend an Annual General Meeting (**AGM**), Internet Governance Forum (**IGF**) or National and Regional Initiative (**NRI**) to help **ICANN** and other organizations shape Internet Governance (**IG**) and the Policy Development Process (**PDP**)!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AoC – Affirmation of Commitments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRG – Brand Registry Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTLD – Country Code Top-Level Domain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCWG WS2 – Cross-Community Working Group Work Stream 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS – Domain Name System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EuroDIG – European Dialogue on Internet Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPDP – Expedited Policy Development Process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAC – Governmental Advisory Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GTLD – Generic Top Level Domain</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GNSO – Generic Names Supporting Organization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICANN – Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IG – Internet Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGF – Internet Governance Forum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPC – Intellectual Property Constituency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISOC – Internet Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITU – International Telecommunications Union</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCSG - Non-Commercial Stakeholders Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NomCom – Nominating Committee</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NTIA – National Telecommunications and Information Agency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RYSG – Registries Stakeholder Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEEDIG - South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TMCH – Trademark Clearinghouse</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UDRP – Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URS – Uniform Rapid Suspension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**AC**

A formally recognized body under the ICANN Bylaws that is charged with advising the ICANN Board on policies within ICANN’s mission and scope. The Bylaws recognize four At-Large Committees:

- **At-Large Advisory Committee**
- **Governmental Advisory Committee**
- **Root Server System Advisory Committee**
- **Security and Stability Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committees help shape the policy recommendations that the ICANN community develops and refines through its Supporting Organizations.

**AFRALO**

1 of the 5 RALOs that together form the ALC within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the AFR. The RALO that serves as the main forum and coordination point for public input to ICANN from the ALC in the AFR. AFRALO keeps the ALSes in its community informed about significant news from ICANN. It also establishes mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication between the ALSes and ICANN PMs, so ALS members can share their views on pending ICANN issues.

**AFTLD**

A nonprofit association of country code top-level domain registries in the African region. Africa Top Level Domains Organization provides a forum where its members can discuss policy matters affecting the ccTLD registries in the African region.
in their region. The ASSN also serves as a channel of communication between its membership and Internet GBs such as ICANN.

**AfrINIC**

A RIR and NPMO responsible for the administration, allocation, and REG of IP addresses in the AFR.

**AGP**

A 45-day period following the expiration of a DN. If a registrant does not explicitly consent to renew the DN, the registrar must delete the name from the registry by the end of the AGP. Often, registrars allow registrants to renew an expired name during this period.

**ASN**

A globally unique identifier given to an AS. An AS is a collection of IP networks operated by one or more NOs. When an IU sends a message to an IP address that exists outside the user’s own AS, routers forward the message to the AS in which the address resides. In this respect, the IUs ASNs to route messages between ASs in much the same way postal systems use postal codes to route physical mail between GRs. ASNs are allocated to NOs by RIRs.

**ALS**

A certified body of volunteers within a RALO that represents the interests and concerns of individual IUs. Working with its RALO, an ALS enables individuals to share their views on ICANN issues, help forum where its members can discuss policy matters affecting the country code top-level domain registries in their region. The association also serves as a channel of communication between its membership and Internet governance bodies such as ICANN.

**African Network Information Center**

A Regional Internet Registry (RIR) and non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration, allocation, and registration of Internet Protocol addresses in the African region.

**Auto-Renew Grace Period**

A forty-five day period following the expiration of a domain name. If a registrant does not explicitly consent to renew the domain name, the registrar must delete the name from the registry by the end of the Auto-Renew Grace Period. Often, registrars allow registrants to renew an expired name during this period.

**autonomous system number**

A globally unique identifier given to an autonomous system. An autonomous system is a collection of Internet Protocol networks operated by one or more network operators. When an Internet user sends a message to an IP address that exists outside the user’s own autonomous system, routers forward the message to the autonomous system in which the address resides. In this respect, the Internet uses autonomous system numbers to route messages between autonomous systems in much the same way postal systems use postal codes to route physical mail between geographic regions. Autonomous system numbers are allocated to network operators by Regional Internet Registries.

**At-Large Structure**

A certified body of volunteers within a Regional At-Large Organization that represents the interests and concerns of individual Internet users. Working with its Regional At-Large Organization, an At-
shape global ICANN policies, and conduct outreach and engagement. The ALSes are wholly independent of ICANN. Groups that serve as ALSes include professional societies (e.g., engineers, lawyers), Internet society chapters, community networks, and computer user groups. To serve as an ALS, a group must be certified by the ALAC. Some RALOs also certify individual IUs in their region. As of January 2018, there were over 225 ALSes and a growing number of individual members around the world.

**AGM**

The 3 PM in ICANN’s 3-meeting annual cycle. This meeting features workshops, working meetings, and sessions on topics of interest. Additionally, it provides 2 PFs where the ICANN community can speak directly with the ICANN BOD. New members of the ICANN BODs also take their seats at the AGM.

**ALAC**

The primary organizational home within ICANN for individual IUs. ALAC’s role is to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN, as they relate to the interests of individual IUs.

**AoC**

A formal declaration of ICANN’s independence, structure and purpose, signed by the U.S. DOC’s NTIA and ICANN in September 2009.

Large Structure enables individuals to share their views on ICANN issues, help shape global ICANN policies, and conduct outreach and engagement. The At-Large Structures are wholly independent of ICANN. Groups that serve as At-Large Structures include professional societies (e.g., engineers, lawyers), Internet society chapters, community networks, and computer user groups. To serve as an At-Large Structure, a group must be certified by the At-Large Advisory Committee. Some Regional At-Large Organizations also certify individual Internet users in their region. As of January 2018, there were over 225 At-Large Structures and a growing number of individual members around the world.

**Annual General Meeting**

The third Public Meeting in ICANN’s three-meeting annual cycle. This meeting features workshops, working meetings, and sessions on topics of interest. Additionally, it provides two Public Forums where the ICANN community can speak directly with the ICANN Board. New members of the ICANN Board of Directors also take their seats at the Annual General Meeting.

**At-Large Advisory Committee**

The primary organizational home within ICANN for individual Internet users. ALAC’s role is to consider and provide advice on the activities of ICANN, as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users.

**Affirmation of Commitments**

A formal declaration of ICANN’s independence, structure and purpose, signed by the United States Department of Commerce’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration and ICANN in September 2009.
The Affirmation of Commitments, signed in September of 2009 by the U.S. Government and ICANN, represented a key step in the ongoing philosophical and political shift which has seen ICANN (and therefore the entire internet domain name system) go from its historical position existing under the control and authority of the U.S. Government to being a largely independent international organization whose policy and direction flow from a “multistakeholder” model of governance. Under the multistakeholder model, no one government, jurisdiction or entity exercises ultimate control over ICANN and the domain name system.

**APNIC**

One of 5 RIRs and a NPMO responsible for the administration and REG of IP addresses in the AP region, including JP, KR, CN, AU, and the PIs.

**APRALO**

APRALO 1 of 5 RALOs that together form the ALC within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the AP region. The RALO that serves as the main forum and coordination point for public input to ICANN from the ALC in Asia, Australasia, and the PIs. APRALO keeps the ALSes in its community informed about significant news from ICANN. It also establishes mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication between the ALSes and ICANN PMs, so ALO members can share their views on pending ICANN issues.

**APTLD**

A NPA of ccTLDs registries in the AP region. APTLD provides a forum where its members can discuss policy matters affecting the ccTLDs in the AP region.

**Asia Pacific Network Information Centre**

One of five Regional Internet Registries and a non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration and registration of Internet Protocol addresses in the Asia Pacific region, including Japan, Korea, China, Australia, and the Pacific Islands.

**Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization**

The Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organization is one of five Regional At-Large Organizations that together form the At-Large Community within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the Asia Pacific region. The Regional At-Large Organization that serves as the main forum and coordination point for public input to ICANN from the At-Large Community in Asia, Australasia, and the Pacific Islands. Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization keeps the At-Large Structures in its community informed about significant news from ICANN. It also establishes mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication between the At-Large Structures and ICANN policymakers, so At-Large Organization members can share their views on pending ICANN issues.

**Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association**

A nonprofit association of country code top-level domain registries in the Asia Pacific region. Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association provides a forum where its members can discuss policy matters affecting the country code top-level domain registries in their...
the ccTLD registries in their region. The ASSN also serves as a COC between its membership and Internet GBs such as ICANN.

**APWG**

A global coalition of industry, law enforcement, and GOVs that work to unify the global response to phishing attacks and other cybercrimes. The APWG is a CH for cybercrime event data, cybercrime response utilities, and programs that promote cybercrime awareness and research. ICANN is a participant in the APWG.

**ARIN**

One of 5 RIRs, and an ORG established for the purpose of the administration and REG of IP addresses in CA, many CAR and NAIs and the U.S..

**ASO**

An advisory body to the ICANN BOD on policy issues relating to the operation, allocation and management of IP addresses. The ASO function is performed by the NRO, the members of which are the 5 RIRs: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, and RIPE. A council within the ASO that manages the ASO’s global policy development process. This council is composed of 15 members, including 3 REPs from each of the RIRs. The members of this council also serve on the NRONC.

**Anti-Phishing Working Group**

A global coalition of industry, law enforcement, and governments that work to unify the global response to phishing attacks and other cybercrimes. The Anti-Phishing Working Group is a clearinghouse for cybercrime event data, cybercrime response utilities, and programs that promote cybercrime awareness and research. ICANN is a participant in the Anti-Phishing Working Group.

**American Registry for Internet Numbers**

One of five Regional Internet Registries, and an organization established for the purpose of the administration and registration of Internet Protocol addresses in Canada, many Caribbean and North Atlantic islands and the United States.

**Address Supporting Organization**

An advisory body to the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the operation, allocation and management of Internet Protocol addresses. The ASO function is performed by the Number Resource Organization, the members of which are the five Regional Internet Registries: African Network Information Center, Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, American Registry for Internet Numbers, Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre, and Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre. A council within the Address Supporting Organization that manages the Address Supporting Organization’s global policy development process. This council is composed of fifteen members, including three representatives from each of the Regional Internet Registries. The members of this council also serve on the Number Resource Organization Number Council.
ATRT

A team of community REP's responsible for reviewing ICANN's accountability, transparency and pursuit of the interests of global IUs.

Accountability and Transparency Review Team

A team of community representatives responsible for reviewing ICANN's accountability, transparency and pursuit of the interests of global Internet users.

AXFR

A DNS protocol mechanism through which a DNS zone can be replicated to a remote DNS server.

Asynchronous Full Transfer

A Domain Name System protocol mechanism through which a Domain Name System zone can be replicated to a remote Domain Name System server.

BCUC

One of the constituencies of the GNSO and the voice of commercial and business users within ICANN processes.

Business and Commercial Users Constituency

One of the constituencies of the Generic Names Supporting Organization and the voice of commercial and business users within ICANN processes.

BGC

A committee of the ICANN BODs responsible for BRD performance review and enhancement, oversight of compliance with BRD COC, administration of the CIP, and other related matters.

Board Governance Committee

A committee of the ICANN Board of Directors responsible for Board performance review and enhancement, oversight of compliance with Board Code of Conduct, administration of the Conflicts of Interest Policy, and other related matters.

BRG

The BRG is an ASSN of COs and ORGs working together to champion the use of brand TLDs.

Brand Registry Group

The Brand Registry Group is an association of companies and organizations working together to champion the use of brand top-level domains.

ICANN's multistakeholder governance model allows, and some might say encourages, like-minded companies and organizations to band together to promote their interests within the ICANN governance process and to keep members informed about that process. The Brand Registry Group is an independent association which serves these functions on behalf of member entities that have or plan to secure top-level internet domains consisting of a brand – often called a “dotBrand.”
**botnet C&C**

A computer operated by cyberattackers that issues commands to devices that comprise a *botnet*. A botnet is a collection of malware-infected devices (*bots*) that act in response to commands from a botnet C&C. Typically, a botnet C&C instructs elements of its botnet to extract information from their host systems or engage in malicious action such as a DOS attack.

**botnet command and control**

A computer operated by cyberattackers that issues commands to devices that comprise a *botnet*. A botnet is a collection of malware-infected devices (*bots*) that act in response to commands from a botnet command and control. Typically, a botnet command and control instructs elements of its botnet to extract information from their host systems or engage in malicious action such as a denial-of-service attack.

**CCNSO**

A SO responsible for developing and recommending to ICANN’s BRD global policies relating to ccTLDs. It provides a forum for ccTLD managers to meet and discuss issues of concern from a global perspective.

**Country Code Names Supporting Organization**

A *Supporting Organization* responsible for developing and recommending to ICANN’s Board global policies relating to country code top-level domains. It provides a forum for country code top-level domain managers to meet and discuss issues of concern from a global perspective.

**CCTLD**

A two-letter DN extension corresponding to a country, territory or other geographic location, such as .uk, .de, and .jp.

**Country Code Top-Level Domain**

A two-letter domain name extension corresponding to a country, territory or other geographic location, such as .uk (United Kingdom), .de (Germany) and .jp (Japan).

*Country Code Top-Level Domains differ from other top-level domains in that it is the individual country associated with the code, and not ICANN, which sets the technical and procedural policies which govern the domain names within the code. As a result, domains within Country Code Top-Level Domains are not automatically subject to ICANN’s standard tools trademark holders may want to use to protect their intellectual property, such as the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy. However, it is important to note that this only applies to true Country Code Top-Level Domains, which can be identified because they consist of only two characters. Today there are numerous other geographic top-level domains with three or more characters, such as .nyc or .asia, which are subject to ICANN’s procedures and policies.*

**CZDS**

A central online access point where interested parties can request access to the zone files provided by participating gTLDs. A zone

**Centralized Zone Data Service**

A central online access point where interested parties can request access to the zone files provided by participating generic top-level...
file contains information about the DNs that are active in a particular gTLD. All new gTLD ROs are required to provide zone data as described in their RA with ICANN.

CCWG WS2

WS 2 focused on addressing accountability topics for which a timeline for developing solutions and full implementation may extend beyond the IANA ST. It recently concluded its FR.

Cross-Community Working Group – Work Stream 2 – Enhancing ICANN Accountability

Work Stream 2 focused on addressing accountability topics for which a timeline for developing solutions and full implementation may extend beyond the IANA Stewardship Transition. It recently concluded its final report.

The Cross-Community Working Group was formed in December 2014 to focus on ICANN’s accountability to the global internet community. This Group submitted recommended improvements to the ICANN Board in 2016 and 2018, including improvements in staff accountability relating to diversity, transparency, and human rights. The CCWG WS2 submitted nearly 100 recommendations and will work on implementation of same. The work of CCWG WS2 was important for INTA and for IP rightsholders because now that ICANN is independent, it will be necessary for ICANN to maintain transparency in the development and implementation of its strategic plans and policies. Stakeholders such as trademark practitioners engaged ICANN in this working group in order to maintain fair and balanced governance as ICANN moves forward with reviews of rights protection mechanisms, changes in the WHOIS system, and other policy development processes.

DNS

A system that allows IUs to type in names, like www.internic.net, and be directed to a machine-understandable unique IP address like 207.151.159.3. Sometimes compared to a phone directory for the Internet.

Domain Name System

A system that allows Internet users to type in names, like www.internic.net, and be directed to a machine-understandable unique Internet Protocol address like 207.151.159.3. Sometimes compared to a phone directory for the Internet.

Humans understand domain names and computers understand IP addresses. The Domain Name System (DNS) connects these two languages by translating human-language domain names into IP addresses. Every device connected to the Internet has a unique IP address such as 164.198.1.1. DNS converts a hostname, i.e. ICANN.org, into the corresponding IP address, i.e.
164.198.1.1, allowing the Internet user access to the web page. The DNS is important because it is the Internet’s most recognized source identifier system. Domain names frequently correspond to trademarks worldwide, but domain names are licensed for a specific period of time and as such can create some complexity in the maintenance of trademark protections online and globally. Since domain names normally function the same way across jurisdictions by resolving to the same websites, and since domain names must be renewed for use after a set period of time, their registration or renewal can often lead to disputes over usage rights, as certain domain names may or may not correspond to a trademark in any given jurisdiction. Therefore, dispute resolution mechanisms exist to ensure adequate protection for trademarks online through international organizations and arbitration centers. Mechanisms include the UDRP (created by WIPO and implemented by ICANN) and the URS (created by ICANN). These systems, however, are not created by international treaty. There currently are no international standards or legal systems that account for domain names, though there may be in the future. As legal standards for the Internet continue to develop at ICANN and elsewhere, trademark practitioners must continue to ensure that the DNS is managed in a fair and balanced manner that maintains protections for trademarks.

DNSO

From 1999 to 2002, the ICANN Supporto Organization representing participants in the operation and use of the DNS. Dissolved and replaced by the GNSO and the CCNSO in 2003.

DNSSEC

This introduces security at the infrastructure level through a hierarchy of cryptographic signatures attached to the DNS records. Users are assured that the source of the data is verifiably the stated source, and that the mapping of name to IP address is accurate. DNSSEC-compliant name servers also provide denial of existence, that is, they tell a user that a name does not exist. There are two dominant strategies: (1) a process that ZOs can initiate for digitally signing their own zones by employing public-private key pairs and (2) a chain of trust between parent and child that enables the system eventually to become trustworthy.

DRP

This introduces security at the infrastructure level through a hierarchy of cryptographic signatures attached to the Domain Name System records. Users are assured that the source of the data is verifiably the stated source, and that the mapping of name to Internet Protocol address is accurate. Domain Name System Security Extensions compliant name servers also provide denial of existence, that is, they tell a user that a name does not exist. There are two dominant strategies: (1) a process that zone operators can initiate for digitally signing their own zones by employing public-private key pairs and (2) a chain of trust between parent and child that enables the system eventually to become trustworthy.

Domain Name Supporting Organization


Domain Name System Security Extensions

Dispute Resolution Procedure
A formal mechanism for solving disagreements or conflicts between parties.

**DRSP**

An entity approved by ICANN to adjudicate DRPs in response to formally filed disputes. Working through a DRSP offers parties a mechanism to resolve a dispute outside the court system.

**DAAR**

The system that ICANN uses to monitor domain abuse and REG activity across TLDs. DAAR continuously collects REG and security threat data from numerous reputation data feeds. Using this data, ICANN analysts identify and report the use of DNs for activities such as phishing, malware distribution, botnet activity, and spam.

**DNRD**

Data that is accessible to the public through a directory service known as WHOIS. DNRD refers to the information that registrants submit when they register a DN. Registrars or ROs collect this data and make some of it available for public display or for use by applications. The data elements that registrants must submit are specified in the RAA.

**DNS Forum**

A RC where individuals and groups that are key stakeholders in the DNS meet and discuss issues of relevance to their region. Regional and global Internet ORGs sponsor DNS Forums in various regions around the world. Key to ICANN’s regional outreach efforts, these forums raise awareness and foster collaboration among regional stakeholders and encourage involvement in ICANN’s MSP.

A regional conference where individuals and groups that are key stakeholders in the DNS meet and discuss issues of relevance to their region. Regional and global Internet organizations sponsor Domain Name System Forums in various regions around the world. Key to ICANN’s regional outreach efforts, these forums raise awareness and foster collaboration among regional stakeholders and encourage involvement in ICANN’s multi-stakeholder process.
DNS Misuse

Any activity that uses the DNS protocol or the DN REG process to carry out malicious or illegal activity. Misuse activities include hijacking DNs, registering DNs to sell counterfeit merchandise, using the DNS to distribute spam, and exploiting the DNS protocol to launch DOS attacks.

Domain Name System Misuse

Any activity that uses the Domain Name System protocol or the domain name registration process to carry out malicious or illegal activity. Misuse activities include hijacking domain names, registering domain names to sell counterfeit merchandise, using the Domain Name System to distribute spam, and exploiting the Domain Name System protocol to launch denial-of-service attacks.

EBERO

In the New gTLD Program, an entity that provides temporary support if a gTLD RO is at risk of failing to sustain any of the 5 critical registry functions.

Emergency Back-End Registry Operator

In the New Generic Top-Level Domain Program, an entity that provides temporary support if a generic top-level domain registry operator is at risk of failing to sustain any of the five critical registry functions.

EDIG

The EDIG is an open multi-stakeholder platform to exchange views about the Internet and how it is governed. Created in 2008 by several ORGs, GOV REPs and experts, it fosters dialogue and collaboration with the IC on public policy for the Internet. Culminating in an annual conference that takes place in a different EU city. EDIG ‘Messages’ are prepared and presented to the IGF.

European Dialogue on Internet Governance

The European Dialogue on Internet Governance is an open multi-stakeholder platform to exchange views about the Internet and how it is governed. Created in 2008 by several organizations, government representatives and experts, it fosters dialogue and collaboration with the Internet community on public policy for the Internet. Culminating in an annual conference that takes place in a different European city. European Dialogue on Internet Governance ‘Messages’ are prepared and presented to the Internet Governance Forum.

EuroDig is a forum for interested parties to share, engage, and collaborate expertise, best practices, and common interests relating to Internet use in Europe. EuroDIG’s organizational structure consists of voting and non-voting members of varying involvement, a General Assembly, a Board, and a Secretariat acting as the facilitator between the Board of EuroDIG and its institutional partners, host organization, and open community at large. EuroDIG is important because it is the only pan-European internet forum that discusses the interests of European Internet stakeholders, who have increasingly influenced the DNS worldwide through legislation such as the GDPR. Attendance and attention to EuroDIG gives trademark practitioners an opportunity to make their views heard among an important stakeholder body.
**EPDP**

The EPDP on the TS for gTLD RD was initiated by the GNSO Council on 19 July 2018 to determine if the TS for gTLD RD should become ICANN consensus policy, with or without modifications, while ensuring compliance with the EU's GDPR and other relevant privacy and data protection laws.

**Expedited Policy Development Process**

The Expedited Policy Development Process on the temporary specification for generic top-level domain registration data was initiated by the Generic Names Supporting Organization Council on 19 July 2018 to determine if the temporary specification for generic top-level domain registration data should become ICANN consensus policy, with or without modifications, while ensuring compliance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation and other relevant privacy and data protection laws.

The [EPDP (Expedited Policy Development Process)](Expedited Policy Development Process) was formed by ICANN in August, 2018 to quickly react to and create policy relating to the [GDPR](GDPR), and potentially other regional and national internet privacy regimes. ICANN's interpretation of the GDPR's requirements prevented access to personally identifiable information relating to domain name registrations, causing confounding challenges for law enforcement agencies pursuing cybercrimes and trademark owners who believe their marks are being infringed. Specifically, ICANN's efforts to comply with GDPR blocked access to WHOIS data, such as domain registrant names, addresses, and other identifying information. In reaction to the GDPR requirements, ICANN first created the “Temporary Specification” to allow stakeholders (e.g. ICANN, registry operators, and registrars) to continue to comply with existing ICANN requirements and community policies in light of the GDPR. The Temporary Specification has been extended to, allow the EPDP to complete its task by creating a permanent policy.

**EURALO**

One of the 5 RALOs that together form the ALC within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and EUGs in the EU region.

**European Regional At-Large Organization**

One of the five Regional At-Large Organizations that together form the At-Large Community within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the European region.

**ERSR**

A request that a RO makes for a temporary exemption from a provision of its RA to mitigate or eliminate a present or imminent security threat. If approved, ICANN grants a waiver of the relevant provision for the period it is expected to take the RO to respond to or eliminate the threat.

**Expedited Registry Security Request**

A request that a registry operator makes for a temporary exemption from a provision of its Registry Agreement to mitigate or eliminate a present or imminent security threat. If approved, ICANN grants a waiver of the relevant provision for the period it is expected to take the registry operator to respond to or eliminate the threat.
FIRST

An INTL confederation of trusted computer IR teams who cooperatively handle computer security incidents and promote IPPs. FIRST enables IRTs to more effectively respond to security incidents by providing access to best practices, tools, and trusted communication with member teams.

Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams

An international confederation of trusted computer incident response teams who cooperatively handle computer security incidents and promote incident prevention programs. Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams enables incident response teams to more effectively respond to security incidents by providing access to best practices, tools, and trusted communication with member teams.

FoI

A group of ICANN community members responsible for creating a clear guide for the delegation and redelegation of ccTLDs, in order to ensure consistent and predictable decision-making.

Framework of Interpretation Working Group

A group of ICANN community members responsible for creating a clear guide for the delegation and redelegation of country code top-level domain names, in order to ensure consistent and predictable decision-making.

GAC

An AC to the ICANN BRD, comprising appointed REPs of national GOVs, MNGOs and treaty ORGs, and distinct economies.

Governmental Advisory Committee

An advisory committee to the ICANN Board, comprising appointed representatives of national governments, multi-national governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and distinct economies.

GDD

GDD is a division of ICANN which oversees GDOs, DN industry engagement and Web services, with the goal of having all of these

Global Domains Division

Global Domains Divisions is a division of ICANN which oversees generic domain operations, domain name industry engagement and Web services, with the goal of having all of these pieces coming
pieces coming together under one umbrella in order to improve efficiencies and to serve both registries and applicants better.

**GDPR**

The GDPR was adopted by the EU on 14 April 2016 and takes effect on 25 May 2018 uniformly across the EU countries. According to the EC, the aim of the GDPR is to protect all EU residents from privacy and data breaches. It applies to all COs processing and holding the PD of subjects residing in the EU, regardless of a CO's location.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) went into effect on May 25, 2018 and has led to dramatic changes in the availability of WHOIS domain name database information. The contact information of domain name registrants has been redacted according to ICANN’s Temporary Specification for compliance with the GDPR, making it harder for trademark practitioners, law enforcement, and others to investigate infringement of their marks on the Internet. As a result, ICANN’s Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) has sought to create permanent policies to fully comply with the GDPR and to create an access model for non-public registration data. Trademark practitioners are facing a lack of availability to WHOIS data. INTA has published tools to help members navigate the new circumstances created by ICANN’s policies. See INTA’s WHOIS Toolkit.

**GTLD**

Internet DN extensions of 3 letters or more, such as .COM, .NET and .ASIA. The class of TLDs that includes general-purpose domains such as .com, .net, .edu, and .org. This class also includes domains associated with the New gTLD Program, which includes names such as .futbol, .istanbul, and .pizza, and names in other alphabets and languages. ICANN coordinates the development of the rules and policies that govern the REG of DNs within gTLDs. Some gTLDs, known as sponsored gTLDs, represent a specific community of IUs. In these cases, the community’s sponsor develops the rules and policies specific to the gTLD. Examples include .aero, .coop, and .museum. Internet domain name extensions of three letters or more, such as .COM, .NET and .ASIA. The class of top-level domains that includes general-purpose domains such as .com, .net, .edu, and .org. This class also includes domains associated with the New Generic Top-Level Domain Program, which includes names such as .futbol, .istanbul, and .pizza, and names in other alphabets and languages. ICANN coordinates the development of the rules and policies that govern the registration of domain names within generic top-level domains. Some generic top-level domains, known as sponsored generic top-level domains, represent a specific community of Internet users. In these cases, the community’s sponsor
develops the rules and policies specific to the gTLD. Examples include .aero, .coop, and .museum.

The exact definition of gTLD is “Generic Top Level Domain”. Unlike “Country Code Top Level Domains” (ccTLD, ex: .us or .ca for USA or Canada) they are generic in nature.

The core group of Generic Domains are .com, .net, .info and .org, but it also includes domains associated with the New Generic Top-Level Domain Program, or new gTLDs, which includes extensions such as .social, .app, and .pizza. Part of the new gTLD program is the .BRANDS (see BRG) were companies applied to have their own TLD (Top Level Domain) like .IBM, .Apple, or .Intel.

Some gTLDs are known as sponsored gTLDs and represent a specific community of Internet users. In these cases, the community’s sponsor develops the rules and policies specific to the gTLD. Examples include .aero, .coop, and .museum.

ICANN coordinates the development of the rules and policies that govern the registration of domain names within gTLDs.

**GNP**

In the New gTLD Program, a panel of experts charged by ICANN with reviewing applied-for gTLD domain strings to identify strings that represent geographical names.

**GNSO**

The main policy-making body within ICANN responsible for gTLDs. Its members include REPs from gTLD registries, ICANN-ARs, IP interests, ISPs, businesses and non-commercial interests.

The main policy-making body within ICANN responsible for generic top-level domains. The main objective of the GNSO is to ensure that gTLDs operate in a fair and orderly manner across the global Internet, without hindering innovation or competition. As ICANN sets policy by contract, the GNSO develops policy with the involvement of both the contracted and non-contracted parties who hold equal influence and equal voting rights. Contracted parties are Registries and Registrars and Non-Contracted parties are Commercial and Non-Commercial. Within the Commercial Group you can find the BC (Business Constituency), the IPC (Intellectual Property Constituency) and the ISPCP (The ISP and Connectivity Providers Constituency). For the purpose of INTA, we will focus on both the BC and the IPC. The BC represents the interest of small/medium/large/multinational enterprises.
The **IPC** represents the views and interests of Intellectual Property Owners around the World. IPC and BC interests are generally aligned. The GNSO meets 12 times a year, 4 of the meetings are face to face.

**GSC**

The ICANN ORG’s network of customer service centers that provide information and TA to ICANN’s contracted ROs, ARs, new gTLD applicants, and the ICAL. The GSC has SCs around the world that operate 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday. Besides the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), the GSC provides voice support in Turkish.

**Global Support Center**

The ICANN organization’s network of customer service centers that provide information and technical assistance to ICANN’s contracted registry operators, accredited registrars, new generic top-level domain applicants, and the Internet community at large. The Global Support Center has support centers around the world that operate 24 hours a day, Monday through Friday. Besides the six United Nations languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish), the Global Support Center provides voice support in Turkish.

**HSTLD**

A standard developed by ICANN’s SSAC and made optional for new gTLDs

**High Security Top-Level Domain**

A standard developed by ICANN’s Security and Stability Advisory Committee and made optional for new generic top-level domains.

**IAB**

A com of the ISOC, responsible for oversight of the tech and engineering dev of the Net. It oversees a number of task forces including the IETF.

**INTERNET ARCHITECTURE BOARD**

A committee of the Internet Society, responsible for oversight of the technical and engineering development of the Internet. It oversees a number of task forces including the Internet Engineering Task Force.

**IANA**

The authority originally responsible for the oversight of IP address allocation, the coordination of the assignment of protocol parameters provided for within ITS, and the management of the DNS, including the delegation of TLDs and oversight of the RNS sys.

**INTERNET ASSIGNED NUMBERS AUTHORITY**

The authority originally responsible for the oversight of IP address allocation, the coordination of the assignment of protocol parameters provided for within Internet technical standards, and the management of the Domain Name System, including the delegation of top-level domains and oversight of the root name server system.

**ICANN**

The authority of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is responsible for overseeing the operation of the Internet's domain name system (DNS) and ensuring its security, stability, and顺畅运行.
An internationally organized, non-profit corporation with responsibility for Internet Protocol address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic and country code top-level Domain Name System management, and root server system management functions.

ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) is a private, not-for-profit corporation and international organization established in 1998 to monitor and manage the Internet’s domain name and Internet Protocol addressing systems. ICANN is responsible for ensuring the stable and secure operation of this system of unique IP addresses on the Internet, so that computers (and the people behind them) can reliably find and communicate with other computers, servers and devices worldwide. ICANN is made up of a number of different stakeholder groups, each of which represent a different set of interests on the Internet and all of which contribute to final decisions made by ICANN.

ICANN’s work is important to trademark lawyers because the organization’s policy development process allows trademark holders’ concerns to be incorporated into the contractual rules that govern domain name administration. Members of the ICANN community actively worked to develop mechanisms that enable rights-holders to protect their trademarks online. For example, ICANN established the UDRP to resolve trademark disputes regarding registration of internet domain names outside of court proceedings. These policies and procedures have recently come under review and at times must be defended by the IP community. Trademark owner’s concerns are part of a larger debate about where policy lines should be drawn when it comes to Intellectual Property Rights, Freedom of Expression, Privacy and Consumer Protection.

ICT

The digital devices, protocols, and infrastructure that enable access to information through telecommunications. Today, the Internet is a major component in the ICT landscape, and ICT developers are continually creating new digital devices and communication technologies for it.

IDNS

Domain names that include characters used in the local representation of languages that are not written with the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet “a-z”. An IDN can contain Latin letters with diacritical marks, as required by many European languages, or may consist of characters from non-Latin scripts such as Arabic or Chinese.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

The digital devices, protocols, and infrastructure that enable access to information through telecommunications. Today, the Internet is a major component in the ICT landscape, and ICT developers are continually creating new digital devices and communication technologies for it.

INTERNATIONALIZED DOMAIN NAMES

Domain names that include characters used in the local representation of languages that are not written with the twenty-six letters of the basic Latin alphabet “a-z”. An IDN can contain Latin letters with diacritical marks, as required by many European languages, or may consist of characters from non-Latin scripts such as Arabic or Chinese.
IESG

The body that is responsible for forming working groups in the IETF and for ensuring the quality of work that the IETF produces. The IESG also administers the ST, which is the formal process a spec undergoes to become an IS.

IETF

An open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Net architecture and the smooth operation of the Net.

IG

The rules, norms, mechanisms, and orgs through which the global Net community’s many stakeholders work together to shape the evolution and use of the Net.

INTERNET ENGINEERING STEERING GROUP

The body that is responsible for forming working groups in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and for ensuring the quality of work that the IETF produces. The IESG also administers the Standards Track, which is the formal process a specification undergoes to become an Internet standard.

INTERNET ENGINEERING TASK FORCE

An open international community of network designers, operators, vendors, and researchers concerned with the evolution of the Internet architecture and the smooth operation of the Internet.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

The rules, norms, mechanisms, and organizations through which the global Internet community’s many stakeholders work together to shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

IG, or Internet Governance, refers to the rules, policies, standards and practices that coordinate and shape global cyberspace – the Internet. While Internet connectivity created innovative new services, capabilities and unprecedented forms of sharing and cooperation, it also gave rise to new forms of crime, abuse, surveillance and social conflict. IG is the process whereby cyberspace participants resolve conflicts over these problems and develop a workable online order. The term “Internet Governance” first started to be used in connection with the governance of domain names and IP addresses, leading to the formation of ICANN. Since then, the economic, political, social and military implications of the Internet have expanded to include cybersecurity, digital trade, privacy and surveillance, and geopolitics concerns within the scope of Internet governance.

IGF

A multistakeholder platform established by the DN in 2006 that supports global dialogue on policy issues relating to Net sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and development. At the IGF annual

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

A multistakeholder platform established by the United Nations in 2006 that supports global dialogue on policy issues relating to Internet sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and development. At the
meeting, delegates from across the world meet to exchange info and share best practices.

Other forums, called NRIs, are organized at the national, regional, and subregional level, and include Youth IGFs. These forums provide platforms where members can discuss matters of Net policy affecting local stakeholders.

IGF (Internet Governance Forum) is a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on Internet governance issues. It brings together all stakeholders in the Internet governance debate, whether they represent governments, the private sector or civil society, including the technical and academic community, on an equal basis and through an open and inclusive process. The United Nations Secretary-General formally announced the establishment of the IGF in July, 2006, and the IGF has held annual meetings around the world since then. IGF meetings include organized workshops, forums, sessions and an open forum.

The IGF is important to trademark lawyers because it provides an opportunity for dialogue on key issues such as, the GDPR and its effects on WHOIS, consumer protection, freedom of speech, privacy, and the place of intellectual property rights within the system. The IGF is a major venue for new discussions about Internet Governance that may affect trademark holders in the future.

INTA
A not-for-profit membership association dedicated to the support and advancement of trademarks and related intellectual property as elements of fair and effective commerce.

INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARK ASSOCIATION
A not-for-profit membership association dedicated to the support and advancement of trademarks and related intellectual property as elements of fair and effective commerce.

IP
The standard procedures and formats that govern how computers communicate with each other over the Internet using unique addresses.

INTERNET PROTOCOL
The standard procedures and formats that govern how computers communicate with each other over the Net using unique addresses.

IPC
A constituency of the GNSO charged with the responsibility of advising the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the management of the DNS.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CONSTITUENCY
A constituency of the Generic Names Supporting Organization charged with the responsibility of advising the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the management of the Domain Name System.
The **IPC (Intellectual Property Constituency)** is an ICANN group formed in 2002 to represent the views and interests of the worldwide intellectual property community at ICANN and provide expert advice on intellectual property laws and norms as they relate to the domain name space. The IPC is tasked with ensuring that the concerns and views of the IP community are reflected in ICANN Working Groups, GNSO Council recommendations, public comments and throughout ICANN. Specifically, the IPC’s role is to review all ICANN proposals and policies for relevant IP issues, and provide timely and expert advice and recommendations regarding these IP issues to the ICANN Board before it must make any decision or take any position thereon. INTA is a founding member of the IPC.

**IPV4**

The original **IP**, developed in the early ’80s. It had a capacity of just over four billion IP addresses, all of which have been fully allocated to ISPs and users. An IPv4 address looks like this: 192.0.2.53.

**INTERNET PROTOCOL VERSION 4**

The original **Internet Protocol**, developed in the early 1980s. It had a capacity of just over four billion IP addresses, all of which have been fully allocated to Internet service providers and users. An IPv4 address looks like this: 192.0.2.53.

**IPV6**

The next generation of **IP**, with a 128-bit address space, which is 340 undecillion addresses. An IPv6 address looks like this: 2001:0db8::53. Where there are two colons side by side, all the segments in between contain only zeros. So without the double colons, you would expand the example address to 2001:0db8:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0053.

**INTERNET PROTOCOL VERSION 6**

The next generation of **Internet Protocol**, with a 128-bit address space, which is 340 undecillion addresses. An IPv6 address looks like this: 2001:0db8::53. Where there are two colons side by side, all the segments in between contain only zeros. So without the double colons, you would expand the example address to 2001:0db8:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0053.

**IRTF**

A body of experts who perform research that is critical to the evolution of the Net. The IRTF is composed of several focused and long-term research groups. Topics that these groups explore include decentralized infrastructure services, crypto mechanisms, congestion control, and thing-to-thing communication. Often, the findings of IRTF research are applied and standardized by its sister group, the **IETF**.

**INTERNET RESEARCH TASK FORCE**

A body of experts who perform research that is critical to the evolution of the Internet. The IRTF is composed of several focused and long-term research groups. Topics that these groups explore include decentralized infrastructure services, cryptographic mechanisms, congestion control, and thing-to-thing communication. Often, the findings of IRTF research are applied and standardized by its sister group, the **Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)**.

**IRTP**

**INTER-REGISTRAR TRANSFER POLICY**
The IRTP is a GNSO consensus policy that was adopted in 2004 with the objective to provide registrants with a transparent and predictable way to transfer domain name registrations between registrars.

ISO

An international NGO that develops and publishes international standards that are voluntary and consensus-based. The DNS uses the two-letter names defined in ISO 3166-1 as IDs for ccTLDs.

ISOC

The open international org for global cooperation and coordination for the Net and its internetworking tech and apps. 

The Internet Society (ISOC) is a global cause-driven organization founded in 1992 by members of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) to provide an institutional home and financial support for the Internet Standards process. Its stated mission is to ensure that the Internet remains open, transparent and defined by individual users. Among the issues address by the ISOC is the dissonance between the efficient functioning of the domain name system (DNS) and the rights of trademark owners.

ISP

A co that provides access to the Net to orgs and/or individuals. Access services provided by ISPs may include web hosting, email, VoIP, and support for many other apps.

ISPCP

A constituency of the GNSO charged with the responsibility of advising the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the management of the DNS.

ITU

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR STANDARDIZATION

An international nongovernmental organization that develops and publishes international standards that are voluntary and consensus-based. The Domain Name System uses the two-letter names defined in ISO 3166-1 as identifiers for country code top-level domains.

INTERNET SOCIETY

The open international organization for global cooperation and coordination for the Internet and its internetworking technologies and applications.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

A company that provides access to the Internet to organizations and/or individuals. Access services provided by ISPs may include web hosting, email, VoIP (voice over IP), and support for many other applications.

INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS CONSTITUENCY

A constituency of the Generic Names Supporting Organization charged with the responsibility of advising the ICANN Board on policy issues relating to the management of the Domain Name System.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION
A specialized agency of the United Nations that develops international technical standards that enable networks and other information and communications technologies to interconnect. ITU's original purpose was to allocate the global radio spectrum and satellite orbits.

ITU is a member of ICANN's Technical Liaison Group, which gives the ICANN Board authoritative information about technical standards that relate to ICANN's activities.

The ITU is the oldest intergovernmental organization dedicated to international telecommunications (1865) and under the auspices of the UN since 1947. It coordinates many of the world's telecommunications protocols and standards for Internet access and information transmission. ITU was instrumental in organizing the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in 2003 and 2005 and continues to host the follow-up WSIS Forum to measure implementation of WSIS recommendations from 2005. Some proposals at the ITU at that time and since have suggested that the agency take more control of Internet governance, which was opposed by major stakeholder countries. Nevertheless, the WSIS led to the creation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and the ITU still maintains relationships with ICANN and other international organizations to coordinate the standardization of Internet protocols. Understanding the ITU is important for trademark practitioners as it may be an organization with a larger role in Internet governance in the future.

IXFR

A Domain Name System (DNS) protocol mechanism through which a partial copy of a DNS zone can be replicated to a remote DNS server.

IRT

Convened to determine how GNSO policy should be implemented.

JIG

Group of ICANN community members from both the Country Code Names Supporting Organization and Generic Names Supporting Organization to deal with issues related to the introduction of internationalized domain names. Group of ICANN community members from both the Country Code Names Supporting Organization and Generic Names Supporting Organization to deal with issues related to the introduction of ccTLDs and gTLDs.
**LACNIC**

One of five RIRs, and the org responsible for allocating and administrating IP addresses and other related resources for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN INTERNET ADDRESSES Registry**

One of five Regional Internet Registries, and the organization responsible for allocating and administrating Internet Protocol addresses and other related resources for the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**LACRALO**

One of the five RALOs that together form the ALC within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and info for individuals and end-user groups in the LA/CI region.

**LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN ISLANDS REGIONAL AT-LARGE ORGANIZATION**

One of the five Regional At-Large Organizations that together form the At-Large Community within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the Latin America/Caribbean Islands region.

**LACTLD**

A NPA of ccTLD registries in the LA and CI region. LACTLD provides a forum where its members can discuss policy issues affecting the ccTLD registries in their region. The association also serves as a channel of communication between its membership and Internet governance bodies such as ICANN.

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRY CODE TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN ASSOCIATION**

A nonprofit association of country code top-level domain (ccTLD) registries in the Latin American and Caribbean region. LACTLD provides a forum where its members can discuss policy issues affecting the ccTLD registries in their region. The association also serves as a channel of communication between its membership and Internet governance bodies such as ICANN.

**M3AAWG**

An association of global stakeholders that work cooperatively to target abusive messaging, malware, and other new forms of online abuse. The M3AAWG publishes best practices and provides training and educational materials on fighting abuse. Its membership includes internationalized domain names as [country-code top-level domains](#) and [generic top-level domains](#).
educational materials on fighting abuse. Its membership includes ISPs, telecoms, ESPs, and social networking companies.

ICANN is a participant in the M3AAWG.

**MITM ATTACK**

Any attack in which the attacker secretly interposes software or a computer system to intercept, capture, alter, or replay messages between two parties. Attackers use MITM attacks to capture info that one party transmits to another. Installing malware to record a computer user’s keystrokes is one form of MITM attack. In more elaborate schemes, an attacker impersonates one or both parties in an email exchange. During the email exchange, the attacker aims to dupe one of the parties into divulging sensitive info or authorizing a financial transaction.

**MOU**

A doc describing a mutual agreement between parties.

**MSA**

Any subcontracting arrangement that relates to one or more of the critical functions identified in the RA for gTLDs. A subcontractor that participates in an MSA is often referred to as a back-end service provider or a RSP.

**NARALO**

One of the five RALO that together form the ALC within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the NA region.

**NCSG**

Internet service providers, telecom companies, email service providers, and social networking companies.

ICANN is a participant in the M3AAWG.

**MAN-IN-THE-MIDDLE ATTACK**

Any attack in which the attacker secretly interposes software or a computer system to intercept, capture, alter, or replay messages between two parties. Attackers use MITM attacks to capture information that one party transmits to another. Installing malware to record a computer user’s keystrokes is one form of MITM attack. In more elaborate schemes, an attacker impersonates one or both parties in an email exchange. During the email exchange, the attacker aims to dupe one of the parties into divulging sensitive information or authorizing a financial transaction.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

A document describing a mutual agreement between parties.

**MATERIAL SUBCONTRACTING ARRANGEMENT**

Any subcontracting arrangement that relates to one or more of the critical functions identified in the Registry Agreement for generic top-level domains. A subcontractor that participates in an MSA is often referred to as a back-end service provider or a registry service provider.

**NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL AT-LARGE ORGANIZATION**

One of the five Regional At-Large Organizations that together form the At-Large Community within ICANN. It provides news, resources, and information for individuals and end-user groups in the North American region.

**NON-COMMERCIAL STAKEHOLDERS GROUP**
The home for civil society in ICANN’s GNSO, created as one of four SGs in the GNSO and approved by the ICANN Board in 2008. Membership is open to NCOs and individuals involved in education, digital rights, community networking, PPA and many other areas.

The home for civil society in ICANN’s Generic Names Supporting Organization, created as one of four Stakeholder Groups in the GNSO and approved by the ICANN Board in 2008. Membership is open to non-commercial organizations and individuals involved in education, digital rights, community networking, public policy advocacy and many other areas.

The purpose of the Non-Commercial Stakeholder Group (NCSG) is to represent, through its elected representatives and its Constituencies, the interests and concerns of noncommercial registrants and noncommercial Internet users of generic Top-level Domains (gTLDs). It provides a voice and representation in ICANN processes to: non-profit organizations that serve noncommercial interests; nonprofit services such as education, philanthropies, consumer protection, community organizing, promotion of the arts, public interest policy advocacy, children's welfare, religion, scientific research, and human rights; public interest software concerns; families or individuals who register domain names for noncommercial personal use; and Internet users who are primarily concerned with the noncommercial, public interest aspects of domain name policy.

NCPH

One of two major structures in ICANN’s GNSO, comprised of commercial and non-commercial users that do not contract directly with ICANN.

NCUC

A constituency within the GNSO’s NSG that represents the views of non-commercial individuals and NPOs.

NOG

A professional association for individuals and groups involved in network architecture, engineering, or ops. NOG members come from entities such as ISPs, RIRs, and network security groups. Through mailing lists and conferences, members exchange ideas, information, and best practices.

NOGs are usually geographically based (e.g., NANOG, ANOG, HKNOG).
NOGs are usually geographically based (e.g., North American Network Operators Group, Australian Network Operators Group, Hong Kong Network Operators Group).

**NOIF**

A document to be completed and submitted to the ICANN BOD by a prospective GNSO constituency, noting its intention to petition for formal constituency recognition.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO FORM**

A document to be completed and submitted to the ICANN Board of Directors by a prospective GNSO constituency, noting its intention to petition for formal constituency recognition.

**NomCom**

The ICANN body that appoints a number of positions on the ICANN BOD, the ALC, and the Councils of the CCNSO and the GNSO. The NomCom consists of 15 voting delegates along with a number of nonvoting leaders, advisors, and delegates.

The NomCom calls for applications from the ICANN community and evaluates candidates in a fair and consistent manner. The composition and responsibilities of the NomCom are described in the ICANN Bylaws.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The ICANN body that appoints a number of positions on the ICANN Board of Directors, the At-Large Advisory Committee, and the Councils of the Country Code Names Supporting Organization and the Generic Names Supporting Organization. The NomCom consists of 15 voting delegates along with a number of nonvoting leaders, advisors, and delegates.

The NomCom calls for applications from the ICANN community and evaluates candidates in a fair and consistent manner. The composition and responsibilities of the NomCom are described in the ICANN Bylaws.

The Nominating Committee (NomCom) is an independent committee tasked with selecting eight members of the Board of Directors and other key positions within ICANN’s structure as are set forth in the Bylaws. (See Bylaws Article 8, Section 1.)

The NomCom is designed to function independently from the Board, the Supporting Organizations, and Advisory Committees. NomCom members act only on behalf of the interests of the global Internet community and within the scope of the ICANN mission and responsibilities assigned to it by the ICANN Bylaws.

Members contribute to the NomCom both their understanding of the broad interests of the Internet as a whole and their knowledge and experience of the concerns and interests of the Internet stakeholders that have appointed them. The challenge for the NomCom is to integrate these perspectives and derive consensus in its selections. Although appointed by Supporting Organizations and other ICANN bodies, individual NomCom members are not accountable to their appointing constituencies.
Members are, of course, accountable for adherence to the Bylaws and for compliance with the rules and procedures established by the NomCom. The Intellectual Property Constituency regularly appoints representatives to the NomCom so that IP owners have input into choosing critical leadership positions at ICANN.

**NPOC**

A constituency within the GNSO’s NCSG that represents NPOs who have operational concerns related to service delivery.

**NRO**

The coordinating body for the five RIRs. The NRO provides secretariat support to the ASO.

The NRO consists of the NRO EC and the NRO NC.

**NS RECORD**

A type of resource record in a zone file that identifies the NS’s that are authoritative for a zone. A zone file contains one NS record for each of the zone’s own authoritative NS’s. It also includes an NS record for each subdomain that has been delegated to other authoritative NS. If a subdomain’s authoritative NS resides within the subdomain’s namespace, the zone file must include a glue record that provides the NS’s IP address.

**NOT-FOR-PROFIT OPERATIONAL CONCERNS CONSTITUENCY**

A constituency within the Generic Names Supporting Organization’s Non-commercial Stakeholders Group that represents non-profit organizations who have operational concerns related to service delivery.

**NUMBER RESOURCE ORGANIZATION**

The coordinating body for the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). The NRO provides secretariat support to the Address Supporting Organization.

The NRO consists of the NRO Executive Council (NRO EC) and the NRO Number Council (NRO NC).

**NAME SERVERS RECORD**

A type of resource record in a zone file that identifies the name servers that are authoritative for a zone. A zone file contains one NS record for each of the zone’s own authoritative names servers. It also includes an NS record for each subdomain that has been delegated to other authoritative name servers. If a subdomain’s authoritative name server resides within the subdomain’s namespace, the zone file must include a glue record that provides the name server’s Internet Protocol (IP) address.

**NTIA**

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION AGENCY
An agency of the U.S. DOC that serves as the President’s principal advisor on telcoms and info policies. It maintains a contract with ICANN for the tech coordination of the Net’s DN and addressing system.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is the Executive Branch agency that is principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. NTIA’s programs and policymaking focus largely on expanding broadband Internet access and adoption in America, expanding the use of spectrum by all users, and ensuring that the Internet remains an engine for continued innovation and economic growth. https://www.ntia.doc.gov/

NTIA represents the US in the GAC at ICANN.

The stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions has been transitioned from NTIA to the Global Multistakeholder Community through a subsidiary entity controlled by ICANN.

OASIS

A nonprofit consortium of over 600 orgs and individual members from around the world that work together to advance the development and adoption of open standards for structured information. The consortium has been instrumental in defining many communication protocols that are based on the XML. OASIS has developed more than 80 standards, some of which have become ISO standards or W3C recommendations.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

A unit within the ICANN organization that is led by the Chief Technology Officer. OCTO works to improve and disseminate knowledge about the identifiers that ICANN helps coordinate. OCTO divides its efforts between research (OCTO Research) and ensuring the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet’s global identifier systems (OCTO-SSR).

OCTO Research provides trusted and verifiable information to the Internet community regarding the Net’s system of unique IDs. The

ORGANIZATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF STRUCTURED INFORMATION STANDARDS

A nonprofit consortium of over 600 organizations and individual members from around the world that work together to advance the development and adoption of open standards for structured information. The consortium has been instrumental in defining many communication protocols that are based on the Extensible Markup Language (XML). OASIS has developed more than 80 standards, some of which have become ISO standards or World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) recommendations.

A unit within the ICANN org that is led by the CTO. OCTO works to improve and disseminate knowledge about the IDs that ICANN helps coordinate. OCTO divides its efforts between research (OCTO Research) and ensuring the security, stability, and resiliency of the Net’s GIS (OCTO-SSR).

OCTO Research provides trusted and verifiable information to the Internet community regarding the Net’s system of unique IDs. The
OCTO-SSR team engages in collaborative, multistakeholder efforts to ensure the security, stability, and resiliency of the global systems of Net IDs.

OCTO Research provides trusted and verifiable information to the Internet community regarding the Internet’s system of unique identifiers. The OCTO-SSR team engages in collaborative, multistakeholder efforts to ensure the security, stability, and resiliency of the global systems of Internet identifiers.

**OEC**

A group of ICANN Board members that oversees certain ORs, as mandated by the ICANN Bylaws. These reviews are intended to assess whether ICANN is achieving key organizational objectives and whether its organizational structure is effective and relevant to its mission. In addition to overseeing the completion of these reviews, the OEC oversees the implementation of recommendations that the reviews produce.

The composition, responsibilities, and powers of the OEC are described in the OEC Charter.

**OECD**

An intergovernmental organization based in Paris that provides a forum where governments can work together to find solutions to common problems. With a shared commitment to market economies backed by democratic institutions, the OECD promotes policies that seek to improve the economic and social well-being of people worldwide.

The OECD is an observer in the GAC in ICANN.

**ORGANIZATION EFFECTIVENESS COMMITTEE**

A group of ICANN Board members that oversees certain Organizational Reviews, as mandated by the ICANN Bylaws. These reviews are intended to assess whether ICANN is achieving key organizational objectives and whether its organizational structure is effective and relevant to its mission. In addition to overseeing the completion of these reviews, the OEC oversees the implementation of recommendations that the reviews produce.

The composition, responsibilities, and powers of the OEC are described in the Organizational Effectiveness Committee Charter.

**ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

An intergovernmental organization based in Paris that provides a forum where governments can work together to find solutions to common problems. With a shared commitment to market economies backed by democratic institutions, the OECD promotes policies that seek to improve the economic and social well-being of people worldwide.

The OECD is an observer in the Governmental Advisory Committee in ICANN.

**OMBUDSMAN**

An independent, impartial and neutral officer of ICANN. It is an ADR office for the ICANN community who may wish to lodge a complaint about a staff or Board decision, action or inaction.

**OMBUDSMAN**

An independent, impartial and neutral officer of ICANN. It is an Alternative Dispute Resolution office for the ICANN community who
may wish to lodge a complaint about a staff or Board decision, action or inaction.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

A set of formal steps, as defined in the ICANN Bylaws, to guide the initiation, internal and external review, timing and approval of policies needed to coordinate the global Internet’s system of unique identifiers.

**PDDRP**

Formal procedures that give certain parties a way to resolve disputes related to the conduct of a registry operator for a **gTLD**. ICANN currently has PDDRPs for disputes related to TM infringement, registration restrictions, and public interest commitments.

Disputes resolved by a PDDRP are administered by **DRSPs** approved by ICANN. Complainants are required to take specific steps to address their issues before filing a formal complaint. An expert panel determines whether a RO is at fault and recommends remedies to ICANN.

**POST-DELEGATION DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE**

Formal procedures that give certain parties a way to resolve disputes related to the conduct of a registry operator for a **generic top-level domain**. ICANN currently has PDDRPs for disputes related to trademark infringement, registration restrictions, and public interest commitments.

Disputes resolved by a PDDRP are administered by **Dispute Resolution Service Providers** approved by ICANN. Complainants are required to take specific steps to address their issues before filing a formal complaint. An expert panel determines whether a registry operator is at fault and recommends remedies to ICANN.

**PEDNR**

The registrar practices regarding DN expiration, renewal, transfer, deletion and post-expiration recovery.

**POST-EXPIRATION DOMAIN NAME RECOVERY**

The registrar practices regarding domain name expiration, renewal, transfer, deletion and post-expiration recovery.

**PHISHING**

Fraudulent efforts to get information like usernames, PWs and CC details by pretending to be a trustworthy entity in an email or IM.

**PHISHING**

Fraudulent efforts to get information like usernames, passwords and credit card details by pretending to be a trustworthy entity in an email or instant message.

**PPC**

Fraudulent efforts to get information like usernames, passwords and credit card details by pretending to be a trustworthy entity in an email or instant message.
A Net ad model, used by Google AdWords and Bing among others, to direct traffic to specific sites, where advertisers pay the pub (typically a site owner) when the ad or link is clicked.

**PPFT**

A group that evaluates global policy proposals to determine whether the proposals require specific IANA actions or outcomes. The PPFT is appointed by the ASOAC, which is composed of reps from each of the RIRs.

**PRS**

The department within the ICANN org that provides the community with support and tools to carry out public-responsibility activities that support ICANN’s mission. ICANN Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN are examples of PRS programs.

**PTI**

A NP org that performs the IANA functions. PTI is responsible for the operational aspects of coordinating the Net’s unique IDs and maintaining the trust of the community to provide these services in an unbiased, responsible, and effective manner.

PTI is an affiliate of ICANN that was created in 2016 when stewardship of the IANA functions transitioned to the multistakeholder community.

**QLP**

An Internet advertising model, used by Google AdWords and Bing among others, to direct traffic to specific websites, where advertisers pay the publisher (typically a website owner) when the ad or link is clicked.

**POLICY PROPOSAL FACILITATOR TEAM**

A group that evaluates global policy proposals to determine whether the proposals require specific Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) actions or outcomes. The PPFT is appointed by the Address Supporting Organization Address Council, which is composed of representatives from each of the Regional Internet Registries.

**PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY SUPPORT**

The department within the ICANN organization that provides the community with support and tools to carry out public-responsibility activities that support ICANN’s mission. ICANN Fellowship and NextGen@ICANN are examples of PRS programs.

**PUBLIC TECHNICAL IDENTIFIERS**

A non-profit organization that performs the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions. PTI is responsible for the operational aspects of coordinating the Internet’s unique identifiers and maintaining the trust of the community to provide these services in an unbiased, responsible, and effective manner.

PTI is an affiliate of ICANN that was created in 2016 when stewardship of the IANA functions transitioned to the multistakeholder community.

**QUALIFIED LAUNCH PROGRAM**
A mechanism available in the New gTLD Program that allows an RO to register a limited number of DNs to third parties before the Sunrise Period begins. The QLP gives an RO the opportunity to promote its gTLD.

**RGP**

A 30-day period following the deletion of a DN, during which a deleted DN is placed on hold and removed from the zone. During the RGP, a registrant can redeem an expired REG through the sponsoring registrar.

**RIR**

These NPOs are responsible for distributing IP addresses on a regional level to ISPs and local registries. There are currently five RIRs: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC and RIPE NCC.

**RAA**

The contract between ICANN and its accredited registrars. It describes the obligations of both parties.

**RALO**

An ORG that serves as the main forum and coordination point for public input to ICANN for a particular GR. A RALO keeps the ALSes in

**REDEMPTION GRACE PERIOD**

A 30-day period following the deletion of a domain name, during which a deleted domain name is placed on hold and removed from the zone. During the Redemption Grace Period, a registrant can redeem an expired registration through the sponsoring registrar.

**REGIONAL INTERNET REGISTRY**

These non-profit organizations are responsible for distributing Internet Protocol addresses on a regional level to Internet service providers and local registries. There are currently five Regional Internet Registries: African Network Information Center, Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, American Registry for Internet Numbers, Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre, and Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre.

**REGISTRAR ACCREDITATION AGREEMENT**

The contract between ICANN and its accredited registrars. It describes the obligations of both parties.

**REGIONAL AT-LARGE ORGANIZATION**

An organization that serves as the main forum and coordination point for public input to ICANN for a particular geographic region. A Regional
its community informed about significant ICANN news. RALOs also establish mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication between the ALSes and ICANN PMs so interested individuals can share their views on pending issues. The ICANN BYs recognize 5 RALOs:

- AFRALO
- APRALO
- EURALO
- LACRALO
- NARALO

Each RALO is autonomous, elects its leadership, and defines its own ORs (including a MOU).

At-Large Organization keeps the At-Large Structures in its community informed about significant ICANN news. Regional At-Large Organizations also establish mechanisms to facilitate two-way communication between the At-Large Structures and ICANN policymakers so interested individuals can share their views on pending issues. The ICANN Bylaws recognize five Regional At-Large Organizations:

- African Regional At-Large Organization
- Asian, Australasian, and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization
- European Regional At-Large Organization
- Latin American and Caribbean Islands Regional At-Large Organization
- North American Regional At-Large Organization

Each Regional At-Large Organization is autonomous, elects its leadership, and defines its own operating rules (including a memorandum of understanding).

**RAP WG**

A group of ICANN community members tasked with investigating opportunities for abuse within existing provisions in R-R agreements. The WG produced a FR with recommendations on how to prevent potential abuses such as cybersquatting, frontrunning, fake renewal notices and more.

**REGISTRATION ABUSE POLICIES WORKING GROUP**

A group of ICANN community members tasked with investigating opportunities for abuse within existing provisions in registry-registrar agreements. The Working Group produced a Final Report with recommendations on how to prevent potential abuses such as cybersquatting, frontrunning, fake renewal notices and more.

**RDAP**

An HTTP-based protocol that provides access to information about current domain name registrations and Internet Protocol address allocations. RDAP was designed as a replacement for the WHOIS protocol. Advantages of RDAP include secure data transmission via HTTPS, support for internationalization, and the ability to limit access to certain information about a REG.

**REGISTRATION DATA ACCESS PROTOCOL**

An HTTP-based protocol that provides access to information about current domain name registrations and Internet Protocol address allocations. Registration Data Access Protocol was designed as a replacement for the WHOIS protocol. Advantages of Registration Data Access Protocol include secure data transmission via HTTPS, support
for internationalization, and the ability to limit access to certain information about a registration.

**RDS**

A set of online services that registrars and ROs of TLDs provide to enable public access to DNRD. Currently, RDS are available for gTLDs through the WHOIS protocol and through HTTP-based DSs. Individual RIRs also use the RDS to maintain a database of the IP addresses that have been assigned in their region.

**REGISTRATION DIRECTORY SERVICES**

A set of online services that registrars and registry operators of top-level domains provide to enable public access to Domain Name Registration Data. Currently, Registration Directory Services are available for generic top-level domains through the WHOIS protocol and through HTTP-based directory services. Individual Regional Internet Registries also use the Registration Directory Services to maintain a database of the Internet Protocol addresses that have been assigned in their region.

**RRI**

An interface that the ICANN ORG provides to enable ROs and DEAs to submit data in accordance with reporting requirements.

**REGISTRATION REPORTING INTERFACE**

An interface that the ICANN organization provides to enable registry operators and data escrow agents to submit data in accordance with reporting requirements.

**RONCS**

A service that a RO uses to notify ICANN when the RO changes its name.

**REGISTRY OPERATOR NAME CHANGE SERVICE**

A service that a registry operator uses to notify ICANN when the registry operator changes its name.

**RST**

A set of tests to determine whether a registry operator has the capacity to operate a new gTLD in a stable and secure manner. The RST checks critical registry functions as described in the RAT requirements vary depending on the services a registry operator supports.

**REGISTRY SYSTEM TESTING**

A set of tests to determine whether a registry operator has the capacity to operate a new generic top-level domain in a stable and secure manner. The Registry system testing checks critical registry functions as described in the Registry Agreement. Testing requirements vary depending on the services a registry operator supports.
A stakeholder group, representing the interests of registries currently under contract with ICANN, in the **GNSO**.

*RYSG is a stakeholder group, representing the interests of registries currently under contract with ICANN, in the **Generic Names Supporting Organization**.*

As trademark practitioners it is important to know about RySG because this body represents the interests of the gTLD registry operators, the companies that enter into registry agreements with ICANN and that control all domain names under a specific gTLD, like .com, .club or .lawyer. The interests of this group and of trademark practitioners will sometimes be aligned and sometimes not, so it is important as trademark lawyers, that you are aware of the existence of this group and, if important for your practice, you are able to follow the positions taken by this group. For example, if you represent clients with domain name related issues, it also may be important for you to monitor the activities of this group because efforts undertaken by this group and decisions made by it could impact your client's business. After the last round of New gTLD applications, some trademark owners have become registries either through applications for dot brands or by creating new registry business models.

A memo published by the **IETF** describing innovations, research, behaviors or methods pertaining to how the Internet or Internet-connected systems work. Some concepts published as RFCs become IISs.

**REQUEST FOR COMMENT**

A memo published by the **Internet Engineering Task Force** describing innovations, research, behaviors or methods pertaining to how the Internet or Internet-connected systems work. Some concepts published as Requests For Comment become Internet standards.

An open and voluntary ORG of EU ISPs. The RIPE NCC acts as the RIR for EU and surrounding areas, performs coordination activities for the ORGs participating in RIPE, and allocates blocks of IP address space to its LIR, which then assign the addresses to end-users.

**RÉSEAUX IP EUROPÉENS**

An open and voluntary organization of European Internet service providers. The Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre acts as the Regional Internet Registry for Europe and surrounding areas, performs coordination activities for the organizations participating in Réseaux IP Européens, and allocates blocks of Internet.
**RSI**

An individual server that responds to DNS queries that are directed to the IP address of one of the servers that is authoritative for the RZ. For example, an "instance of the ICANN MRS" refers to a RS that answers queries sent to the IP address of the authoritative name server operated by ICANN. Hundreds of RS instances exist around the world. When a resolver submits a query to a RS, anycast routing relays the query packet to the nearest (in terms of routing layout) RS instance. If a local instance is unavailable (perhaps due to a power outage or a network problem), routers automatically redirect the query to the next nearest instance. **Note:** The term RSI replaces RSM because it more accurately defines the technology that the RSS uses to provide the RS.

**ROOT SERVER INSTANCE**

An individual server that responds to Domain Name System queries that are directed to the Internet Protocol address of one of the servers that is authoritative for the root zone. For example, an "instance of the ICANN Managed Root Server" refers to a root server that answers queries sent to the Internet Protocol address of the authoritative name server operated by ICANN. Hundreds of root server instances exist around the world. When a resolver submits a query to a root server, anycast routing relays the query packet to the nearest (in terms of routing layout) root server instance. If a local instance is unavailable (perhaps due to a power outage or a network problem), routers automatically redirect the query to the next nearest instance. **Note:** The term root server instance replaces root server mirror because it more accurately defines the technology that the Root Server System uses to provide the root service.

**RSO**

An ORG responsible for managing the root service on the IP addresses specified in the RZ and the root hints file.

**ROOT SERVER OPERATOR**

An organization responsible for managing the root service on the Internet Protocol addresses specified in the root zone and the root hints file.

**RSSAC**

The AC that advises the ICANN BRD and the ICANN community on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet’s RSS. The RSSAC consists of REPs from the RS operator ORGs and liaisons from other ICANN groups and the POs involved in the technical and operational management of the RZ.

**ROOT SERVER SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Advisory Committee that advises the ICANN Board and the ICANN community on matters relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet’s Root Server System. The Root Server System Advisory Committee consists of representatives from the root server operator organizations and liaisons from other ICANN
groups and the partner organizations involved in the technical and operational management of the root zone.

**RZ (AKA DRZ or DR)**

The top of the DNS hierarchy. The RZ contains all the information needed to find TLDs. Each edition of the RZ has a unique serial number. All RSs are expected to have (and respond to queries about) the current edition of the RZ.

**ROOT ZONE (DNS ROOT ZONE or DNS ROOT)**

The top of the Domain Name System hierarchy. The root zone contains all the information needed to find top-level domains. Each edition of the root zone has a unique serial number. All root servers are expected to have (and respond to queries about) the current edition of the root zone.

**RZA**

The entity responsible for managing the data contained within the RZ. The RZA works with the operators of TLDs and maintains technical and administrative details about the TLDs. The RZA role is performed by PTI as part of its contracts with ICANN to perform the IANA functions. PTI is an affiliate of ICANN.

**ROOT ZONE ADMINISTRATOR**

The entity responsible for managing the data contained within the root zone. The Root Zone Administrator works with the operators of top-level domains and maintains technical and administrative details about the top-level domains. The Root Zone Administrator role is performed by Public Technical Identifiers as part of its contracts with ICANN to perform the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority functions. Public Technical Identifiers is an affiliate of ICANN.

**RZDS**

The collection of ORGs, components, and procedures that provide a reliable and tamperproof means by which the latest version of the RZ can be acquired.

**ROOT ZONE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**

The collection of organizations, components, and procedures that provide a reliable and tamperproof means by which the latest version of the root zone can be acquired.

**RZM**

The entity that accepts RZD from the RZA, cryptographically signs the RZD using the zone signing key, and places the signed data in the root zone.

**ROOT ZONE MAINTAINER**

The entity that accepts root zone data from the Root Zone Administrator, cryptographically signs the root zone data using the zone signing key, and places the signed data in the root zone.
RZDS. The RZM also serves as the ZSKO for the RZ. Currently, Verisign serves as the RZM under contract with ICANN.

Currently, Verisign serves as the Root Zone Maintainer under contract with ICANN.

**SEEDIG**

The SEEDIG is a sub-regional IGF initiative dedicated to open, inclusive, and informal dialogue on Internet governance issues among all interested stakeholders in SEE+.

**South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance**

The South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance is a sub-regional IGF initiative dedicated to open, inclusive, and informal dialogue on Internet governance issues among all interested stakeholders in South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area.

**SEEDIG**, the South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG) is a sub-regional IGF initiative dedicated to open, inclusive, and informal dialogue on Internet governance issues among all interested stakeholders in South Eastern Europe and the neighboring area (SEE+). As trademark practitioners SEEDIG is important if you practice in South Eastern Europe (e.g. Slovenia, Macedonia, Armenia, Turkey, Romania, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovia, Albania, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine, Russia) because this group is the main organization for internet and digital issues in these nations. In addition, SEEDIG participates in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), an international group. SEEDIG is the organization at the forefront of helping transform the economies of Eastern Europe into modern digital economies. If you represent computer or internet businesses in these countries or have clients that do business in digital and/or internet businesses in any of these countries, this organization would be very important to you.

**SSAC**

An AC to the ICANN BRD, composed of volunteer members who are recognized experts in the DN, addressing, and/or security areas. All members provide independent advice and are expected to call attention to circumstances when the comments they offer are not their own.

**SECURITY AND STABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

An advisory committee to the ICANN Board, composed of volunteer members who are recognized experts in the domain name, addressing, and/or security areas. All members provide independent advice and are expected to call attention to circumstances when the comments they offer are not their own.

**SSR Review**

**SECURITY, STABILITY, AND RESILIENCY OF THE DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM REVIEW**
A periodic review required by the ICANN Bylaws to assess ICANN’s execution of its commitment to enhance the operational stability, reliability, resiliency, security, and global interoperability of the Internet’s system of unique identifiers. Section 4.6 in the ICANN Bylaws provides details about performing a Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review. Reports from past reviews are available on the ICANN website, along with progress updates for any Security, Stability, and Resiliency Reviews that are underway.

**FOA**

The forms that the two registrars involved in a domain name transfer use to obtain the authorizations necessary to perform the transfer. The FOAs help prevent the unauthorized transfer of a domain name. To initiate a transfer, the gaining registrar uses the Initial Authorization for Registrar Transfer (IART) FOA to obtain authorization from one of the domain name’s transfer contacts. The gaining registrar is responsible for authenticating the identity of the individual who authorizes the transfer request. To complete the transfer, the losing registrar sends the Confirmation of Registrar Transfer Request (CRTR) FOA to one of the transfer contacts to confirm that the registrant authorized the transfer.

**SSA**

In the New gTLD Program, an algorithmic tool used to help identify applied-for gTLD strings that may result in string confusion.

**SIC**

In the New Generic Top-Level Domain Program, an algorithmic tool used to help identify applied-for generic top-level domain strings that may result in string confusion.
A committee of the ICANN BOD responsible for review and oversight of policies relating to ICANN’s ongoing organizational review process.

SO

A formally recognized body under the ICANN BYs that is charged with developing PRs for a particular area of ICANN's operations. SOs are composed of volunteers from the community. The BYs recognize 3 SOs:

- ASO
- ccNSO
- GNSO

Besides developing PRs, SOs select DIRs for designated seats on the ICANN BRD and participate in the nominating process to fill open BRD positions.

TCP/IP

A term used to refer to a suite of SPs and formats, sometimes called the IP suite, which governs how computers communicate with each other over a network.

TLD

The names at the highest level of the DNS hierarchy. For example, in the DN www.example.com, the TLD is .com. There are different kinds of TLDs, such as ccTLDs like .de for Germany, and gTLDs like .com or .org.

TAS

A committee of the ICANN Board of Directors responsible for review and oversight of policies relating to ICANN’s ongoing organizational review process.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION

A formally recognized body under the ICANN Bylaws that is charged with developing policy recommendations for a particular area of ICANN's operations. Supporting Organizations are composed of volunteers from the community. The Bylaws recognize three Supporting Organizations:

- Address Supporting Organization
- Country Code Names Supporting Organization
- Generic Names Supporting Organization

Besides developing policy recommendations, Supporting Organizations select directors for designated seats on the ICANN Board and participate in the nominating process to fill open Board positions.

TRANSMISSION CONTROL PROTOCOL/INTERNET PROTOCOL

A term used to refer to a suite of standard procedures and formats, sometimes called the Internet Protocol suite, which governs how computers communicate with each other over a network.

TOP LEVEL DOMAIN

The names at the highest level of the Domain Name System hierarchy. For example, in the domain name www.example.com, the top-level domain is .com. There are different kinds of top-level domains, such as country code top-level domains like .de for Germany, and generic top-level domains like .com or .org.

TLD APPLICATION SYSTEM
ICANN’s official online system for receiving and managing new gTLD applications.

**TMCH**

A mechanism of the new gTLD program designed to help protect the rights of TM holders. The TMCH verifies and records rights information from all over the world. This verified information is used during DN REG processes, especially when new gTLDs launch.

**TRADEMARK CLEARINGHOUSE**

A mechanism of the New Generic Top-Level Domain Program designed to help protect the rights of trademark holders. The Trademark Clearinghouse verifies and records rights information from all over the world. This verified information is used during domain name registration processes, especially when new generic top-level domain names launch.

**TMCH** is a mechanism of the New Generic Top-Level Domain (gTLD) Program designed to help protect the rights of trademark holders. The Trademark Clearinghouse verifies and records rights information from all over the world. This verified information is used in two ways during domain name registration processes when new gTLDs launch. First, a trademark owner with a registration in the TMCH can register a new domain name before the general public in what is known as the “sunrise period” for registration. Additionally, trademark owners will be notified of potentially infringing domain registrations and registrants will be notified of a potential legal claim through a “claims notice” for a specified period after a new domain launches. Website: https://newgtlds.icann.org/en/about/trademark-clearinghouse. As trademark practitioners TMCH is important because the TMCH allows brand owners to protect their brands, particularly when new gTLDs are launched. Essentially it allows a trademark owner to prevent a third party from registering a domain name containing the registered trademark or a confusingly similar variation of the registered mark. For example, when .beer issued as a new gTLD, the TMCH allowed Budweiser to stop a third party from registering www.budweiser.beer or misspellings and confusingly similar variations such as www.budweizer.beer. If you represent any clients with strong and/or famous marks, you not only should be aware of the TMCH, but you should learn how it works as your client may want to take advantage of the protections it offers.

**UC**

A NPO founded to develop, extend, and promote the use of the US, which specifies the representation of text in modern software products and standards. Unicode is a registered TM of Unicode, Inc. in the U.S. and other countries.

**UNICODE CONSORTIUM**

A non-profit organization founded to develop, extend, and promote the use of the Unicode Standard, which specifies the representation of text in modern software products and standards. Unicode is a registered trademark of Unicode, Inc. in the United States and other countries.

**US**

**UNICODE STANDARD**

New York | Shanghai | Brussels | Washington, D.C. | Singapore | Santiago

Powerful Network | Powerful Brands®
A UC encoding that most modern software programs and communication protocols use to process, store, and exchange textual data. Each character in the US is represented by a unique integer called a CP. Besides encompassing characters from writing systems around the world, the US includes technical symbols, punctuation, and other characters used in written text (e.g., emojis). The US is the basis for IDNs. Unicode is a registered TM of Unicode, Inc. in the U.S. and other countries.

**UDRP**

A set of agreed-upon policies and procedures that define how to resolve DN REG disputes, such as abusive REGs that harm existing brands or TMs, with any ICANN-accredited registrars.

The UDRP (Uniform Dispute-Resolution Policy) was established in 1999 as an international arbitration process for the resolution of domain name disputes. Under the UDRP, trademark holders may seek the transfer or cancellation of domain names they believe infringe on their trademark rights, without resorting to traditional litigation. A trademark holder initiates a UDRP proceeding by filing a complaint with one of several approved dispute resolution service providers, and the entire proceeding is conducted online. The complainant must establish three elements: 1) that the domain is identical or confusingly similar to the complainant’s mark; 2) that the registrant has no rights or legitimate interests in the domain at issue; and 3) that the registrant registered and is using the domain in bad faith. Key advantages of a UDRP are a low cost filing fee (only $1,500 USD, as compared to higher cost of traditional litigation), quick resolution (typically in about two months), and transfer of the domain in question to a successful complainant.

The UDRP has been adopted by the ICANN-accredited registrars in all of the generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and is followed on a voluntary basis by the managers of certain country code top-level domains (ccTLDs). It will be reviewed during ICANN’s Rights Protection Mechanism Review Policy Development Process (RPM PDP) Phase Two.

**URS**

A universal character encoding that most modern software programs and communication protocols use to process, store, and exchange textual data. Each character in the Unicode Standard is represented by a unique integer called a code point. Besides encompassing characters from writing systems around the world, the Unicode Standard includes technical symbols, punctuation, and other characters used in written text (e.g., emojis). The Unicode Standard is the basis for Internationalized Domain Names. Unicode is a registered trademark of Unicode, Inc. in the United States and other countries.

**UNIFORM DISPUTE RESOLUTION POLICY**

A set of agreed-upon policies and procedures that define how to resolve domain name registration disputes, such as abusive registrations that harm existing brands or trademarks, with any ICANN-accredited registrars.

**UNIFORM RAPID SUSPENSION**

A universal character encoding that most modern software programs and communication protocols use to process, store, and exchange textual data. Each character in the Unicode Standard is represented by a unique integer called a code point. Besides encompassing characters from writing systems around the world, the Unicode Standard includes technical symbols, punctuation, and other characters used in written text (e.g., emojis). The Unicode Standard is the basis for Internationalized Domain Names. Unicode is a registered trademark of Unicode, Inc. in the United States and other countries.
An expedited AP that TM owners can initiate for certain types of DN disputes. The URS procedure is a tool for quickly addressing clear-cut cases of TM infringement. The URS is one of the RPMs that helps safeguard IP rights in the DNS. The procedure only allows for suspension of the web site; it does not enable transfer of the infringing web site to the complainant.

ICANN enacted the URS (Uniform Rapid Suspension System) on March 1, 2013 as a more cost-effective and efficient alternative to the UDRP (Uniform Dispute-Resolution Policy) to counter the most egregious instances of domain name abuse. The fee for a URS complaint starts at just $375 (compared to $1500 for a UDRP) and determinations are generally issued around 17 days after filing (compared to about two months for a UDRP).

However, there are numerous limitations. First, while the URS applies to all “new” gTLDs, it is unavailable for any “legacy” top-level domains, including <.com> domains, and only a very few ccTLDs have signed on. Second, in stark contrast to the cancellation or transfer remedies available under the UDRP, the only remedy available under the URS is temporary suspension of the disputed domain name until the expiration of the registration period (with an optional one-year extension). The URS provides no direct opportunity for the complainant to obtain control of the disputed domain. Third, unlike the UDRP, which allows for enforcement of common law rights, the URS is available only to rightsholders whose trademarks have been registered, “validated through court proceedings,” or “protected by a statute or treaty.” Lastly, because the URS is reserved for “clear cases of trademark abuse,” the burden of proof is considerably higher than in a UDRP proceeding. In 500 words or less, a URS complainant must establish -- by “clear and convincing evidence” -- essentially the same elements as in a UDRP proceeding, where only a “balance of probabilities” is necessary to favor the complainant.

**URL**

A globally unique sequence of characters that describes the location of a specific file or resource (e.g., streaming video, software application, online service) on the Internet. The URL also identifies the protocol to use to open the specified file or resource. In the URL, https://whois.icann.org/en, https identifies the protocol to use to open the resource located at whois.icann.org/en. Every web site has a unique URL that can be entered into a browser to access and view it.

**UNIFORM RESOURCE LOCATOR**

A globally unique sequence of characters that describes the location of a specific file or resource (e.g., streaming video, software application, online service) on the Internet. The Uniform Resource Locator also identifies the protocol to use to open the specified file or resource. In the Uniform Resource Locator, https://whois.icann.org/en, https identifies the protocol to use to open the resource located at whois.icann.org/en. Every web site has a unique Uniform Resource Locator that can be entered into a browser to access and view it.
VR
A resolver that uses DNSSEC technology to verify the cryptographic signatures for data it receives from DNS servers.

VALIDATING RESOLVER
A resolver that uses Domain Name System Security Extensions technology to verify the cryptographic signatures for data it receives from Domain Name System servers.

WIPO
An agency of the UN that provides a global forum for IP services, policies, and information. WIPO enables its 191 member states to collectively shape rules associated with the IR systems for IP. WIPO also provides services for resolving INTL commercial disputes outside the courts. The WIPO AMC is one of the providers approved by ICANN for resolving DN disputes.

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
An agency of the United Nations that provides a global forum for intellectual property services, policies, and information. World Intellectual Property Organization enables its 191 member states to collectively shape rules associated with the international registration systems for intellectual property. World Intellectual Property Organization also provides services for resolving international commercial disputes outside the courts. The World Intellectual Property Organization Arbitration and Mediation Center is one of the providers approved by ICANN for resolving domain name disputes.

W3C
An INTL industry consortium, founded in 1994 by Tim Berners-Lee, that develops protocols and guidelines to promote the evolution of and ensure the interoperability and long-term growth of the WWW. The W3C is represented on ICANN’s TLG. This group provides the ICANN BRD with authoritative information concerning the TSs associated with ICANN’s activities.

WORLD WIDE WEB CONSORTIUM
An international industry consortium, founded in 1994 by Tim Berners-Lee, that develops protocols and guidelines to promote the evolution of and ensure the interoperability and long-term growth of the World Wide Web. The World Wide Web Consortium is represented on ICANN’s Technical Liaison Group. This group provides the ICANN Board with authoritative information concerning the technical standards associated with ICANN’s activities.

WG
A Team of ICANN volunteers working on a specific topic or policy.

WORKING GROUP
A Team of ICANN volunteers working on a specific topic or policy.
WHOIS (NOT ACTUALLY AN ACRONYM!)

An IP that is used to query databases to obtain information about the REG of a DN or IP address. ICANN's gTLD AGMTs require registries and registrars to offer an interactive web page and a port 43 WHOIS service providing free public access to data on RNs. Data includes the DR creation and expiration dates, name servers, and contact information for the registrant and DA and TC.

WHOIS (NOT ACTUALLY AN ACRONYM!)

An Internet Protocol that is used to query databases to obtain information about the registration of a domain name or Internet Protocol address. ICANN's generic top-level domain agreements require registries and registrars to offer an interactive web page and a port 43 WHOIS service providing free public access to data on registered names. Data includes the domain registration creation and expiration dates, name servers, and contact information for the registrant and designated administrative and technical contacts.