




WORKSHOP FOR AFRICAN POLICY MAKERS AND REGULATORS ON  
INTERNET GOVERNANCE  
(A FOCUS ON COUNTRY CODE TOP LEVEL DOMAINS IN AFRICA)  
"A ccTLD for Every Country in Africa!"


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## Overview

- What is ICANN, IANA, a ccTLD?
- What is a re-delegation?
- What is a ccTLD?
- What is a redelegation: the roles of various parties, approach by ICANN staff to re-delegations, some examples of re-delegations and associated issues
- Moving forward



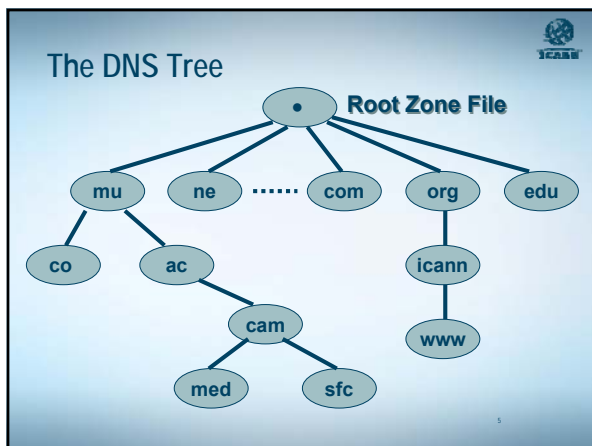

## What is ICANN?

- Public Benefit, non-profit organization charged with managing the Internet's unique identifier systems.
- One of those Identifier systems is the Domain Name System. Specifically the content of the Root Zone
- Created in 1998 – manages the IANA (created in the 1970s)



## What is IANA?

- IANA is function of ICANN
- IANA's global coordination activities can be broadly grouped in to three categories:
  - [Domain Names](#)  
IANA manages the DNS root, the .int and .arpa domains, and an IDN practices resource.
  - [Number Resources](#)  
IANA coordinates the global pool of IP and AS numbers, providing them to Regional Internet Registries.
  - [Protocol Assignments](#)  
Internet protocols' numbering systems are managed by IANA in conjunction with standards bodies.

## What is ccTLD? designation

- A country-code Top Level Domain
- In accordance with the 3166-1 list of the International Standards Organisation and their alpha-2 code elements
- Providing a unique domain identity to countries, territories, and distinct economies.
- ICANN itself has no responsibility for the entries on the ISO 3166-1 list

## What is a ccTLD? History



- First description in RFC-1591 of ccTLD's as part of the DNS structure
- “[ICANN/IANA] is responsible for the overall coordination and management of the Domain Name System (DNS), and especially the delegation of portions of the name space called top-level domains”
- “selecting a designated manager for a domain that was able to do an equitable, just, honest, and competent job”
- “These designated authorities are trustees for the delegated domain, and have a duty to serve the community. The designated manager is the trustee of the top-level domain for both the nation and the global Internet community”

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## What is a ccTLD? relationships



- a mutual recognition of rights and duties between ICANN/IANA and the ccTLD manager
- currently a variety of legacy ccTLD situations with different legal or contractual frameworks
- Originally individuals, currently transitioning to organisations.

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## What is a ccTLD? Examples of local situations



- Independent of Government
  - Non-for-profit (free, cost recovered, subsidised) operation NGO or Foundation
  - Commercial operation
- Related to Government
  - Arm of a national research network
  - Part of a Ministry (research, economic affairs, telecoms, foreign affairs, etc)

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## What is a re-delegation?



- The process of changing the designated ccTLD manager
- ICANN/IANA maintain the following information:
  - Sponsoring Organisation (SO)
  - Administrative Contact (AC)
  - Technical Contact (TC)
  - List of name servers (NS)
- **Change of SO and/or AC is a re-delegation**
- No re-delegations:
  - a change of name-servers,
  - the change of a technical contact (TC)

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## Criteria for redelegation



### 1. Operational and technical skills

The prospective manager has the requisite skills to operate the TLD appropriately. (ICP-1 §a, RFC 1591 §3.5)

There must be reliable, full-time IP connectivity to the nameservers and electronic mail connectivity to the operators; (ICP-1 §a; RFC 1591 §3.1)

The manager must perform its duties in assigning domains and operating nameservers with technical competence (ICP-1 §d; RFC 1591 §3.5)

### 2. Operator in country

The prospective manager supervises and operates the domain name from within the country represented by the TLD; (ICP-1 §a; RFC 1591 §3.1)

The prospective administrative contact must reside in the country represented by the TLD. (ICP-1 §a; RFC 1591 §3.1)

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## Criteria for redelegation



- 3. Equitable treatment
- a. The prospective manager must be equitable and fair to all groups encompassed by the TLD that may request domain names (ICP-1 §c; RFC 1591 §3.3)
- 4. Community/Governmental support
- The prospective manager has the requisite authority to operate the TLD appropriately, with the desire of the government taken very seriously. (ICP-1 §a, GAC Principles)
- Significantly interested parties in the domain should agree that the prospective manager is the appropriate party to receive the delegation (ICP-1 §a; RFC 1591 §3.4)

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## Role of various parties



- Sponsoring Organisation: depends on local situation
- Administrative Contact: the admin liaison for the domain
- Technical Contact: the technical liaison for the ccTLD
- Local Internet Community: the interested parties using/affected by the cc-domain
- Government: determining, implementing, enforcing local laws, regulations, and policies
- ICANN/IANA: representing the global community, administrator of the root-zone registry

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## Approach by ICANN/IANA staff – steps



1. Reception of a request – issuance of a ticket
2. Confirmation of authority of request
  - Including confirmation with relevant government
3. Review of the submitted request
4. Requests for confirmation by parties concerned
5. Verification of technical readiness of new manager
6. Approval by the ICANN Board (due diligence)
7. [Request to DOC for] Implementation of changes in the root-zone file
8. On the side and if manager interested:
  1. Agreement on an Accountability Framework or an exchange of letters : <http://www.icann.org/en/cclds/model-mou.html>
  2. 10 ccTLDs in the region have those with ICANN – where they even agree to participate to the ICANN budget: <http://www.icann.org/en/cclds/agreements.html>

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## Re-delegations: examples and issues



- Currently 9 change tickets opened at IANA – 3 redelegations, 1 contested locally, and 6 name server changes
- Historically initiated re-delegations from region: .za, .ke, .ng, .ma, .ly, .sd, .bw ...
- On a total of 249 active ccTLDs, ICANN expects to have to re-delegate between 15- 20 a year. (based on one re-delegation per ccTLD per 12-15 years on average)

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## Re-delegations: examples of difficulties



- Local disagreements:
  - Between old and new managers
  - Between Government and old manager
  - Between local Internet community and Government
  - Between old manager and local Internet community (including government)
  - Between government departments
- Fraud for different purposes (hurt existing arrangements, transfer to “friends”, hijack)
  - Requests of staff no longer having authority
  - Requests of un-authorized persons

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## Re-delegations: examples of difficulties



- Misunderstandings
  - Requests of un-authorized staff
  - Requests without understanding of procedures
- Technical problems
  - Technical ability of new manager and/or his staff
  - Problems with technical systems
  - Absence of any local policies
  - Absence of a business/commercial model
  - Problems with hosting arrangements or physical premises
  - Disagreement with the ISO alpha-2 designation

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## Re-delegations: examples of difficulties



- Political problems
  - Governments lacking a legal/policy basis for closing down an organisation
  - Governments seeking political control over the ccTLD
  - Governments wanting a change for political reasons
  - Disagreements over authority over the ccTLD between the government and the subject manager
  - Disagreements between governments
- Legacy problems:
  - ccTLD operations out-of-country
  - Database out-of-country
  - Compensation claims of old managers (during transfer from individual to organisation)
  - Governments suddenly claiming back “a national asset”

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## The "complex" situations and issues



- Out-of-country ccTLD operation under a contested re-delegation request
- Verification of identity and authority of involved persons
- Contested re-delegation requests (no agreement at local level), particularly in cases where there is no legislation/regulation and agreement depends on good-will of parties

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## Moving forward



- Need for recognition of complexity of legacy situations
- Re-delegations can be a cause of considerable local anguish and political disagreement
- ICANN shall not be asked to be a referee ...
- ...but, if there is no local agreement, ICANN may not be able to move forward
- Best practice and sharing of experiences between governments may be of use

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## Helpful links



- ICANN/IANA website ([www.iana.org](http://www.iana.org))
- RFC 1591 (<http://www.isi.edu/in-notes/rfc1591.txt>)
- IANA ccTLD Delegation Practices Document (ICP-1) (<http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm>)
- ISO 3166-1 list <http://www.iso.org/iso/en/prods-services/iso3166ma/index.html>
- GAC principles for the delegation and administration of ccTLD's (<http://194.78.218.67/web/docs/index.shtml>)
- Procedures for Establishing ccTLDs (<http://iana.org/procedures/cctld-establishment.html>)
- The ccNSO (<http://ccnso.icann.org/>)
- ccTLD Agreements (<http://www.icann.org/en/cctlds/agreements.html>)
- Change template: (<http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld-template.txt>)
- Previous delegation/redelegation reports (<http://iana.org/reports/>)

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Questions?

Thank You



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