



NIC project
Public Consultation
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Overview

- Background
- Activity since October 2006
- Proposed model
 - NIC model
 - Operational
 - Technical
 - Policy
- Public consultation
- Work plan
- Redelegation
- Conclusion



About me

- Background in Internet services and protocols (among others, DNS and mail) and training
- Participation as trainer in regional Internet workshops organised by ISOC, NSRC, ICANN, since 1997
- Independent consultant, co-owner of catpipe ApS in Copenhagen, Denmark



Background



Background

- Contacted by ICTA in middle 2006 following WSIS, to help move forward .MU (“dot MU”) project
- Multiple roles:
 - Mediator
 - Technical consultant
 - Liaison to the Internet technical and policy community



Background (2)

- Visit to Mauritius in October 2006
- Analysis of current situation & actions
 - Communication breakdown with current .MU trustee (Internet Direct, Ltd.)
 - Deadlock situation
 - Meeting with local actors (ISPs)
 - Meeting with Hon. Etienne Sinatambou, Minister of Information Technology & Telecommunications
 - Restore communication with current .MU trustee



Background (3)

- At the outset of the analysis, the following goals were defined:
 - Establish new MU model based on multi stakeholder representation, in line with ccTLD best practices
 - Design the technical platform
 - Define a draft policy for the new MU registry (Privacy, Use, etc...)
 - Produce a public consultation document describing the new model
 - Initiate contact with ICANN in view of formal redelegation by mid-2007



Activity since Oct. 2006



Activity since Oct. 2006

- A dialogue has resumed with the current .MU trustee, with the view of carrying out a seamless transition between the existing registry and the new, for the benefit of the existing .MU registrants
- A proposal for a Heads of Agreement between Internet Direct, Ltd (the current trustee) and ICTA has been drafted, and is close to being agreed upon



Activity since Oct. 2006 (2)

- Goal of the transition / migration:
 - Registry function is moved back to Mauritius, both physically and administratively
 - Existing registrars are preserved (grandfathered), as well as registrant information, including registration dates, renewal, etc...



Activity since Oct. 2006 (3)

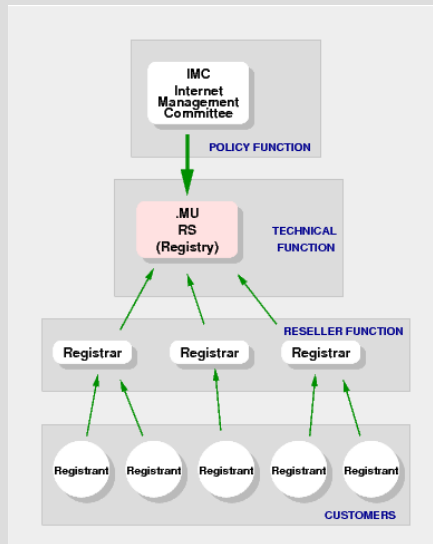
- A new MU model (operational, technical, policy):
 - Base work on existing premises (ICT Act of 2001)
 - Multi stake-holder representation, in line with ccTLD best practices, has been established
 - IMC (Internet Management Committee) is the policy setting body as defined in the Act of 2001
 - ICTA is transitional technical operator for the new registry (operational aspects: 2 engineers, 1 administrative)



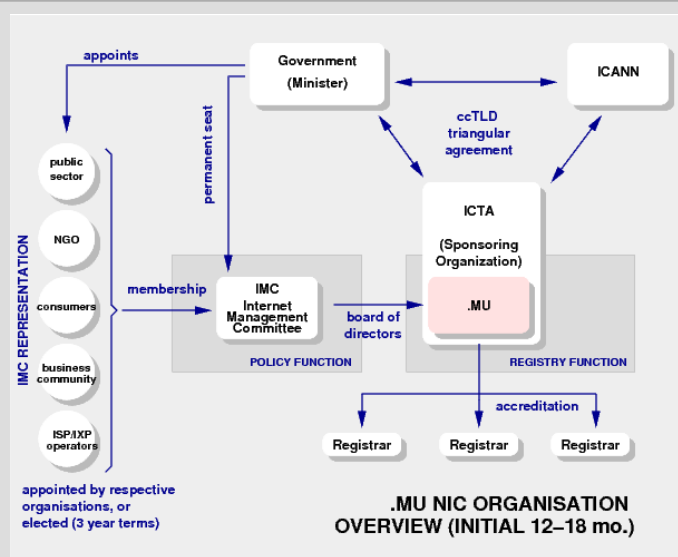
Proposed model



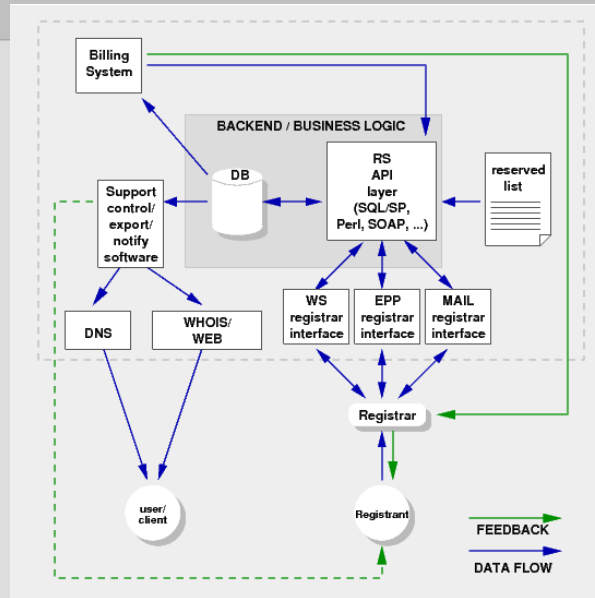
Operational model - 3R Registry, Registrar, Registrant



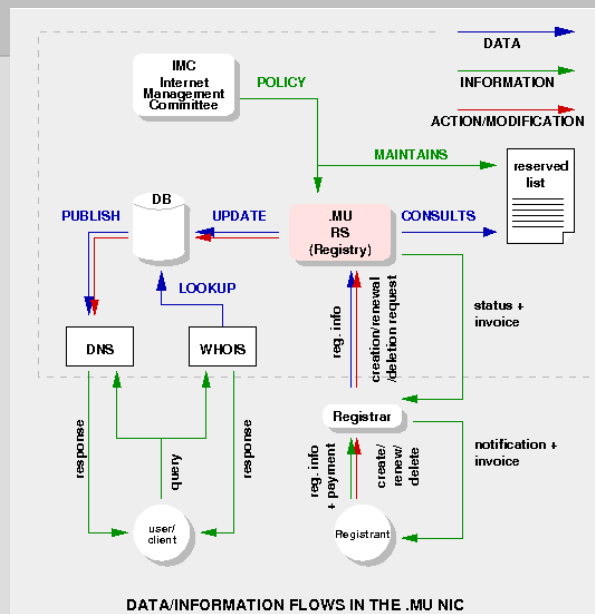
Organisational model (2): .MU organisation



Technical design: architecture



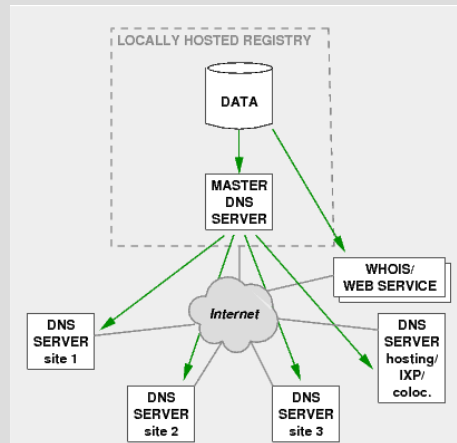
Technical design: data flows



DATA/INFORMATION FLOWS IN THE .MU NIC



Technical design: network topology



MU

Transitional goals (0 - 18 months)

- Clean up in existing Registrar/Registrant information, formalize any irregular situations where possible
- Aim towards cost-recovery, which could be achieved (i.e.: 10000 domains at 350 MRU / year)
- Thoroughly document all processes, technical and administrative, of the registry, with the aim of "spinning off" the registry to a third party, not for profit entity (.MU NIC)

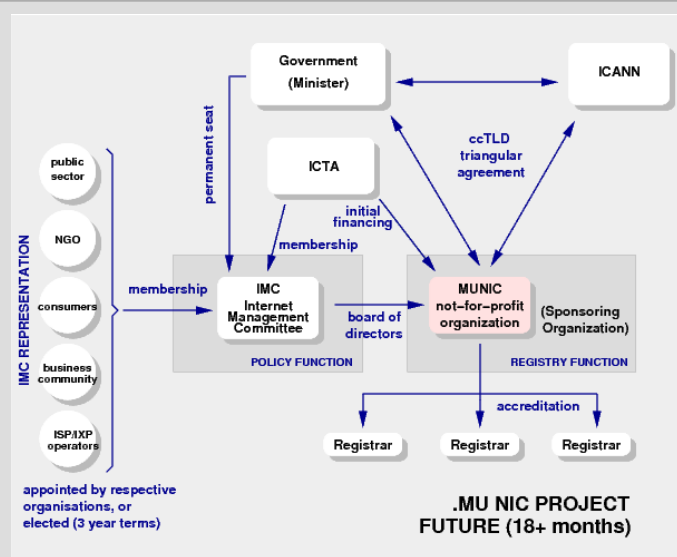
MU

Organisational model: Future (18+ months)

- IMC composition is key in multi stake-holder representation
 - Transition away from an appointed model (ICT Act of 2001) to an elective one
 - Define permanent seats (Government, Academic, ISPs/trade, end-users, NGOs, NIC executive)
 - Let each body appoint their representative to the board
 - IMC ideal as board of directors of .MU NIC



Organisational model: Future (18+ months) (2)



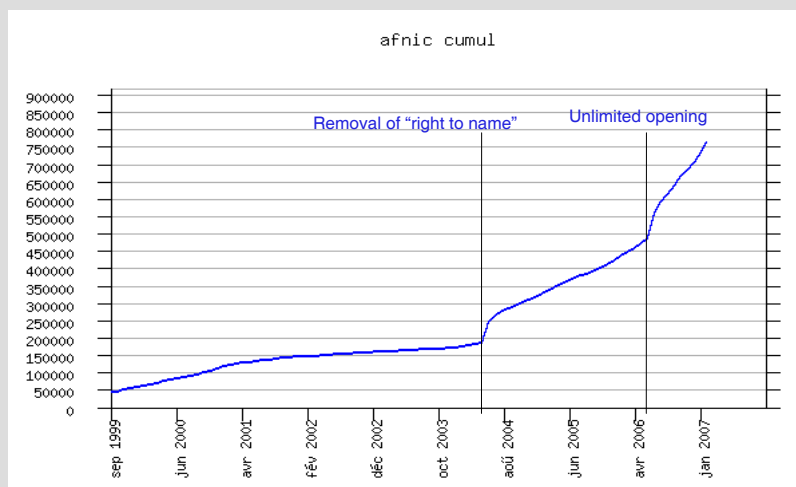
Policy recommendations

- Three tier (already defined)
- Flat structure (don't limit to SLDs such as “.edu.mu”, “.gov.mu”)
- Registration restrictions
 - First come, first serve
 - Reserved keywords based on public interest resources (gov, edu, ...) names of localities or of historic significance, etc...
 - Little or no presence requirements for Registrars and Registrant - maybe only in the beginning, to promote local activity in .MU



Policy impact on domain registrations

Example: .FR (1999-2007)



Policy impact on domain registrations (2)

- As a comparison, .DK
- “fully” opened in 1997

End of	Total	Difference
1996	6548	6548
1997	41259	34711
1998	75488	34229
1999	141308	65820
2000	248727	107419
2001	351792	103065
2002	395674	43882
2003	468210	72536
2004	560896	92686
2005	651558	90662
2006	754738	103180
200701	766530	11792
I dag	775421	8891

- ... for 1/10th of the population of France (5.5m vs 60m)



Policy recommendations (2)

- Dispute resolution – UDRP inspired
(<http://www.icann.org/udrp/>)
 - Let the legal course prevail, as a fallback
 - In case of dispute, settlement is between registrant and claiming party
 - In line with WIPO recommendations
(<http://www.wipo.int/amc/en/domains/cctld/>)
- AUP – acceptable use policies
 - The registrant enters an agreement with the registry, and assumes all responsibility as to the use of the domain name



The public consultation document

- Published today at <http://www.icta.mu/>
- Describes the project in greater detail
- Submitted for public comments until 31st of March 2007



Workplan until June 2007

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Enter Heads of Agreement with Internet Direct, Ltd. | • Mid March 2007 |
| • Finalize tech-specs requirements for .MU registry, and settle on platform choice | • Mid April 2007 |
| • Redelegation submission to ICANN | • End April 2007 |
| • Enter agreements with ICANN | • Mid May 2007 |
| • Platform setup | • May 2007 |
| • Migrate platform / Registry | • End May 2007 |
| • Relaunch .MU | • June 2007 |



Redelegation – the process

- Submit request to ICANN
- ICANN evaluates request, produces report including final recommendation
- A transition date is set
- The new registry is established and tested
- Migration of data is carried out
- Request redelegation from ICANN to the new Registry by end of 2007



Conclusion & recommendations

- Move forward quickly!
- Keep things simple – complicated policies raise operational and administrative costs for everyone, and limit the popularity of ccTLDs
 - Find balance on presence requirements and registration policies (SLDs, ...)
- Focus on transition 18 months ahead
 - Technical transition
 - IMC appointment transition



Questions...

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 MU