



ICANN overview and Helsinki

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What is ICANN?



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a global multistakeholder organization that manages Internet resources for the public benefit

- ICANN coordinates the top-level of the Internet's system of unique identifiers – the Domain Name System – via global, multistakeholder, bottom-up consensus policy processes. The outcome of those processes is implemented via the IANA Functions and related contracts.
- Any stakeholder with an interest in the Domain Name System can have a voice directly heard in decision making

ICANN coordinates the Domain Name System

WHAT DOES ICANN DO?

To reach any device or thing connected to the Internet, you (or your search engine) must know their address – a name or number. That address must be unique, so you can reliably connect to other devices, things, or information sources no matter where you are in the world. That's how the tens of thousands of physical networks appear and operate as One Internet.

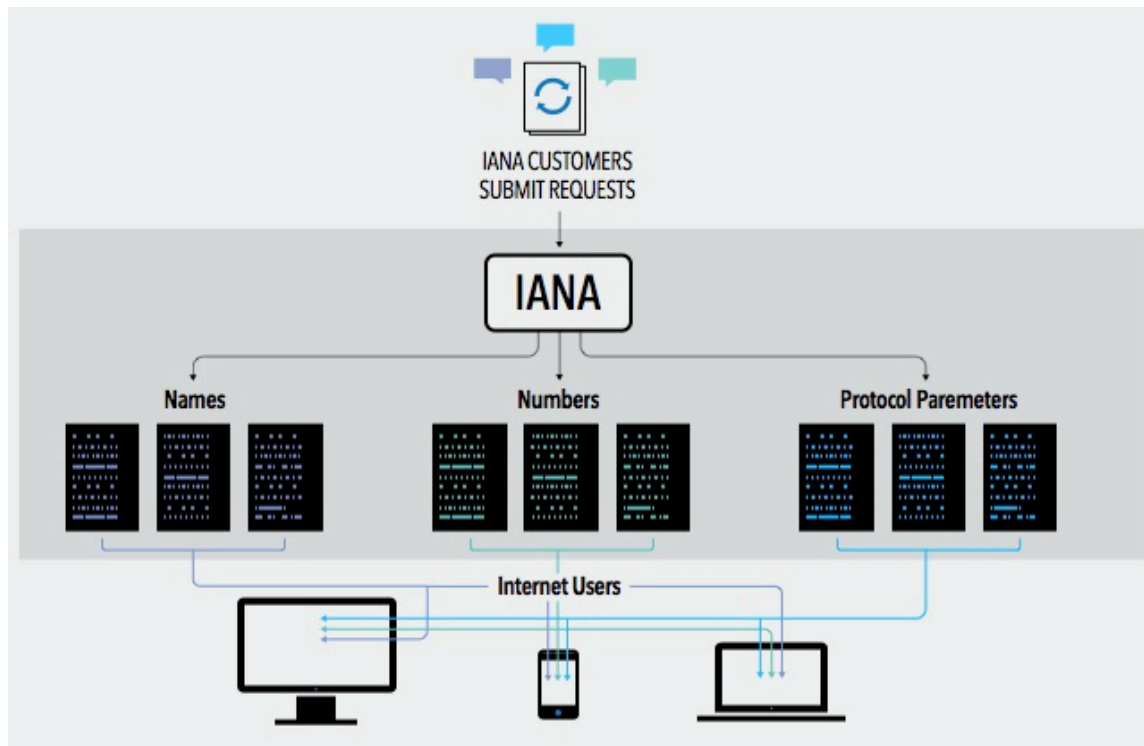
In concert with the technical operating community, ICANN maintains and administers the registries containing these unique addresses across the world ensuring the security, stability and integrity of One Internet where we can reliably find each other.



- ⦿ ICANN is best known for its role as the technical coordinator of the Internet's **Domain Name System (DNS)**
- ⦿ ICANN's mission overall is to coordinate the global Internet's systems of unique identifiers, and in particular to ensure the stable and secure operation of those unique identifier systems
 - + The Domain Name System matches IP numbers with a name
 - + DNS is the underpinning of the unified Internet
 - + *ICANN is the place for coordination of DNS policy and its implementation*
- The set of unique identifier systems coordinated by ICANN are the **IANA functions**

What are the IANA Functions?

The IANA Functions evolved in support of the Internet Engineering Task Force, and initially funded via research projects supported by the U. S. Department of Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.



These functions include:

- ⦿ The coordination of the assignment of technical Internet protocol parameters
- ⦿ The administration of certain responsibilities associated with Internet DNS Root zone management
- ⦿ The allocation of Internet IP addresses

ICANN was created to perform the IANA Functions and has done so pursuant to a no-cost contract with the Department of Commerce for over 15 years

How ICANN works: ICANN's multi-stakeholder model

What is the multistakeholder community?

“Stakeholder” refers broadly to anyone who has an interest in the Internet

Within ICANN, stakeholders include:



**Large and small
businesses**



**Technical
community**



Civil society



Governments



**Researchers and
academics**



End users

- The multistakeholder community functions on bottom-up consensus building which, by design, is resistant to capture due to the openness, diversity and equal division of authority among participants.
- ICANN’s multi-stakeholder community supports the success of the Internet’s DNS
- The Internet is so essential to all aspects of our lives – as individuals, companies, government and civil society – that how the Internet is managed and how policies are made affects us all

ICANN's Community-driven policy

WHAT DOES ICANN DO?

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your device—a name or a number. That address must be unique, so computers will know where to find each other. ICANN maintains and administers these unique identifiers across the world. Without ICANN's management of this system, known as the Domain Name System (DNS), we wouldn't have a global, scalable Internet where we can find each other.

Multi-stakeholder Model:

Civil Society & Internet Users, the Private Sector, National & International Organizations, Governments, Research, Academic and Technical Communities are all represented.

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN

POLICY-MAKING

COORDINATION

DNS ECOSYSTEM

OPERATIONS

UNIQUE IDENTIFIERS

STAKEHOLDERS

PARTIES

Community-Driven Policy

To keep pace with dynamic technologies and rapid innovation, ICANN enables consensus-driven, Multi-stakeholder policy development, with broad representation from the global Internet community.

Who's Involved:

A number of groups: supporting organizations, advisory committees, technical advisory bodies and board of directors.



How can I get involved?

ICANN|56 | POLICY
HELSINKI | FORUM
27-30 June 2016



Engage with ICANN



Thank You and Questions

Reach us at:

Email: europe@icann.org

Website: icann.org and icann.org/forbusiness



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