

# The ICANN Experiment

Cainet 2000

8-3-00

Andrew McLaughlin



# The Basic Bargain

ICANN =

Internationalization of Policy Functions  
for DNS and IP Addressing systems

+

Private Sector (Non-governmental)  
Management

# What does ICANN do?

Coordinates policies relating to the unique assignment of:

- Internet domain names
- Numerical IP Address
- Protocol Port and Parameter Numbers

Coordinates the DNS Root Server System

- through Root Server System Advisory Committee

# Status Quo Ante

Most Internet DNS and IP Address coordination functions performed by, or on behalf of, the US government

- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
  - Information Sciences Institute (ISI) of University of Southern California
  - Stanford Research Institute (SRI)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
  - IBM, MCI, and Merit
  - AT&T, General Atomics, Network Solutions, Inc.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Department of Energy

- 
- 
- 

# IANA



*Jon Postel*  
*1943-1998*

# Need for Change

- ◆ Globalization of Internet
- ◆ Commercialization of Internet
- ◆ Need for accountability
- ◆ Need for more formalized management structure
- ◆ Dissatisfaction with lack of competition
- ◆ Trademark/domain name conflicts

# White Paper Principles

White Paper: new policy/management structure must promote 4 goals:

- ◆ Stability
- ◆ Competition
- ◆ Private, bottom-up coordination
- ◆ Representation

# White Paper Implementation

- ◆ Internet community to form non-profit corporation meeting White Paper's 4 criteria
- ◆ US Government (through Commerce Department) to transition centralized coordination functions
- ◆ Amendment of Network Solutions agreement to require competitive registrars in gTLD registries
- ◆ WIPO to recommend solutions for trademark/domain-name dilemma



# Status of Transition from USG

- ✓ 25 November, 1998 - ICANN recognized in MoU
- ✓ June, 1999 - Cooperative agreement among ICANN, US Government, root server operators
- ✓ 10 November, 1999
  - ICANN and Network Solutions sign gTLD registry and registrar agreements
  - DoC transfers root authority over gTLDs to ICANN
- ✓ 9 February, 2000
  - Contract with US Government to complete transfer of IANA functions

# Remaining Transition Items

- Year 2000:
  - ccTLD registry agreements
  - IP Address registry agreements
  - Root server operator agreements
- September 30, 2000 - Target date for ICANN to settle all registry/registrar/root server relationships

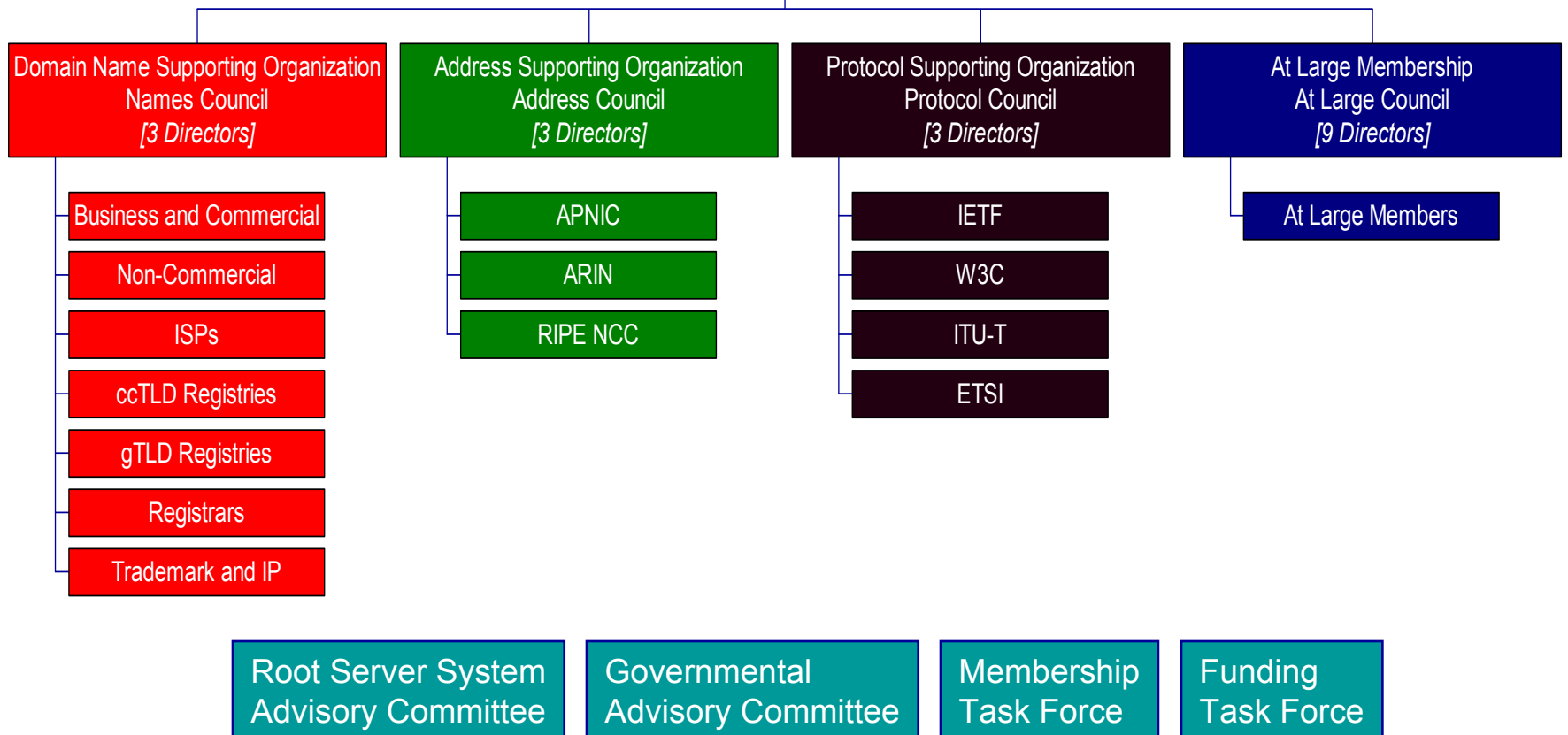


# Structure of ICANN



# ICANN

## ICANN Board of Directors *[18 Directors + President and CEO]*



# ICANN Staff

## Current Staff:

- ◆ Interim President and CEO (Mike Roberts)
- ◆ Vice President/General Counsel (Louis Touton)
- ◆ CFO/Policy Director (Andrew McLaughlin)
- ◆ IANA staff (2.5 full-time)

# Agenda for Cairo Meetings

- Creation of new top-level domain registries & protections for famous marks
- ccTLD delegation and administration policies
- At Large Membership & elections
- ICANN Budget for 2000-2001
- Independent Review policy

# So does ICANN make law?

- Or: Is ICANN a cyber-government for the Internet?

**A: NO!**

- ICANN has no coercive power – only the ability to enter into contractual relationships through a process of consensus & consent.
- ICANN is not a substitute for the powers of governments

# Does ICANN regulate?

- No: ICANN coordinates.
- But: technical coordination tasks sometimes require touching non-technical policy areas:
  - Data privacy protection
  - Intellectual property/trademark law
  - Competition law



# Lessons from the Experiment?

- Private-sector self-regulation is possible
- Global consensus is difficult to define; even harder to achieve
  - Consensus can be achieved in the technical community from which ICANN was created, because you can test options
  - Consensus on policy questions is elusive, because you can't rely on objective data

- 
- 
- 

# For Further Information:

Andrew McLaughlin

<ajm@icann.org>

<<http://www.icann.org>>