GLOSSARY/ACRONYM LIST

A	
ADVISORY COMMITTEE	Formal advisory body to the ICANN Board, made up of representatives from the Internet community to advise on a particular issue or policy area. ICANN Bylaws mandate four: Governmental Advisory Committee, Root Server System Advisory Committee, Security and Stability Advisory Committee and At-Large Advisory Committee.
AFRALO	**African 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 African region.
AFRINIC	**African Network Information Center** A Regional Internet Registry and non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration and registration of Internet Protocol addresses in the Africa region.
ALAC	**At-Large Advisory Committee** 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.
ALS	**At-Large Structure** A self-supporting organization of individual Internet users in ICANN who share an interest in a particular region or issue. ALSes are located throughout the world and organized into five Regional At-Large Organizations, one in each ICANN region.
AoC	**Affirmation of Commitments** A formal declaration of ICANN's independence, structure and purpose, signed by the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration and ICANN in September 2009.
APNIC	**Asia Pacific Network Information Centre** One of five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), 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, and Australia.
APPLICANT SUPPORT	A sub-program of ICANN's New gTLD Program, created to provide financial and non-financial support for potential New gTLD Applicants from developing economies.
APRALO	**Asia Pacific Regional At-Large Organization** 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.
ARIN	**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.

A

ASO	**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: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, and RIPE.
ATRT	**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.
AT-LARGE OR THE AT-LARGE COMMUNITY	The primary organizational home for the voice and concerns of the individual Internet users in ICANN processes.

B

BCUC	**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	**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.

C

CCNSO	**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	**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).
CONTRACTED PARTIES HOUSE	One of two major structures in ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization, comprised of gTLD registries and ICANN-accredited registrars that contract directly with ICANN.

D

DNS

Domain Name System

A system that allows Internet users to type in names, like *www.inter-nic.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.

DNSO

Domain Name Supporting Organization

From 1999 to 2002, the ICANN Supporting Organization representing participants in the operation and use of the Domain Name System. Dissolved and replaced by the Generic Names Supporting Organization and the Country-Code Names Supporting Organization in 2003.

DNSSEC

Domain Name System Security Extensions

DNSSEC 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 Internet Protocol (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 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 RESOLVERS

Computers throughout the world that respond to an Internet user's request to resolve a domain name - for example when the user types in a name like internic.net in order to find the corresponding Internet Protocol address (207.151.159.3).

DRP

Dispute Resolution Procedure

A formal mechanism for solving disagreements or conflicts between parties.

E

EURALO

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.

F

FoI

Framework of Interpretation Working Group

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.

G

GAC

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.

GTLD

Generic Top Level Domain

Internet domain name extensions of three letters or more, such as .COM, .NET and .ASIA.

GNSO

Generic Names Supporting Organization

The main policy-making body within ICANN responsible for generic top-level domains. Its members include representatives from gTLD registries, ICANN-accredited registrars, intellectual property interests, Internet service providers, businesses and non-commercial interests.

H

HSTLD

High Security Top-Level Domain

A standard developed by ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee and made optional for new gTLD operators who want to be known as a secure, trustworthy domain.

I

IAB

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

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

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

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.

IDNS

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.

I	
IETF	**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.
INTA	**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	**Internet Protocol** The standard procedures and formats that govern how computers communicate with each other over the Internet using unique addresses.
IPC	**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.
IPV4	**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	**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.
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.
ISOC	**Internet Society** The open international organization for global cooperation and coordination for the Internet and its internetworking technologies and applications.
ISP	**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.
ISPCP	**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.

J

JIG
Joint Country Code Names Supporting Organization and Generic Names Supporting Organization Internationalized Domain Names Working Group

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 as country-code top-level domains and generic top-level domains.

L

LACNIC
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
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.

M

MoU
Memorandum of Understanding

A document describing a mutual agreement between parties.

N

NARALO
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.

NCSG
Non-commercial Stakeholders Group

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.

N

NCUC	**Non-commercial Users Constituency** A constituency within the GNSO's Non-commercial Stakeholders Group that represents the views of non-commercial individuals and non-profit organizations.
NOIF	**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.
NON-CONTRACTED PARTIES HOUSE	One of two major structures in ICANN's Generic Names Supporting Organization, comprised of commercial and non-commercial users that do not contract directly with ICANN.
NPOC	**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.
NTIA	**National Telecommunications and Information Agency** An agency of the United States Department of Commerce that serves as the President's principal advisor on telecommunications and information policies. It maintains a contract with ICANN for the technical coordination of the Internet's domain name and addressing system.

O

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.

P

PDP	**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.
PEDNR	**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, passwords and credit card details by pretending to be a trustworthy entity in an email or instant message.

P

PPC	**Pay-per-click**
	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.

R

RAA	**RAA – Registrar Accreditation Agreement**
	The contract between ICANN and its accredited registrars. It describes the obligations of both parties.
RALO	**Regional At-Large Organization**
	The main forum and coordination point regionally for public input to ICANN. There are five RALOs (Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean Islands and North America). Each RALO is autonomous, governed by its own organizing documents including a memorandum of understanding.
RAP WG	**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 WG produced a Final Report with recommendations on how to prevent potential abuses such as cybersquatting, front-running, fake renewal notices and more.
RGP	**Redemption Grace Period**
	A 30-day period offered by ICANN-accredited registrars for registrants to restore a domain name that has expired or been deleted.
REGISTRAR	An organization that verifies availability and reserves domain names on behalf of a registrant. Domain names ending with .aero, .biz, .com, .coop, .info, .museum, .name, .net, .org, and .pro can be registered through many different companies (known as "registrars") that compete with one another. A listing of these companies appears in the Accredited Registrar Directory.
REGISTRY	The authoritative, master database of all domain names registered in each top-level domain. The registry operator keeps the master database and also generates the "zone file" which allows computers to route Internet traffic to and from top-level domains anywhere in the world. Internet users don't interact directly with the registry operator; users can register names in TLDs including .biz, .com, .info, .net, .name, .org by using an ICANN-Accredited Registrar.
RIR	**Regional Internet Registry**
	These non-profit organizations are responsible for distributing IP addresses on a regional level to Internet service providers and local registries. There are currently five RIRs: AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC and RIPE NCC.

R

RFC	**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 RFCs become Internet standards.
RIPE AND RIPE NCC - RÉSEAUX IP EUROPÉENS	An open and voluntary organization of European Internet service providers. The RIPE NCC acts as the Regional Internet Registry for Europe and surrounding areas, performs coordination activities for the organizations participating in RIPE, and allocates blocks of IP address space to its Local Internet Registries, which then assign the addresses to end-users.
ROOT SERVERS	Servers containing the IP addresses of all the TLD registries - both the global registries such as .com, .org, etc. and country-specific registries such as .fr (France), .cn (China), etc.
RSSAC	**Root Server System Advisory Committee** An advisory committee to the ICANN Board about the operation of the root name servers of the Domain Name System.
RᵧSG	**Registries Stakeholder Group** A stakeholder group, representing the interests of registries currently under contract with ICANN, in the Generic Names Supporting Organization.

S

SIC	**Structural Improvement Committee** A committee of the ICANN Board of Directors responsible for review and oversight of policies relating to ICANN's ongoing organizational review process.
SSAC	**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.
SO	**Supporting Organizations** Three specialized advisory bodies that advise the ICANN Board of Directors on issues relating to domain names (Generic Names Supporting Organization and Country-Code Names Supporting Organization) and IP addresses (Address Supporting Organization).

T

TAS	**TLD Application System** ICANN's official online system for receiving and managing new gTLD applications.
TCP/IP	**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.

T

TLD

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 (ccTLDs) like .de for Germany, and generic top-level domains (gTLDs) like .com or .org.

U

UDRP

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.

URL

Uniform Resource Locator

The unique address or file path that points to the location of a file on the Internet. Every web site has a unique URL that can be entered into a browser to access and view it.

URS

Uniform Rapid Suspension

A means for trademark owners to request a quick decision from a registry to take down an infringing web site. The procedure only allows for suspension of the web site; it does not enable transfer of the infringing web site to the complainant.

W

W3C

World Wide Web Consortium

An international industry consortium that develops common protocols to promote the evolution of the World Wide Web and ensure its interoperability.

WIPO

World Intellectual Property Organization

An intergovernmental organization responsible for the promotion of the protection of intellectual rights throughout the world. It is one of the 16 specialized agencies of the United Nations system of organizations.

WHOIS

WHOIS (pronounced "who is"; not an acronym) An Internet Protocol that is used to query databases to obtain information about the registration of a domain name or IP address. ICANN's gTLD 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.

WG

Working Group

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