

# What

On March 14, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) launched a process to transition the role of the United States Government relating to the Internet's unique identifiers system.

ICANN's announcement comes on the heels of an historic announcement by the U.S. Government stating that it is ready to transfer its stewardship of important Internet technical functions to the global Internet community. ICANN will facilitate this process, beginning in Singapore.

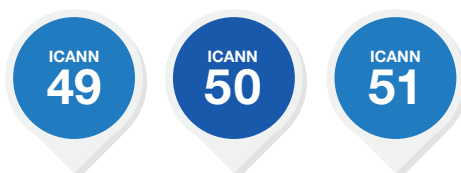
## How: Community Involvement - What can I do?

Participate in ICANN Public consultations at the ICANN 49 Singapore Meeting, ICANN 50 Meeting in London and the ICANN 51 Meeting in Los Angeles.

Visit [ICANN.org](http://ICANN.org) and join our online public forums; register for one of the many upcoming webinars; and follow us on our social channels—be a part of the discussion!

For more information and the following resources visit [www.ICANN.org](http://www.ICANN.org)

- Read News Releases: [ICANN](#) | [USG](#) | [Internet Tech Orgs](#)
- ICANN Leadership Reacts [Steve Crocker](#) | [Fadi Chehadé](#)
- [Answers](#) to Some of Your Questions
- [View](#) the Public Consultation Process
- [Read](#) Industry Endorsements



## When - Key Milestones in the Process

March  
14

Posting of ICANN announcement and outline of the public consultation process.

ICANN 49 (Singapore) – public dialogue and consultation with the community on how the mechanisms for the transition should occur.

March  
21-27

April  
7

Posting of output of Singapore discussion and proposed timeline and specific next steps.

June  
22-26

ICANN 50 (London) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meeting.

ICANN 52 (date/location TBD) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meetings.

March  
2015

June  
2015

ICANN 53 (date/location TBD) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meetings.

October  
12-16

ICANN 51 (Los Angeles) – gathering of global multistakeholder community to build upon progress from previous meetings.

IANA contract expires 30 September 2015.

September  
2015

# Common Questions and Answers

## 1 What does this announcement mean?

The U.S. government is announcing its intention to transfer its stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions to the global multistakeholder community and is requesting a proposal from ICANN on how to achieve the transition.

## 2 What are the IANA Functions?

The IANA functions involve the coordination of unique Internet identifiers. These include: 1) maintenance of the protocol parameter registries on behalf of the IETF; 2) allocation of Internet Numbers in cooperation with the Regional Internet Registries; 3) management of the .ARPA and .INT domains; 4) administrative responsibilities of the DNS root zone; and 5) coordination of root zone management. The IANA functions are administered by ICANN.

## 3 What is ICANN's role in the IANA Functions?

As administrator of the IANA Functions since 1998, ICANN has been responsible for coordinating unique Internet identifiers – names, IP numbers, and protocol parameters – through a contract with the U.S. Department of Commerce.

## 4 What does the process entail?

The multistakeholder-designed process that is consensus-driven, participatory, open, and transparent will launch at the ICANN 49 Meeting in Singapore in March 2014. Subsequent to this meeting, input from the community discussions will be compiled and put out for public comment and community feedback. The feedback from the community will inform the process going forward.

The process will be open, global, and transparent, and will ensure:

- *Full engagement* with all stakeholders and interested or affected parties, including discussions at relevant meetings. Dialogues and consultations take place globally in multiple forums and contribute to the consultation process ICANN is leading. A timeline of Internet governance events is available [here](#).
- *Global reach*, including translation of relevant materials.

ICANN Meetings are key milestones to assess progress in the consultation process.

## 5 What are the core elements of the process?

As outlined in the U.S. government's press release, ICANN anticipates that the transition process of the U.S. government's stewardship of the IANA Functions will be determined by a proposal developed by the multistakeholder community and will not be replaced with an intergovernmental solution.

The process will meet the following criteria:

- Meets the expectations of affected parties
- Maintains the openness of the Internet
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- Maintains the openness of the Internet

## 6 Is there a target date for when the oversight transition from the USG will be complete?

Depending on the progress of this process and flow of community consultation, ICANN and the community could be ready to complete the transition before the renewal of ICANN's contract with the U.S. government in September 2015.

### About Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is an internationally organized, non-profit corporation that has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. As a private-public partnership, ICANN is dedicated to preserving the operational stability of the Internet; to promoting competition; to achieving broad representation of global Internet communities; and to developing policy appropriate to its mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes. For more information please visit: <http://www.icann.org>.