



Newsletter

Issue 29 August 2018



AGIP Participates in MEAC-SIG School of Internet Governance in Egypt



CAIRO - Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) has recently participated in the 5th edition of the Middle East and Adjoining Countries School on Internet Governance (MEAC-SIG), which took place in Cairo, Egypt from August 5-9, 2018.

The event was hosted by the National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA) of Egypt, and jointly organized by the Arab World Internet Institute, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Internet Governance Project at Georgia Tech, the Internet Society, and RIPE NCC.

The intensive program of the event aimed at disseminating knowledge and exchanging experience and ensuring effective participation of the regional Internet community in national, regional, and global Internet Governance fora.

AGIP representative, Executive Director Mr.

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Charles Shaban, was one of the main speakers at the event where he delivered a presentation about Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs). The presentation focused on basic concepts of IP and explored the ways IRPs affect Internet Governance, such as battles over graduated response or takedowns of copyrighted content.

It is worth mentioning that Shaban has extensive experience in the field of Internet Governance and related public policy, good knowledge of the outputs of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005, and good knowledge of the global IGF process mechanisms.

Commenting on his participation, Shaban said: “It was one of the best schools on Internet Governance, the faculty had very knowledgeable lecturers, and the students showed eagerness and passion to learn the different aspects related to Internet Governance.”

Source: AGIP

ICANN Publishes Comprehensive Guide on What to Expect During the Root KSK Rollover



LOS ANGELES - As the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) prepares, for the first time ever, to change the cryptographic keys that help protect the Internet’s Domain Name System (DNS), the organization has published a guide to let people know what to expect.

The changing of the keys, known as the “Root Key Signing Key (KSK) Rollover”, is currently scheduled for 11 October 2018. The new ICANN guide is intended for those with all levels of technical expertise. It will

help everyone prepare for the rollover by detailing what to expect. It is part of the ICANN Organization’s ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the rollover and will also afford details about the rollover process.

Those, who will find the guide most useful, are operators of validating resolvers, seeking clear direction on what to look for once the rollover occurs; non-technical journalists, bloggers and others who intend to write about the rollover before, during, and after the event will also benefit. Additionally, the document can be of value researchers who will be monitoring the DNS for indications of resolver failure after the rollover occurs.

While ICANN expects user impact from the root KSK rollover to

be minimal, a small percentage of Internet users are expected to see problems in resolving domain names, which in lay terms means they will have problems reaching their online destination. There are currently a small number of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) validating recursive resolvers that are misconfigured, and some of the users relying upon these resolvers may experience problems. This document describes which users are most likely to see problems, and among those - what types of issues they will face at various times. To summarize:

Those who will not be affected:

- Users who rely on a resolver that has the new KSK
- Users who rely on a resolver that does not perform DNSSEC validation

Those who will be affected and how:

- If all of users' resolvers do not have the new KSK in their trust anchor configuration, the user will start seeing name resolution

failures (typically "server failure" or SERVFAIL errors) at some point within 48 hours of the rollover. NOTE: It is impossible to predict when the operators of affected resolvers will notice that validation is failing for them.

Data analysis suggests that more than 99% of users whose resolvers are validating will be unaffected by the KSK rollover. Users who use at least one resolver that is ready for the rollover will see no change in their use of the DNS or the Internet in general after the rollover. (The same is true for users whose resolvers do not perform DNSSEC validation at all. Current estimates are that about two-thirds of users are behind resolvers that do not yet perform DNSSEC validation.)

Lastly, while the rollover is currently planned to take place on 11 October 2018, this date is pending ratification by the ICANN Board.

Source: ICANN

Internet Grows to 339.8 Million Domain Name Registrations in the Second Quarter of 2018



RESTON - VeriSign, Inc., a global leader in domain names and internet security, announced that the second quarter of 2018 closed with approximately 339.8 million domain name registrations across all top-level domains (TLDs), an increase of approximately 6.0 million domain name registrations, or 1.8 percent, compared to the first quarter of 2018.^{1,2} Domain name registrations have grown by approximately 7.9 million, or 2.4 percent, year over year.^{1, 2}

The .com and .net TLDs had a combined total of approximately 149.7 million domain name registrations in the domain name base 3 at the end of the second quarter of 2018, an increase of approximately 1.4 million domain name registrations, or 0.9 percent, compared to the first quarter of 2018. The .com and .net TLDs had a combined increase of approximately 5.3 million domain name registrations, or 3.7 percent, year over year. As of June 30, 2018, the .com domain name base totaled approximately 135.6 million domain name registrations, while the .net domain name base totaled approximately 14.1 million domain name registrations.

New .com and .net domain name registrations totaled approximately 9.6 million at the end of the second quarter of 2018, compared to 9.2 million domain name registrations for the second quarter of 2017.

Verisign publishes the Domain Name Industry Brief to provide internet users throughout the world with statistical and analytical research and data on the domain name industry. The second quarter 2018 Domain Name Industry Brief, as well as previous reports, can be obtained at Verisign.com/DNIB.

Source: Verisign

German Appellate Court Rules on ICANN Request to Preserve WHOIS Data



LOS ANGELES - The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) announced in a press release that a German appeal court (Appellate Court of Cologne) has issued a decision on the injunction proceedings ICANN initiated against EPAG, a Germany-based, ICANN-accredited registrar that is part of the Tucows Group. The Appellate Court has determined that it would not issue an injunction against EPAG.

In making its ruling, the Appellate Court stated that the interpretation of provisions of the GDPR was not material to its decision, so there was no obligation to refer the matter to the European Court of Justice.

Rather, the Appellate Court simply found that it was not necessary for it to issue a preliminary injunction to avoid imminent and substantial disadvantages, and noted that ICANN could pursue its claims in the main proceedings in order to enforce the rights it asserts.

ICANN is considering its next steps, including possible additional filings before the German courts, as part of its public interest role in coordinating a decentralized global WHOIS for the generic top-level domain system and will provide additional information in the coming days.

On 25 May 2018, ICANN filed the injunction proceedings against EPAG. ICANN asked the Regional Court in Bonn, Germany for assistance in interpreting the GDPR in an effort to protect the data collected in WHOIS. ICANN sought a court ruling to ensure the continued collection of all WHOIS data. The intent was to assure that all such data remains available to parties that demonstrate a legitimate purpose to access it, and to seek clarification that under the GDPR, ICANN may continue to require such collection.

ICANN filed the proceedings because EPAG had informed ICANN that as of 25 May 2018, it would no longer collect administrative and technical contact information when it sells new domain name registrations. EPAG believes collection of that particular data would violate the GDPR. ICANN's contract with EPAG requires that information to be collected.

EPAG is one of over 2,500 registrars and registries that help ICANN maintain the global information resource of the WHOIS system. ICANN is not seeking to have its contracted parties violate the law. Put simply, EPAG's position spotlights a disagreement with ICANN and others as to how the GDPR should be interpreted.

On 30 May 2018, the Regional Court determined that it would not issue an injunction against EPAG. In rejecting the injunctive relief, the Court ruled that it would not require EPAG to collect the administrative and technical data for new registrations. However, the Court did not indicate in its ruling that collecting such data would be a violation of the GDPR. Rather, the Court said that the collection of the domain name registrant data should suffice in order to safeguard against misuse in connection with the domain name (such as criminal activity, infringement, or security problems).

The Court reasoned that because it is possible for a registrant to provide the same data elements for the registrant as for the administrative and technical contacts, ICANN did not demonstrate that it is necessary to collect additional data elements for those contacts. The Court also noted that a registrant could consent and provide administrative and technical contact data at its discretion.

On 13 June 2018, ICANN appealed the Regional Court's ruling to the Higher Regional Court of Cologne, Germany, and again asked for an injunction that would require EPAG to reinstate the collection of all WHOIS data required under EPAG's Registrar Accreditation Agreement with ICANN.

On 21 June 2018, the Regional Court in Bonn, Germany, decided to revisit its ruling in the injunction proceedings, which it has the option to do upon receipt of an appeal. On 18 July 2018, the Regional Court decided not to change its original determination not to issue an injunction against EPAG, and referred the matter to the Higher Regional Court in Cologne for the appeal.

In addition to the court proceedings, ICANN is continuing to pursue ongoing discussions with the European Commission and the European Data Protection Board to gain further clarification of the GDPR as it relates to the integrity of WHOIS services.

Source: ag-IP-News Agency

ICANN Board Reaffirms Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

LOS ANGELES - The Board of Directors of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) voted to reaffirm the “Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data.”

The Temporary Specification was originally approved by the Board on 17 May 2018, in order to establish temporary requirements for how ICANN and its contracted parties will comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements and community-developed policies in relation to the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Under the procedures for adopting Temporary Policies outlined in the Registry Agreement and Registrar Accreditation Agreement, the Board must reaffirm the adoption every 90 days, and may continue to do so for no more than a year.

Source: ICANN

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