Introducing IANA Root Management

Amman, November 2007

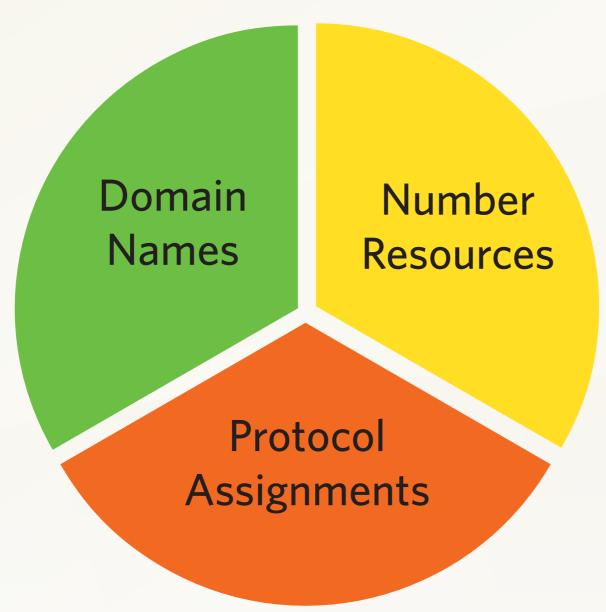
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What is IANA?

- the "Internet Assigned Numbers Authority"
- Quite likely the oldest Internet institution
 - ▶ first documented in 1972
- Responsible for global coordination of the Internet's unique names and numbers
- Since 1998, a service provided by ICANN
 - Previously operated in academia under US Government research contracts.
 - Internally within ICANN, a department





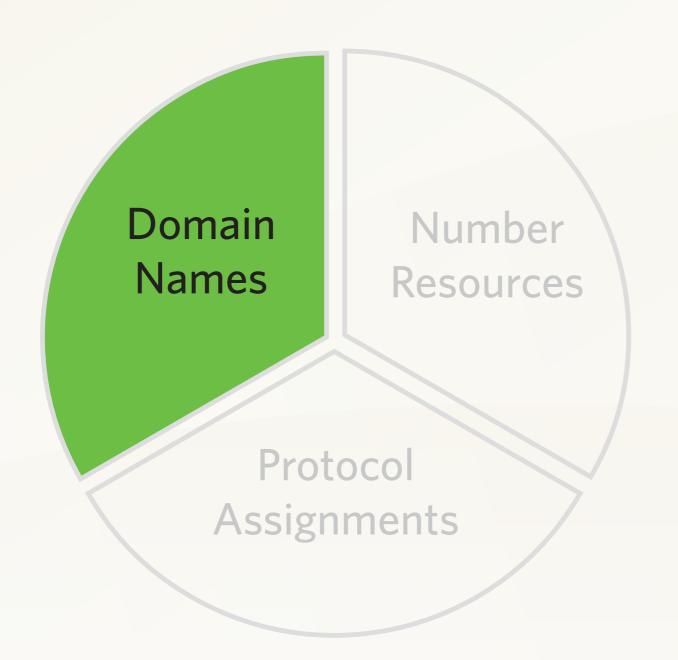
- IPv4 Addresses
- IPv6 Addresses
- AS Numbers

- Hundreds of other protocol systems that are nonhierarchical
- In liaison with IETF, IAB etc.

IANA's key roles

Coordinating Internet identifiers that need to be globally unique





- .INT

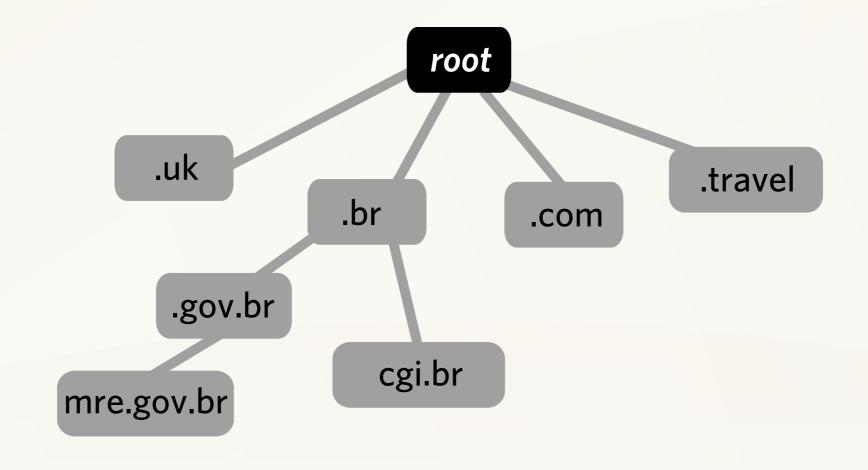
 Intergovernmental
 Treaty Organisations
- .ARPA

 Key internal
 technical systems
- DNS root zone

IANA's key roles

Domain name administration is a small, but important and highly visible, component.

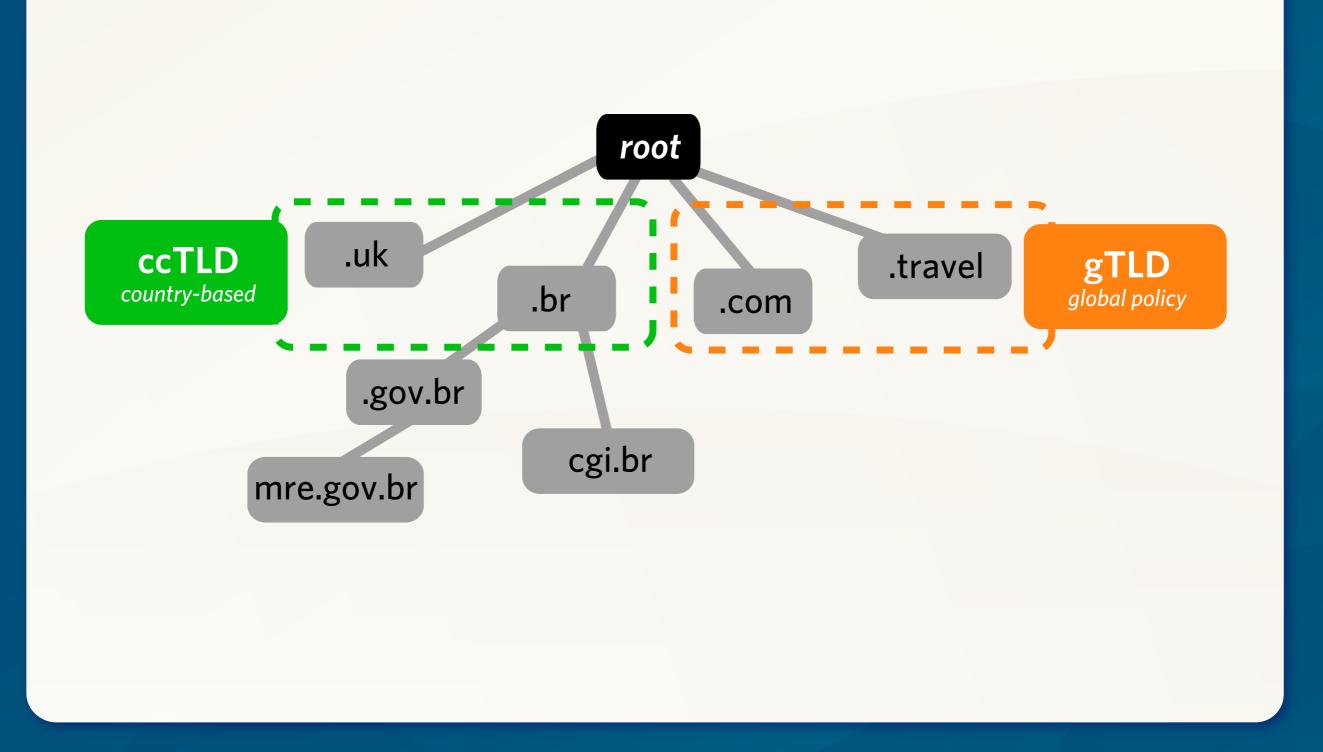




DNS structure

- Delegations are made down a "tree".
- root \rightarrow .br \rightarrow .gov.br \rightarrow mre.gov.br

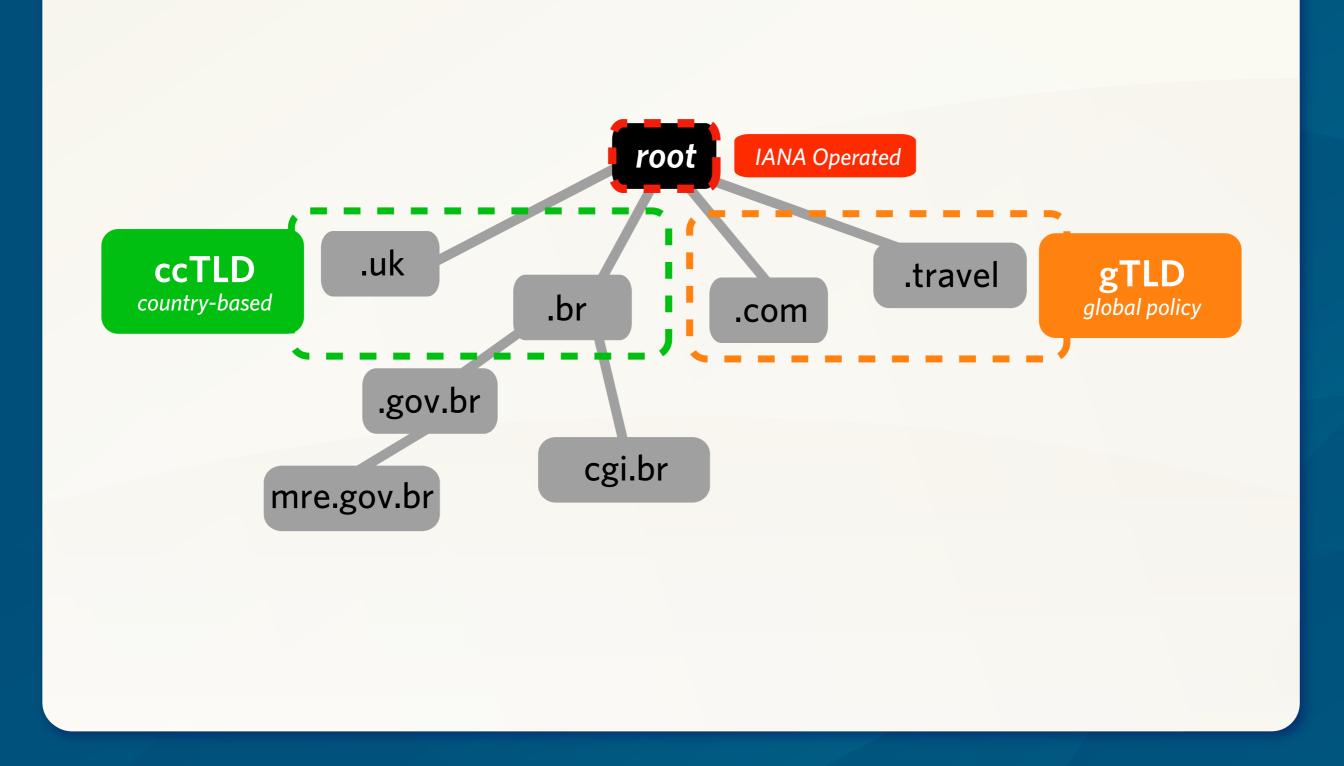




DNS structure

- "top-level domains" can be divided into:
 - country-codes: local policy, local law, subsidiarity
 - global: worldwide use, ICANN policy





DNS structure

- IANA operates the root
 - delegates operators of TLDs (incl. ccTLDs)





How we manage the root zone

- Maintain data for the DNS root
 - Technical data (NS records, "glue")
 - Social data (admin and tech contacts, sponsoring organisations, WHOIS, Registration URLs)
- Two types of changes
 - Routine (easy)
 - Confirm authenticity, check for technical problems, implement
 - Redelegations (hard)
 - Perform evaluation, submit to ICANN board, implement as appropriate.



Documents that guide us

- Domain Name Structure and Delegation (1994)
 - http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt
- Domain Name Structure and Delegation (1999)
 - http://www.icann.org/icp/icp1.htm
- The Governmental Advisory Committee Principles for Delegation and Administration of ccTLDs
 - http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gaccctldprinciples-23feb00.htm



What we don't do

- Don't set policy
 - We follow precedent where possible, encourage review of our operations by the community.
- Don't decide what the two letter codes should be
 - ▶ ISO 3166-1 standard provides these
- Don't decide who runs a ccTLD
 - The local Internet community decides this.
 - IANA performs due diligence to ensure requests accord with LIC view



What should you do?



Keep your data accurate

- IANA keeps official records on who runs each TLD
- If it is out of date, we don't know who is responsible any more
 - Causes problems if changes need to be made later
 - Also causes problems if someone needs to contact you for operational reasons
- Check your IANA records and update if necessary!



Checking your data

- Visit http://whois.iana.org
- Type in your TLD
- Review the data listed



Making changes to your data

- Download change template
 - http://www.iana.org/cctld/cctld-template.txt
- Fill in your updated details
 - For sections that don't require a change, just write "No change"
- Make sure the admin and tech contact are aware of the change you are going to submit
 - They must approve of changes
- Email it to root-mgmt@iana.org



IANA's processing steps

1. For all changes:

- Check the template is filled out correctly
- Check the current contacts agree to the change

2. For sponsoring organisation (SO) changes:

Perform a redelegation evaluation

3. For contact (AC and/or TC) changes:

Check the new contacts also agree

4. For name server (NS) changes:

Ensure name servers work and meet technical tests

5. For all changes:

- Seek authorisation from US Government
- Implement in the DNS root with VeriSign
- Update our database



Summary

- ccTLDs are operated in the public interest, within countries, involving local Internet community and local government.
- ▶ IANA manages the root zone, and therefore the delegations that allow TLDs to do their work.
- IANA's procedures to verify changes are thorough, to ensure the stability of the DNS root.
- It is important that ccTLD operator details are kept up to date with IANA to ensure Internet stability. If in doubt, talk to us.



Thank you for your attention!

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