

AltRootFoundation - new TLD's

The second internet! 2012 - excellent alternative to ICANN - AltRootFoundation.org

ICANN
6 Rond Point Schuman
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Belgium

Breda, 5 November 2012

Subject: a second worldwide authority for assigned names and numbers

Dear ICANN,

Out of courtesy we wanted to let you know that ICANN is no more the only one 'internet corporation for assigned names and numbers' – the AltRootFoundation, 2012, is the second one.

There is no legal ruling at all that says that Icann has worldwide monopoly over the assignment of names and numbers on the web.

ICANN is, as far as we know, a branch of the American Ministry of Commerce. Though the United States do a multitude of useful inventions, no one asked them to be the 'internet police force of the world'.

In order for the web to function, it might be preferable to not have too much ambiguity. That is why the AltRootFoundation strives to recognise the domain name extensions that have been approved by Icann.

Regarding the not yet approved domain name extensions, the AltRootFoundation regards itself as being at least as authoritative as Icann. In practice this means that we should strive towards communication about who has released what domain name extensions – in order to prevent confusion, the AltRootFoundation will hold a register with released extensions, like Icann and Iana do.

One may ask 'why second worldwide authority regarding names and numbers?' Though we do not feel we have to justify ourselves – there is fortunately still some freedom on earth – there are some points that have lead towards discontent regarding Icann:

- too large bureaucracy
- gross overpayment of employees, up to more than 1 M USD per year
- the constant communication that hundreds of new TLD's (Top Level Domain Names) might be released the coming years, but in reality: the realisation of appr. 1 new TLD per year. In 2011 this was 'XXX', standing for 'porn'; this choice might bring in the most money for Icann, but is not exactly the most helpful for humanity, and does not receive much enthusiasm in Christian, Jewish and Islamic circles (to put it mildly)

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- new applications have a change of appr. 0,5% of being approved, while being even more reasonable than 'XXX'
- the strong influence of brands on Icann, so Icann is inclined to enforce existing commercial world powers rather than stimulating competition by giving newcomers an extra chance.
- The high application costs for a new TLD extension (appr. 180.000 USD, excl. project management, travel, and bearing in mind the application has only a 0,5% chance to be approved).

People in the world will now have two ways to get a new extension: through Icann and through AltRootFoundation. Versus Icann, AltrootFoundation has the character of 'less American, more European, Russian, Asiatic, Arab, African'. Secondly we are prone to rather approve of generic TLD's than brand TLD's – we want to foster competition and possibilities to take part on the web, rather than strengthen oligopolies and shut out the rest. Thirdly, we would be ashamed of granting only 0,5% of (round it off) 200.000 USD-applications that are perfectly reasonable. There is reasonable consensus on above outside the US.

In order to realise new domain names, one also needs knowledge about DNS-trees, search engines and browsers. We all have this. We soon expect to launch our first TLD. We will inform you as soon as it is launched, if you mutually agree to, on your turn, notify us on new extensions released.

We chose to write to the Belgian branch of Icann, because Icann has no email (unlike we: info@altrootfoundation.org) and the Brussels branch is the quickest one for 'papermail' and for meetings.

We look forward to a fruitful cooperation as two equal authorities regarding the assignment of names and numbers.

Yours sincerely,

J Philippe Blankrt M.Sc.
Chairman of AltRootFoundation