

Internet Governance Forum 2014 Glossary of Abbreviations and Terms

August 2014

Produced by IFEX

1-10

O-day

A 0-day or zero-day threat is an attack that exploits a previously unknown vulnerability in a computer application, one that developers have not had time to address and patch. It is called a "zero-day" because the programmer has had zero days to fix the flaw (in other words, a patch is not available). Once a patch is available, it is no longer a "zero-day exploit". It is common for individuals or companies who discover zero-day attacks to sell them to government agencies for use in cyberwarfare.

A

AfriNIC— *The African Network Information Center*

AfriNIC is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), and is a non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration and registration of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in the Africa region.

ALAC — *At-Large Advisory Committee*

ICANN's At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) is responsible for considering and providing advice on the activities of the ICANN, as they relate to the interests of individual Internet users (the "At-Large" community).

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) is a global network of civil society organizations whose mission is to empower and support organizations, social movements and individuals in and through the use of information and communication technologies to build strategic communities and initiatives for the purpose of making meaningful contributions to equitable human development, social justice, participatory political processes and environmental sustainability.

APEC — *Asia-Pacific Economic Community (or Cooperation)*

APEC is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim countries or regions (styled 'member economies') to discuss the regional economy, cooperation, trade, and investment.

APNIC — *The Asia Pacific Network Information Centre*

APNIC is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), and is a non-profit membership organization responsible for the administration and registration of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan, Korea, China, and Australia.

ARIN – *American Registry for Internet Numbers*

ARIN is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR), and is a non-profit membership organization established for the purpose of the administration and registration of Internet number resources – including Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and Autonomous System Numbers – in Canada, many Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the United States. ARIN also develops consensus-based policies and facilitates the advancement of the Internet through information and educational outreach.

ARPA – *Advance Research Projects Agency (see DARPA)*

ASO – *Address Supporting Organization*

The ASO advises the ICANN Board of Directors on policy issues relating to the allocation and management of Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

B

Bandwidth

The amount of data you can send through a network or modem connection. It is usually measured in bits-per-second.

Broadband

Broadband Internet access, often shortened to "broadband Internet" or just "broadband", is a high data-transmission rate Internet connection.

C

Cache

A cache is a block of memory for temporary storage of data likely to be used again. A web browser uses a cache to store the pages and URLs of web sites you visit on your computer's hard drive, as accessing your hard disk is much faster than again downloading this data to your computer.

ccTLD – *Country Code Top Level Domain*

Two letter domains, such as .ca (Canada), .uk (United Kingdom), and .de (Germany) (for example), are called country code top level domains (ccTLDs) and correspond to a country, territory, or other geographic location. The rules and policies for registering domain names in the ccTLDs vary significantly and ccTLD registries limit use of the ccTLD to citizens of the corresponding country.

CERT – *Computer emergency response team*

Computer emergency response teams (CERT) are expert groups that handle computer security incidents. Alternative names for such groups include computer emergency readiness team and computer security incident response team (CSIRT). The history of CERTs is linked to the existence of malware, especially computer worms and viruses.

Chatham House Rule

The Chatham House Rule is a system for holding debates and discussion panels on controversial issues, named after the headquarters of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (situated in St. James's Square, London), also known as Chatham House, where the rule originated in June 1927.

At a meeting held under the Chatham House Rule, anyone who comes to the meeting is free to use information from the discussion, but is not allowed to reveal who made any comment. It is designed to increase openness of discussion.

The Cloud

A metaphor for the Internet (based on how it is depicted in computer network diagrams). The Cloud is a style of computing in which IT-related capabilities are provided “as a service”, allowing users to access technology-enabled services from the Internet (“in the cloud”) without knowledge of, expertise with, or control over the technology infrastructure that supports them.

CoE - *Council of Europe*

The Council of Europe is an international organization promoting co-operation between all countries of Europe¹ in the areas of legal standards, human rights, democratic development, the rule of law and cultural co-operation. It was founded in 1949, has 47 member states and is an entirely separate body from the European Union (EU). Unlike the EU, the Council of Europe cannot make binding laws.

The best-known bodies of the Council of Europe are the European Court of Human Rights, which enforces the European Convention on Human Rights. The Council of Europe's work has resulted in standards, charters and conventions to facilitate cooperation between European countries.

Cookie

A piece of information sent by a Web server to a user's browser. (A Web server is the computer that “hosts” a Web site, and responds to requests from a user's browser.) Cookies may include information such as login or registration identification, user preferences, online “shopping cart” information, etc. The browser saves the information, and sends it back to the Web server whenever the browser returns to the Web site. The Web server may use the cookie to customize the display it sends to the user, or it may keep track of the different pages within the site that the user accesses. Browsers may be configured to alert the user when a cookie is being sent, or to refuse to accept cookies. Some sites, however, cannot be accessed unless the browser accepts cookies.

¹ Canada, the United States, Japan, Mexico and the Holy See have official observer status with the Council of Europe.

Creative Commons

Creative Commons is a non-profit devoted to expanding the range of creative works available for others to build upon legally and to share. The organization has released several copyright-licenses known as Creative Commons (CC) licenses free of charge to the public. These licenses allow creators to communicate which rights they reserve, and which rights they waive for the benefit of recipients or other creators.

Cyberspace

This term is often used to refer to objects and identities that exist largely within the communication network itself, so that a web site, for example, might be metaphorically said to "exist in cyberspace."

Cybersquatting

The practice of registering a third party's intellectual property (or similarly spelt variants) as a domain name with the sole intention of approaching them with an offer to sell it to them sometimes at an inflated price. Some cybersquatters can attempt to coerce the individual or company into buying the name by posting inappropriate material on the web site.

Cyberwarfare

This term is often used to describe politically motivated hacking to conduct sabotage and espionage. It is a form of information warfare sometimes seen as analogous to conventional warfare.

D

DARPA — *Defense Advance Research Projects Agency*

DARPA is an agency of the United States Department of Defense responsible for the development of new technology for use by the military. DARPA has been responsible for funding the development of many technologies, including computer networking and the first hypertext system.

Digital Divide

The gap between those people with effective access to digital and information technology and those without. It includes the imbalances in physical access to technology as well as the imbalances in resources and skills needed to effectively participate in a digital world. It is the unequal access by some members of the society to information and communication technology, and the unequal acquisition of related skills. Groups often discussed in the context of a digital divide include gender, income, race and location. The term global digital divided refers to differences in technology access between countries.

DiploFoundation (*or Diplo*)

Diplo is a non-profit organization based in Malta, with offices in Geneva and Belgrade. Diplo's

mission is to strengthen the meaningful participation of all stakeholders in diplomacy, international relations, and policy areas such as Internet governance and climate change. It aims to increase the power of small and developing states to influence their own futures and development; increase international accountability and inclusivity; increase the legitimacy of international policy making; and improve global governance and international policy development.

DMCA – *Digital Millennium Copyright Act*

The DMCA is a 1998 United States copyright law that extended the reach of copyright, while limiting the liability of the providers of on-line services for copyright infringement by their users. The DMCA criminalizes production and dissemination of technology, devices, or services intended to circumvent measures (DRM) that control access to copyrighted works. It also criminalizes the act of circumventing an access control and heightens penalties for copyright infringement on the Internet.

DNS – *Domain Name System*

The Domain Name System (DNS) is a hierarchical distributed naming system for computers, services, or any resource connected to the Internet or a private network. Most prominently, it translates easily memorized domain names to the numerical IP addresses needed for the purpose of locating computer services and devices worldwide. The Domain Name System is an essential component of the functionality of the Internet.

An often-used analogy to explain the Domain Name System is that it serves as the phone book for the Internet by translating human-friendly computer hostnames into IP addresses. Unlike a phone book, the DNS can be quickly updated, allowing a service's location on the network to change without affecting the end users, who continue to use the same host name.

DNSSEC – *Domain Name System Security Extensions*

DNSSEC are a set of protocols that add a layer of security to the domain name system (DNS) lookup and exchange processes, which have become integral in accessing websites through the Internet. While DNSSEC cannot protect how data is distributed or who can access it, the extensions can authenticate the origin of data sent from a DNS server, verify the integrity of data and authenticate nonexistent DNS data.

DRM – *Digital Rights Management*

DRM is a generic term that refers to access control technologies used by hardware manufacturers, publishers, and copyright holders to limit usage of digital media or devices. The term is used to describe technologies, which make the unauthorized use of media or devices technically formidable. It can also refer to restrictions associated with specific instances of digital works or devices.

Domain Name Resolvers

Scattered across the Internet are thousands of computers – called "Domain Name Resolvers" or just plain "resolvers" – that routinely cache the information they receive from queries to the root

servers. These resolvers are located strategically with Internet Service Providers (ISPs) or institutional networks. They are used to respond to a user's request to resolve a domain name – that is, to find the corresponding IP address.

E

Encryption

Encryption is a process to encode the contents of message so as to hide it from outsiders and protect the confidentiality of messages. That is, it is a process of converting data in plain text into a seems-to-be meaningless data stream (called cipher text) using an algorithm (called cipher) and keys. The reverse process of converting cipher text back into plain text is called decryption.

ETNO – *European Telecommunications Networks Operators Association*

ETNO is the business association of Europe's telecommunications network operators.

EU – *European Union*

The European Union (EU) is a politico-economic union of 28 member states that are primarily located in Europe. The EU operates through a system of supranational independent institutions and intergovernmental negotiated decisions by the member states. Institutions of the EU include the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, the European Council, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Central Bank, the Court of Auditors, and the European Parliament.

The European Commission

The European Commission (EC) is the executive body of the European Union responsible for proposing legislation, implementing decisions, upholding the Union's treaties and day-to-day running of the EU.

F

FCC – *Federal Communications Commission*

The FCC is a US government agency established by the Communications Act of 1934 that regulates all non-Federal Government use of the radio spectrum (including radio and television broadcasting), all interstate telecommunications (wire, satellite and cable), and all international communications that originate or terminate in the United States.

G

GAC – *Governmental Advisory Committee*

The GAC is an advisory committee comprising appointed representatives of national governments, multi-national governmental organizations and treaty organizations, and distinct

economies. Its function is to advise the ICANN Board on matters of concern to governments. As an advisory committee, the GAC has no legal authority to act for ICANN, but will report its findings and recommendations to the ICANN Board.

GATS — *General Agreement on Trade in Services*

The GATS is a 1995 WTO treaty that emerged from Uruguay Round trade negotiations. GATS extended the multilateral trading system to the service sector. All members of the WTO are signatories to the GATS. The basic WTO principle of most favored nation treatment applies to GATS.

GDP — *Gross domestic product*

GDP is one measure of a country's national income and output. GDP is the total market value of all final goods and services produced within the country in a specified period of time. It is also considered the sum of a value added at every stage of production of all final goods and services produced within a country in a given period of time.

GNSO — *Generic Names Supporting Organization*

The GNSO is the successor to the responsibilities of the Domain Name Supporting Organization (DNSO; see below) that relate to the generic top-level domains. The GNSO is the body of six constituencies, as follows: the Commercial and Business constituency, the gTLD Registry constituency, the ISP constituency, the non-commercial constituency, the registrar's constituency, and the IP constituency.

Governance

The decisions that define expectations, grant power, or verify performance. It consists either of a separate process or of a specific part of management or leadership processes. Sometimes people set up a government to administer these processes and systems.

GSM — *Global System for Mobile Communication*

GSM is a popular standard for mobile phones. Its ubiquity made international roaming common between mobile phone operators, enabling subscribers to use phones in many parts of the world. GSM is a second-generation (2G) mobile phone system that made it easier to build data communications into the system.

gTLD — *Generic Top Level Domain*

A generic top-level domain (gTLD) is one of the categories of top-level domains (TLDs) maintained by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) for use in the Domain Name System of the Internet. It is visible to Internet users as the suffix at the end of a domain name. The core group of generic top-level domains consists of the com, info, net, and org domains.

H

HTML – *HyperText Markup Language*

HTML is the predominant markup language for Web pages. It provides a means to describe the structure of text-based information in a document and to supplement that text with interactive forms, embedded images, and other objects

I

IANA – *Internet Assigned Numbers Authority*

The IANA is the authority originally responsible for the oversight of IP address allocation, the coordination of the assignment of protocol parameters provided for in Internet technical standards, and the management of the DNS, including the delegation of top-level domains and oversight of the root name server system. Under ICANN, the IANA continues to distribute addresses to the Regional Internet Registries, coordinate with the IETF and others to assign protocol parameters, and oversee the operation of the DNS.

ICC – *International Chamber of Commerce*

The International Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the world. It includes hundreds of thousands of member companies in over 180 countries.

ICANN – *The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers*

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a US based, 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. Originally, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities performed these services under U.S. Government contract. ICANN now performs the IANA function. 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.

ICT – *Information and Communication Technology*

ICT is an umbrella term that includes all technologies for the manipulation and communication of information. ICT is sometimes used in preference to Information Technology (IT), particularly in the education and government communities. In the common usage it is often assumed that ICT is synonymous, but ICT is broader. ICT encompasses any medium to record information and technology for broadcasting information. It includes the wide variety of computing hardware, the rapidly developing personal hardware market comprising mobile phones, personal devices, MP3 players, and more. Technologies such as broadcasting and wireless mobile telecommunications

are explicitly included under ICT.

IDNs – *Internationalized Domain Names*

IDNs are 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. Many languages also use other types of digits than the European "0-9". The basic Latin alphabet together with the European-Arabic digits are, for the purpose of domain names, termed "ASCII characters" (ASCII = American Standard Code for Information Interchange). These are also included in the broader range of "Unicode characters" that provides the basis for IDNs.

IETF – *Internet Engineering Task Force*

The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) develops and promotes voluntary Internet standards, in particular the standards that comprise the Internet protocol suite (TCP/IP). It is an open standards organization, with no formal membership or membership requirements. All participants are volunteers. The IETF started out as an activity supported by the US federal government, but since 1993 it has operated as a standards development function under the auspices of the Internet Society, an international membership-based non-profit organization.

IGF – *Internet Governance Forum*

The IGF is a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on issues of Internet governance. The UN Secretary General established the IGF in July 2006. It first convened in October/November 2006.

IM – *Instant messaging*

IM is a technology (along with chat) that creates the possibility of real-time text-based communication between two or more participants over the Internet or some form of internal network/intranet.

Intellectual property

A legal field that refers to creations of the mind such as musical, literary, and artistic works; inventions; and symbols, names, images, and designs used in commerce, including copyrights, patents, and trademarks. Under intellectual property law, the holder of one of these abstract properties has certain exclusive rights to the creative work, commercial symbol, or invention by which it is covered.

Interconnection

The physical linking of a carrier's network with equipment or facilities not belonging to that network. The term may refer to a connection between a carrier's facilities and the equipment belonging to its customer, or to a connection between two or more carriers.

Internet

A global computer network consisting of interconnected networks using standardised communication protocols. The World Wide Web is accessible via the Internet.

Internet governance

Internet governance is the development and application of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet. Internet governance should not be confused with E-Governance, which refers to governments' use of technology to carry out their governing duties.

Interoperability

A property referring to the ability of diverse systems and organizations to work together (inter-operate). In telecommunications, the ability of systems, units, or forces to provide services to and accept services from other systems, units, or forces and to use the services exchanged to enable them to operate effectively together.

Intranet

A private network only for internal use that you would not find on the public Internet.

IP — *Internet Protocol*

The communications protocol underlying the Internet, IP allows large, geographically diverse networks of computers to communicate with each other quickly and economically over a variety of physical links. An Internet Protocol Address is the numerical address by which a location in the Internet is identified. Computers on the Internet use IP addresses to route traffic and establish connections among themselves; people generally use the human-friendly names made possible by the Domain Name System.

IPR — *Intellectual Property Rights*

IPR is a legal field related to creations of the mind such as musical, literary, and artistic works; inventions; and symbols, names, images, and designs used in commerce, including copyrights, trademarks, patents, and related rights. Under intellectual property law, the holder of one of these abstract properties has certain exclusive rights to the creative work, commercial symbol, or invention by which it is covered.

ISO — *International Organization for Standards*

ISO is an international-standard-setting body composed of representatives from various national standards organizations. ISO promulgates worldwide proprietary industrial and commercial standards.

ISOC — *The Internet Society*

ISOC is a US based international organization for global cooperation and coordination for the

Internet and its internet working technologies and applications. ISOC membership is open to any interested person.

ISP — *Internet Service Provider*

An ISP is a company, which 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.

ITU — *International Telecommunication Union*

The ITU was founded as the International Telegraph Union in 1865, its main tasks include standardization, allocation of the radio spectrum, and organizing interconnection arrangements between different countries to allow international phone calls. It is one of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

IXPs — *Internet exchange points*

An IXP is a physical infrastructure through which Internet service providers (ISPs) exchange Internet traffic between their networks (autonomous systems). IXPs reduce the portion of an ISP's traffic which must be delivered via their upstream transit providers, thereby reducing the average per-bit delivery cost of their service. Furthermore, the increased number of paths learned through the IXP improves routing efficiency and fault-tolerance.

L

LACNIC — *Latin American and Caribbean Internet Addresses Registry*

LACNIC is a Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Latin America and the Caribbean.

LTE — *Long Term Evolution*

LTE is the 3G standardization work begun by the 3rd Generation Partnership Project in late 2004. The goal is to define a set of high-level requirements for mobile communications systems to compete with other emerging cellular broadband technologies, particularly WiMAX.

M

Malware

Malware, short for malicious software, is any software used to disrupt computer operation, gather sensitive information, or gain access to private computer systems. Malware includes computer viruses, worms, trojan horses, ransomware, spyware, adware, scareware, and other malicious programs.

Multilateral

Involving or participated in by two or more nations or parties

Multi-stakeholder governance

The multi-stakeholder governance model a governance structure that seeks to bring stakeholders together to participate in the dialogue, decision making, and implementation of solutions to common problems or goals.

N

Network Infrastructure

The architecture, in terms of equipment and connections, that makes up a network.

Network Neutrality

Network neutrality (also net neutrality) is the principle that Internet service providers and governments should treat all data on the Internet equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, and modes of communication. Proponents often see net neutrality as an important component of an open Internet, where policies such as equal treatment of data and open web standards allow those on the Internet to easily communicate and conduct business without interference from a third party. A "closed Internet" refers to the opposite situation, in which established corporations or governments favor certain uses. A closed Internet may have restricted access to necessary web standards, artificially degrade some services, or explicitly filter out content.

NGO – *Non-governmental organization*

An NGO is a legally constituted organization created by private organizations or people with no participation or representation of any government. In the cases in which NGOs are funded totally or partially by governments, the NGO maintains its non-governmental status insofar as it excludes government representatives from membership in the organization.

NTIA - *The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)*

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) is an agency for the United States Department of Commerce (DOC) responsible for telecommunications and information policies. It, together with the US State Department is one of the key US Government entities involved in the Internet Governance ecosystem. NTIA maintains a relationship through ICANN through the latter's role of managing IANA for the former.

NTIA Transition

In March 2014 NTIA released a statement that they are intent on transitioning their part of the IANA functions away from NTIA and to the global stakeholder community.

The first step in this process is for ICANN to convene stakeholders and create a proposal for how the IANA functions will remain secure and unwavering. The press release outlined a number of principles which the ICANN-community drafted proposal must meet: Support and enhance the multistakeholder model; Maintain the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet DNS; Meet the needs and expectation of the global customers and partners of the IANA services; and, Maintain the openness of the Internet.



Open Source

A development methodology, which offers practical accessibility to a product's source goods and knowledge. Open source is one possible design approach. Others see open source as a critical strategic element of their operations. Open source gained popularity with the rise of the Internet, which provided access to diverse production models, communication paths, and interactive communities.

OS – *Operating System*

OS is the software component of a computer system that is responsible for the management and coordination of activities and the sharing of the resources of the computer. The operating system acts as a host for applications that are run on the machine.



Peering

Peering is a voluntary interconnection of administratively separate Internet networks for the purpose of exchanging traffic between the customers of each network. The pure definition of peering is settlement-free or “sender keeps all,” meaning that neither party pays the other for the exchanged traffic, instead, each derives revenue from its own customers. Peering requires physical interconnection of the networks, an exchange of routing information and is often accompanied by peering agreements of varying formality, from “handshake” to thick contracts.

Peer-to-peer (or *P2P*)

P2P networks are typically used for connecting nodes via largely ad hoc connections. P2P allows diverse connectivity between participants in a network rather than conventional centralized resources where a relatively low number of servers provide the core value to a service or application.

Phishing

Phishing attacks use both social engineering and technical subterfuge to steal consumers' personal identity data and financial account credentials. Social engineering schemes use spoofed emails to lead consumers to counterfeit websites designed to trick recipients into divulging financial data such as credit card numbers, account usernames, passwords and social security numbers.

R

Registrar

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.

The registrar you choose will ask you to provide various contact and technical information that makes up the registration. The registrar will then keep records of the contact information and submit the technical information to a central directory known as the "registry." This registry provides other computers on the Internet the information necessary to send you e-mail or to find your web site.

Registrant

The 'legal entity' that registered a specific domain name. They hold the right to use that domain name for a specified period of time, bound by terms and conditions of domain name registration set by the registrar.

Registry

The "Registry" is 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.

RFCs — *Request for comments*

A Request for Comments (RFC) is a publication of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Society, the principal technical development and standards-setting bodies for the Internet.

An RFC is authored by engineers and computer scientists in the form of a memorandum describing methods, behaviors, research, or innovations applicable to the working of the Internet and Internet-connected systems. It is submitted either for peer review or simply to convey new concepts, information, or (occasionally) engineering humor. The IETF adopts some of the proposals published as RFCs as Internet standards.

RFIDs — *Radio frequency identification devices*

RFIDs are small devices, also known as "tags" that can be applied to or incorporated into a product, animal, or person for the purpose of identification and tracking using radio waves. It relies on storing and remotely retrieving data using radio frequency tags or transponders.

RIPE and RIPE NCC — *Réseaux IP Européens*

RIPE is an open and voluntary organization, which consists of European Internet service providers. The RIPENCC acts as the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) 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 (LIRs), which then assign the addresses to end-users.

RIR — *Regional Internet Registry*

These not-for-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.

Root Servers

The root servers contain the IP addresses of all the TLD registries – both the global registries such as .com, .org, etc. and the 244 country-specific registries such as .fr (France), .cn (China), etc. This is critical information. If the information is not 100% correct or if it is ambiguous, it might not be possible to locate a key registry on the Internet. In DNS parlance, the information must be unique and authentic.

S

SMS — *Short Message Service*

SMS is a communications protocol allowing the interchange of short text messages between mobile telephone devices. The SMS technology has facilitated the development and growth of text messaging. SMS is so closely associated with text messaging and that in many countries it is used as a synonym for a text message or the act of sending a text message, even when a different protocol is being used.

SO — *Supporting Organizations*

The SOs are the three specialized advisory bodies that will advise the ICANN Board of Directors on issues relating to domain names (GNSO and CCNSO) and, IP addresses (ASO).

Spam

Spam is junk email sent on the Internet to a large number of recipients. Some email clients or servers have spam filters, which try to delete or move the spam messages.

SSAC — *Security and Stability Advisory Committee*

SSAC is an advisory committee of ICANN focused on the security and stability of the Internet's

naming and address allocation systems. Their charter includes a focus on risk analysis and auditing. SSAC consists of approximately 20 technical experts from industry and academia as well as operators of Internet root servers, registrars, and TLD registries.

Standard

A technical standard is an established norm or requirement. It is usually a formal document that establishes uniform engineering or technical criteria, methods, processes and practices. (A custom, convention, company product, or corporate standard, which becomes generally accepted and dominant is often called *ade facto* standard.) A technical standard may be developed privately or unilaterally by a corporation, regulatory body, or military. Standards can be developed by groups such as trade unions, and trade associations.

T

TCP/IP — *Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and the Internet Protocol (IP) (also known as The Internet Protocol Suite)*

TCP/IP and IP are the two early two networking protocols used for the Internet and other similar networks. TCP/IP, like many protocol suites, may be viewed as a set of layers. Each layer solves a set of problems involving the transmission of data, and provides a well-defined service to the upper layer protocols based on using services from some lower layers. Upper layers are logically closer to the user and deal with more abstract data, relying on lower layer protocols to translate data into forms that can eventually be physically transmitted. The TCP/IP model consists of four layers. From lowest to highest, these are the Link Layer, the Internet Layer, the Transport Layer, and the Application Layer.

TLD — *Top-level Domain*

TLDs are the names at the top of the DNS naming hierarchy. They appear in domain names as the string of letters following the last (rightmost) ".", such as "net" in "www.example.net". The administrator for a TLD controls what second-level names are recognized in that TLD. The administrators of the "root domain" or "root zone" control what TLDs are recognized by the DNS. Commonly used TLDs include .com, .net, .edu, .jp, .de, etc.

Transparency

The extent to which laws, regulations, agreements, and practices affecting international trade are open, clear, measurable, and verifiable.

U

UDRP — *Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy*

The Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP) is a process established by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for the resolution of disputes regarding the registration of internet domain names. The UDRP policy currently applies to all

.biz, .com, .info, .name, .net, and .org top-level domains, and some country code top-level domains.

W

W3C — *World Wide Web Consortium*

The W3C is an international industry consortium founded in October 1994 to develop common protocols that promote the evolution of the World Wide Web and ensure its interoperability. Services provided by the Consortium include: a repository of information about the World Wide Web for developers and users; reference code implementations to embody and promote standards; and various prototype and sample applications to demonstrate use of new technology.

WGIG — *Working Group on Internet Governance*

The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) was a United Nations multi-stakeholder Working group initiated after the 2003 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) first phase Summit in Geneva failed to agree on the future of Internet governance. The main activity of the WGIG was to deal with the following issues: (1) Develop a working definition of Internet Governance; (2) Identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet Governance; (3) Develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, existing international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries.

WHOIS

WHOIS (pronounced "**who is**"; not an acronym) is an Internet protocol that is used to query databases to obtain information about the registration of a domain name (or IP address). WHOIS services are typically used to identify domain holders for business purposes and to identify parties who are able to correct technical problems associated with the registered domain.

WIPO — *World Intellectual Property Organization*

WIPO is an intergovernmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland 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.

WSIS — *World Summit on Information Society*

WSIS was a two part UN-sponsored conference about information, communication and the information society that took place in 2003 in Geneva and in 2005 in Tunis. Its advocates aimed to bridge the “global digital divide” separating rich countries from poor countries by spreading access to the Internet in the developing world. One of the outcomes of the WSIS was the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which is a yearly forum to discuss Internet related policy issues.

WTO — *World Trade Organization*

The WTO is an international organization designed to supervise and liberalize international trade. The WTO came into being on 1 January 1, 1995, and is the successor to the GATT. The WTO deals with the rules of trade between most nations; it is responsible for negotiating and implementing new trade agreements, and is in charge of policing member countries' adherence to WTO agreements. The WTO has 153 members, which represents more than 95% of total world trade.

WWW – *World Wide Web*

The WWW is a system of interlinked hypertext documents accessed via the Internet. Web browsers are used to view Web pages that may contain text, images, videos, and other multimedia and navigate between them using hyperlinks. The World Wide Web was created in 1989 by Sir Tim Berners-Lee and released in 1992.

Some segments of your audience will be more active on social media platforms than others. Be clear in your plans: