The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

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ICANN Action Assures Equitable Allocation of Remaining IPv4 Internet Addresses

Washington, D.C. … March 9, 2009…. ICANN's Board of Directors has unanimously ratified a new policy that will assure the equitable global allocation of the last IPv4 Internet addresses.

The Board took the action on Friday (March 6), at the conclusion of ICANN's 34th International Public Meeting in Mexico City, culminating two years of intense study and review that filtered up to the Board from the 5 Regional Internet Registries. The registries are each responsible for allocating IP addresses within their respective global geographic regions.

IPv4 refers to the current numbering technology for IP addresses, which are the unique identifiers that allow computers to communicate with one another over the Internet.

Under the new policy, when the global pool of unused IPv4 addresses shrinks to approximately 80 million, the remaining addresses will automatically be evenly distributed between the five Regional Internet Registries.

"Under this system, developing countries will get the same allocation of those remaining IPv4 addresses, as highly industrialized nations," said Paul Twomey, President and Chief Executive Officer of ICANN. "And, since demand will be lower in those developing countries, the supply of IPv4 addresses will last longer and this will facilitate a smoother and more gradual transition by those regions into the next generation of Internet addresses, known as IPv6."

IPv6 is the new system that the Internet engineering community is using to cope with the increased demand for internet addresses. It is estimated that the remaining IPv4 addresses will be exhausted within the next few years.

ICANN is responsible for the global management of the IP address space, using policies that are developed by the regional Internet communities.

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You can find more information about IPv6 at:
http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/factsheet-ipv6-26oct07.pdf

About ICANN:

To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. **For more information please visit: www.icann.org.**