Possible Historic Expansion of Internet Address Names Takes Center Stage at Cartagena ICANN Meeting

ICANN Increases Real Time Access to Accommodate Escalating Interest by International Journalists

Cartagena, Colombia…. The upcoming meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is sparking worldwide attention since it could lead to some of the most sweeping changes in the Internet's history.

ICANN's Board of Directors will consider lifting limits on the number of new Internet address extensions, called generic-top level domains (gTLDs), which would expand the current list of 21 such extensions (such as .com, .net, etc.) to a vastly larger number of words or characters, marking a dramatic change in Internet addressing.

The Cartagena meeting will also be one of the most accessible for international journalists who may not be able to travel to Colombia.

"We've always worked to make our meeting sessions and news conferences accessible to off-site journalists," said Brad White, ICANN's Director of Global Media Affairs. "But this particular meeting is so important that we have upped our game to make certain that journalists have access, no matter where on the planet they are. We've increased our capacity to accommodate the growing interest of global news organizations."

All news conferences and briefings will be streamed via live Internet video feeds (as will many of the conference's sessions) and will also be accessible via toll free telephone links in most countries.

Here are the details:

> **WHAT:** ICANN's 39th Public Meeting

> **WHERE:** Cartagena de Indias Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala Convention & Exposition Center
> Cartagena, Colombia

> **PRSS ROOM:** Room 144 (first floor) of the Cartagena de las Indias Convention Center

> **WHEN:** 5-10 December

> **SCHEDULE:** http://cartagena39.icann.org/full-schedule

News Conference/Briefing Schedule:

NOTE: *All news conferences will be in English with Spanish translation available for on-site journalists. Off-site reporters can participate, via live web streaming at http://icann.adobeconnect.com/ctg39-press/ OR via toll free telephone numbers which can be found at http://www.icann.org/en/press/cartagena-de-indias-2010-adigo-ians-en.pdf. Once connected to the telephone conferencing center, enter **PIN: 3157** to be connected to the news conference.*

- **Opening News Conference**
  Date/Time: Monday, 6 December, 1230 – 1330 local time (1730 UTC)
  Location: Arsenal Room
  Participants: Rod Beckstrom – ICANN President and Chief Executive Officer and Peter Dengate Thrush, Chairman of the Board.
  Summary: ICANN's CEO and Board Chair talk with reporters about major issues that will be discussed during the ICANN Cartagena meeting.

- **IPv6 News Conference**
  Date/Time: Wednesday, 8 December, 1100-1200 local time (1600 UTC)
  Location: Pegasus Room
  Participants: Elise Gerich – ICANN Vice President for IANA and Axel Pawlik, Chair of the Number Resource Organization Executive Council.
  Summary: The continued expansion of the Internet and the innovation it spawns will be contingent on widespread adoption of the next generation of Internet addresses (IPv6). The number of available addresses using current standard protocol (IPv4) is quickly diminishing. Thus, the widespread adoption of IPv6 is vital.
  Background: http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/factsheet-ipv6-26oct07.pdf

- **New gTLD Briefing**
  Date/Time: Thursday, 9 December, 1100-1200 local time (1600 UTC)
  Location: Pegasus Room
  Participants: Akram Attalah, Chief Operating Officer and Kurt Pritz, Senior Vice President.
  Summary: New generic top-level domains (gTLDs) will likely be the hottest issue at the meeting. The possible expansion in the last portion of an Internet address from its current 21 generic names (i.e., .com, .net, etc.) to an infinite number of new ones could mark one of the biggest changes in the history of the Internet.
  Background: http://www.icann.org/en/topics/new-gtlds/program-en.htm

- **ICANN Board of Directors Meeting**
  Date/Time: Friday, 10 December, 1030-1600 local time (1530 UTC)
  Location: Getsemani Room
  Participants: Board of Directors
  Summary: The entire week of the 39th ICANN international meeting comes down to this Board meeting. Which resolutions will be passed and what they will mean for the future of the Internet?
  Online Access: http://cartagena39.icann.org/node/15521
  Board Resolutions: Resolutions and the Preliminary report will be posted here: http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/

- **Note:** Depending upon the length of the Board meeting, there may be a closing news conference and/or interview opportunities with ICANN's CEO and the Chairman of the Board immediately following the Board meeting. Details will be forthcoming in a later media advisory.

Audio and/or video recordings, along with photographs of the news conferences, will be posted at http://www.icann.org/en/press/ as soon as possible after each event.

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