

.COM Registry Agreement (RA) Amendment FAQs
26 September 2016

Q1: What is the status of the .COM registry agreement amendment?

A1: The Board approved an amendment to the .COM registry agreement at its recent meeting on 15 September 2016.

Q2: Were there any changes to the amendment approved by the Board from the draft that was posted for public comment?

A2: In order to address public comments, and to clarify that the amendment was not intended to change .com pricing, prior to the Board meeting, the Maximum Price for Registry Services provision contained in the .COM registry agreement was revised to clarify that the current maximum price would be through 30 November 2024.

Q3: Why did the Amendment change from the version, which was originally posted?

A3: Based on the public comments we received, the .com Registry Agreement amendment was revised to include language that clarified that the Maximum Price for Registry Services would also be extended through the term of the extension.

As background, on 30 June 2016 a proposed amendment to the .COM registry agreement was published for public comment. There were 99 comments, many requesting greater clarity about the longevity of the maximum price provision contained in the .COM registry agreement. A Board Meeting to discuss this was scheduled for 15 September 2016. In order to address public comments, and to clarify that the amendment was not intended to change .com pricing, prior to the Board meeting, the Maximum Price for Registry Services provision contained in the .COM registry agreement was revised to clarify that the current maximum price would be through 30 November 2024. Based on this, at the 15 September 2016 meeting the Board discussed and approved the proposed change. The final text of the amendment can be viewed here: [INSERT LINK].

Q4: Does the change mean that the maximum price for .COM will remain the same until 2024?

A4: The pricing provisions in the .COM registry agreement have always been as a result of discussions between Verisign and the United States Department of Commerce (“DOC”). To the extent any future discussions result in changes to the Cooperative Agreement between Verisign and the DOC, including possible relaxation to the pricing restrictions, ICANN and Verisign are obligated to engage in good faith negotiations to amend the .COM registry agreement as may be necessary for consistency with any changes to, or the termination or expiration of, the Cooperative Agreement. Material amendments to all registry agreements, including the .COM registry agreement, are published for public comment and may require Board approval.

Q5: Is there anything in the approved amendment that could lead to future changes to the .COM agreement?

A5: Yes. The approved amendment provides that, by the second anniversary of the effective date of the amendment, ICANN and Verisign are obligated to engage in good faith negotiations to amend the .COM registry agreement to preserve and enhance the security and stability of the Internet or the TLD. Also as noted in A4, under the approved amendment, the parties are obligated to engage in good faith negotiations to amend the .COM registry agreement as may be necessary for consistency with any changes to, or the termination or expiration of, the Cooperative Agreement. Material amendments to all registry agreements, including the .COM registry agreement, are posted for public comment and may

require Board approval.

Q6: Will there be a public release of the Board's actions following their meeting?

A6: Yes. All Board resolutions from the 15 September 2016 meeting have been published and can be found here: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-09-15-en>. Additionally, a preliminary report of the Board meeting is due to be published by 26 September 2016, and the full Board minutes are published following their approval at a subsequent Board meeting.

Q7: Has the Root Zone Maintainer Services Agreement between ICANN and Verisign been approved?

A7: Yes. The Board approved the final form of the Root Zone Maintainer Services Agreement on 9 August 2016 (see: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2016-08-09-en#2.c>).

Q8: What's next for the .COM amendment?

A8: The Board approved signing of the amendment to the .COM registry agreement, subject to the Root Zone Maintainer Services Agreement being executed. Once executed, the Root Zone Maintainer Services Agreement will become effective upon the successful IANA stewardship transition and Verisign's discharge from its root zone maintainer function under the Cooperative Agreement. It is anticipated that the .COM amendment and the Root Zone Maintainer Services Agreement will become effective together. Once the .COM registry amendment is approved by DOC, and executed by ICANN and Verisign, it will be published on the .COM registry agreement page found here: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/com-2012-12-07-en>.