

# The ICANN GNSO “Business Constituency”



## ICANN Business Constituency (BC) Comment

on

### Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use

28-Feb-2023

#### Background

This document is the response of the ICANN Business Constituency (BC), from the perspective of business users and registrants, as defined in our Charter. The mission of the BC is to ensure that ICANN policy positions are consistent with the development of an Internet that:

1. Promotes end-user confidence because it is a safe place to conduct business;
2. Is competitive in the supply of registry and registrar and related services; and
3. Is technically stable, secure and reliable.

#### Comment

This is the BC comment on the *Proposed Procedure for Selecting a Top-Level Domain String for Private Use* currently out for [Public Comment](#). The BC has previously submitted comments on name collisions with new TLDs: [Mar-2020](#); [Apr-2018](#); and [Apr-2014](#).

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure that a Top-Level Domain String is identified, and reserved for private use, and that this string is never delegated.

IANA staff will perform the procedure to select a Top-Level Domain String for private use, with approval of the string by the ICANN board.

As part of this selection process, IANA staff may consult with other parts of the ICANN org (SSAC, IAB, IESG) with final output being an IANA operational responsibility.

The **BC is supportive of this procedure for the selection of a Top-Level Domain String for private use**, and agrees that this is an IANA operational responsibility.

#### Preparation Stage:

The four criteria for string selection are:

1. *It is a valid DNS label.*
2. *It is not already delegated in the root zone.*
3. *It is not confusingly similar to another TLD in existence.*
4. *It is relatively short, memorable, and meaningful.*

The BC is supportive of criteria statements (1) and (2).

The BC agrees with the subjective nature of criteria statements (3) and (4), and that these will need to be addressed during the Selection process (below).

Selection Process:

The BC is **generally supportive** of the IANA selection process with “*a set of candidate strings*” developed, matching all four criteria (listed above), and a preferred candidate identified through deliberation with an internal evaluation team.

However, some elements of the selection process are vague - “*deliberation with an internal evaluation team*”, and issues resolution through consultation with relevant experts. These ought to be clarified in the interests of transparency.

Publication Process:

The BC is supportive of IANA publishing the chosen string and its selection process showing how the chosen string met all four criteria.

Public Comment Proceeding for the String:

The BC is supportive of a Public Comment proceeding the draft selection document publication by IANA, and community verification of IANA’s processes for string selection.

Board Resolution:

The BC is supportive of the Board Resolution process.

Finally, the BC would like to note that this has been an open issue for almost ten years, and a timely resolution of this issue is now required.

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This comment was drafted by Rajiv Prasad.

It was approved in accord with our charter.