

Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency (ISPCP)

Continued Awareness of relevant technology developments and their potential impact on the ICANN community

23 June 2017

Dear ICANN Board members

The ISPCP wrote to the ICANN Board in February 2017 drawing attention to the debates that were taking place within various organisations over the future use of the Digital Object Architecture (DOA). We noted that some of our members had also participated in a number of those discussions, for instance within the ITU. In addition we provided some background on the technical standards track that impacted DOA and referred to various position papers that had been produced.

It had become apparent that the level of debate taking place had brought DOA to the attention of many different players within the Internet eco-system and we noted that within the community there was clear evidence of a lack of understanding of what DOA really represented.

The ISPCP also noted that whilst it was not ICANN's role to become involved in, or comment on work taking place within other organisations, ICANN did have a responsibility to ensure that its own multi-stakeholder community were aware of issues that are viewed by some to have the potential to impact its core responsibilities, whether that is a correct reflection of the situation, a misunderstanding, or merely a myth.

Subsequently with the support of ICANN's office of the CTO, an excellent workshop was held during the Copenhagen meeting, covering not only DOA but also Blockchain and Bitcoin technologies. All three of those technologies are now the focus of intense and fast moving discussions within a number of organisations, the outcome of which is likely to have a significant input on the future of the Internet.

The ISPCP would like to express their thanks to ICANN for holding the technical session during the Copenhagen meeting. In addition we would encourage the ICANN Board to support the office of CTO within ICANN to;

- Continue their technical analysis of other relevant technologies (including Block Chain and Bitcoin)

- Undertake a full risk analysis of each of the technologies discussed during the DOA session.
- Consider how the DNS may be impacted by the aims and ambitions proposed by proponents of DOA technology and other technologies.
- Ensure any required workshops are focused towards facilitating a wide ranging critique of new technologies, as opposed to opportunities for promoters to showcase their wares.

Members of the ISPCP remain willing to engage with and support ICANN staff on this matter as required.

Regards,

Tony Holmes

Vice-Chairman ISPCP Constituency