

.gh Registry

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Agenda

- Technical Operations
- Registration Policies/Processes
- Created Domains
- Local Internet Community
- Future Operation & Capacity Building
- Challenges

Technical Operations

- NCS has operated .gh Registry since 1996
- NCS has since been Sponsoring Organization for .gh namespace
 - Primary DNS (austin.gh.com)
 - Secondary DNS (mantse.gh.com)
- Runs DNS on FreeBSD, Linux Platforms

Technical Operations

- In 2001, ghNIC was incorporated
 - Non-Profit Policy Corporation
 - Administrative and Technical Management Responsibility
- Registry operations contracted back to NCS

Technical Operations

- In November 2003 NCS shutdown over litigation on property
- Leading Engineer at Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) provided support to ensure continuous operation
- No break experienced during the period
- NCS acknowledges IETF for support

ghNIC - Board

- Board is overall decision making body
 - 2 Executive Directors (non-voting)
 - 5 Non-executive directors
- Board to approve all Policies
- Board ensures smooth running of Registry
- Executive Directors report to Board on day-to-day activities of registry

ghNIC Structure - PAC

- Policy Advisory Committee
 - Develops policy for registry
 - Receive inputs from secretariat, public for policy development
 - Sits three time in a year but uses mailing list
 - Send draft document to Board for approval
 - Reps from ISOC to chair, other reps from Registrants, GISPA, other stake holders

ghNIC Structure - Membership

- Two categories of membership
 - Registrars: Extraordinary members
 - Registrant: ordinary members
- All members can vote at AGM
- Ordinary members have one vote
- Extraordinary members have 3 votes

ghNIC Structure - Secretariat

- Secretariat runs day-to-day activities of Registry
- Headed by Executive Director
- Deputy Executive Director will be Director for Technical Services

ghNIC Operations

- Three Operational Departments:
 - Legal: Headed by a manager
 - Admin & Finance: Headed by a manager
 - Technical : Headed by the Deputy Executive Director
- Executive Director to over see day-to-day activities of registry

ghNIC Policy Framework

- Registry activity to be run by procedures, processes and policies
- General procedures, policies & processes on:
 - Domain Registration
 - Second Level Domain (SLD) Registration
 - Registrar Certification
 - Domain Name Dispute Resolution
- Bye laws to establish structure and operational activities of the Registry

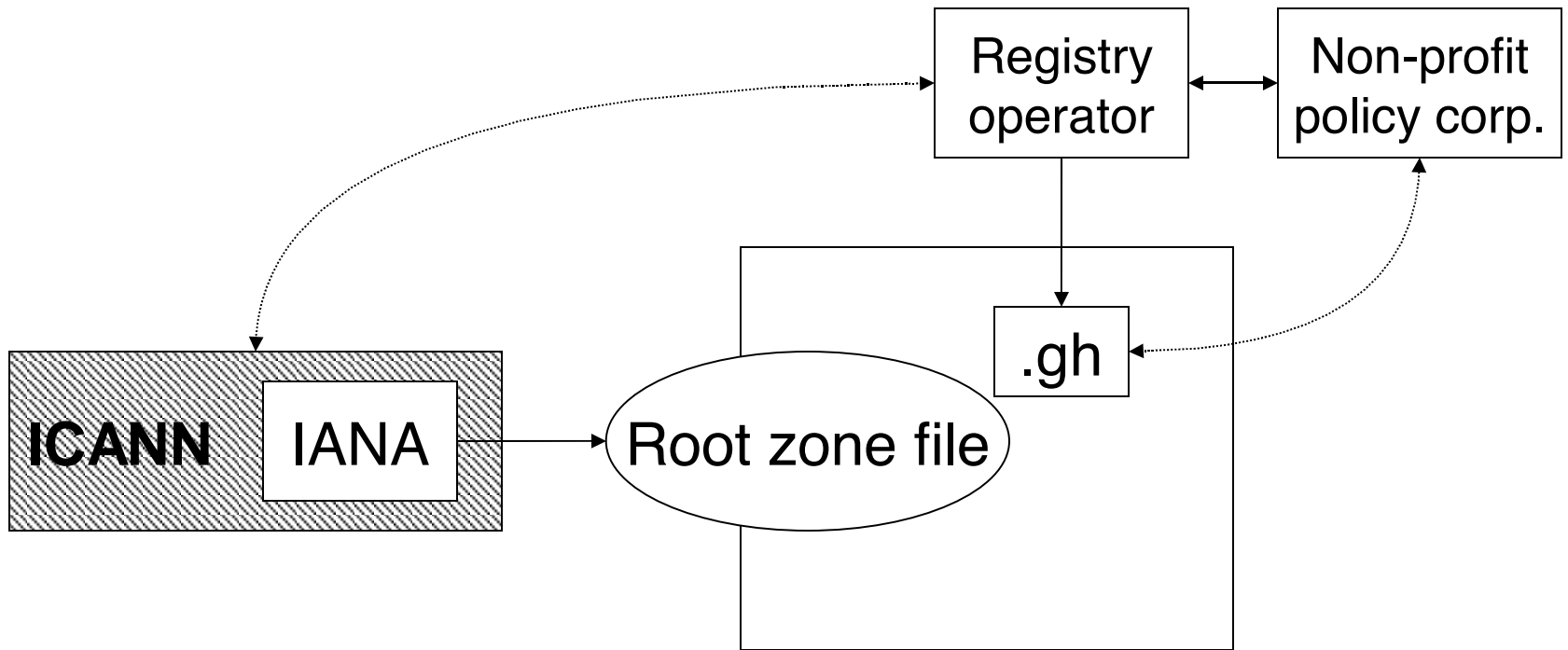
Registrar Certification Process

- Submit Expression of Interest Online
- Based on assessment, registry sends mail for commencement of certification process
- Prospect fills and submits application form + Application fee (\$500) + Reg Fee (\$500) + Deposit (\$500)
- Registry processes application. If not successful, Reg Fee + Deposit refunded
- Deposit is against future registrations to be made by Registrars

ADR - Proposal

- In conformity to UDRP
- Initial informal mediation to be made
- If informal mediation fails, registry will notify DR Service provider to begin formal arbitration
- Complainant to notify DR Service provider and pay arbitration fee
- Domain in dispute to remain registered to respondent until decision overturns that
- WIPO to be appointed as DR Service provider

.gh delegation



Domain Name Structure

- **Hierarchical** structure adopted
- Second Level Domain (SLD) registration policy developed
 - Done in June 2003
 - Domain registration directly under .gh was suspended
 - No renewal for already registered SLDs (directly under .gh) after expiry.
- Domains are registered on Third Level (xxx.com.gh, xxx.edu.gh,xxx.net.gh, xxx.org.gh, xxx.mil.gh)

Registration Policy

- Company should have been registered in Ghana. Company Registration details is required for application.
- The domain admin contact must be located in Ghana.
- At least two (2) nameservers are required
 - Primary DNS for registered domain under .gh are encouraged to be in Ghana but not required
 - and intended to help the development of Ghana's telecommunications and Information technology infrastructure.

...cont'd

- Domain names registered under the top-level .gh domain should be active within six months after registration
- Cost for registering a domain under the top-level .gh domain is \$35 a year.
- Domains will generally be registered under these sub-domains:
 - com.gh
 - edu.gh
 - gov.gh
 - org.gh
 - mil.gh
 - net.gh

Registration Process

- Steps:
 - 1st Step :- Choose Registrar or Register directly with registry
 - 2nd Step:- Read Ghana Presence Requirement and accept before proceeding
 - 3rd Step:- Fill online form or print PDF version for offline registration
 - 4th Step:- Submit form and wait for approval within 24hrs.

Local Internet Community

- The users of the ccTLD
- The local government or public authority
- ISPs and technical community
- Educational and non-commercial sectors
- Businesses
- Cultural and other non-commercial interests

Domains Created

- Total registered domains = 1873
 - com.gh has 1231
 - org.gh has 347

Created Domains

- Comment
 - Generally Very low registrations
 - Need to market .gh domains
 - .gov.gh domains free
 - Delegations planned for SLDs

Future Operation & Capacity Building

- Plans to develop national technical capacity for ccTLD management
- In collaboration with ghNIC plans are set for ccTLD training early next year
- Prospective registrars and SLD registry operators are target
- NCS to hand over SLD registry operations after transition period

Challenges

- Implementation of Online domain registration
- Whois service critical path for implementation – still not ready
- Marketing .gh Challenges ahead
- Capacity building over three year period

Thanks to Sponsors



First African ccTLD Workshop

“Building Local Internet Community”

28th to 30th May, 2007

**Mövenpick Resort Cairo-Pyramids
Cairo, Egypt**

Sponsors:

