

WHAT DOES ICANN DO?

To reach any device or thing connected to the Internet, you (or your search engine) must know their address – a name or a number. That address must be unique, so you can reliably find and connect to other devices, things, or information sources no matter where you are in the world. That's how the tens of thousands of physical networks appear and operate as 'One Internet'.

In concert with the technical operating community, ICANN maintains and administers the registries containing these unique addresses across the world ensuring the security, stability, and integrity of One Internet where we can reliably find each other.

Community-Driven Global Policy Development

To keep pace with dynamic technologies and rapid innovation, ICANN facilitates an open, consensus-driven, multistakeholder policy development process that is run from the bottom up.

Multistakeholder Model

Civil Society & Internet Users, the Private Sector, National & International Organizations, Governments, Research, Academic and Technical Communities are all represented.

Competition & Choice

From accrediting over 1000 registrars, to introducing new Top Level Domains (TLDs), ICANN works to expand consumer choice by fostering competition and innovation in the domain name marketplace.

WHICH FUNCTIONS DOES ICANN COORDINATE?

DNS

- Development of generic TLD policy
- Facilitation of country code TLD policy discussions
- Delegation of and changes to Top-level domains
- Management of the root's DNSSEC trust anchor
- Facilitating Root Server System discussions

Internet Numbers

- Approval of global number allocation policies
- Allocation of top-level blocks of Internet numbers
- Recognize Regional Internet Registries

Protocol Parameters

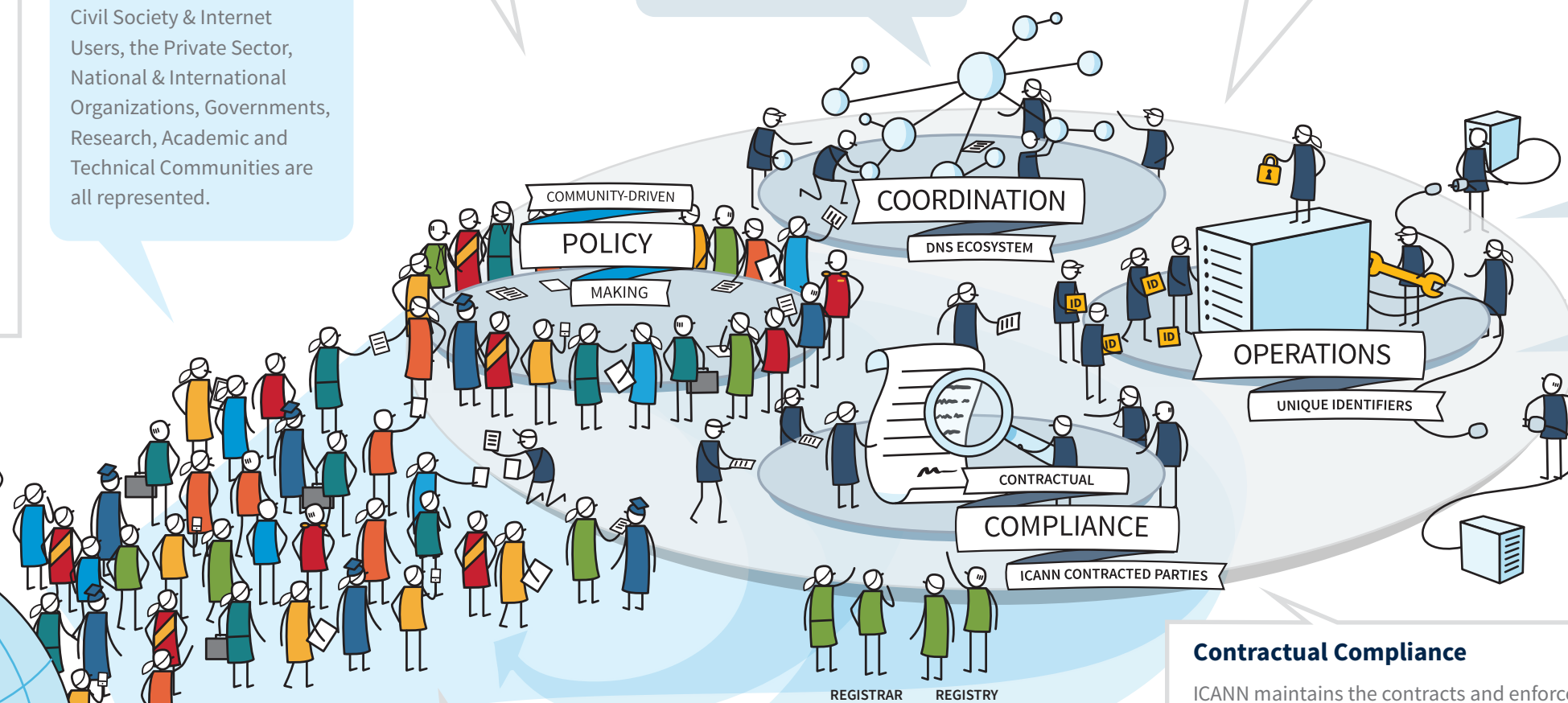
- Creation of and changes to protocol parameter registries
- Management of the Time Zone Database

Security & Stability

ICANN supports DNS security by supporting a secured DNS infrastructure (DNSSEC) and managing the top-level key of that infrastructure, requiring close coordination and collaboration with the community and volunteers around the world.

Interoperability

ICANN's work plays a role in helping the community to develop new technologies that flourish while maintaining interoperability across the global Internet. For example, the central publication point of unique protocol identifiers maintained by ICANN makes it easier for protocol developers to create protocols that allow communications using secure connections between users.



Contractual Compliance

ICANN maintains the contracts and enforces the consensus policies developed through the community-driven process embodied in those contracts. While we are not a regulator, we comply with the law and enforce community policies through contractual obligations.

HOW DO I PARTICIPATE?

- Sign up for updates at icann.org
- Join one of the many Public Comment Forums on ICANN's website
- Attend ICANN's Public Meetings in person or online to provide input at a Public Forum
- Join one of ICANN's Supporting Organizations or Advisory Committee
- Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn
- Subscribe to newsletters
- Participate in our fellows program
- Join a regional engagement group

WHO'S INVOLVED?

A number of groups, each of which represents a different interest and expertise on the Internet. All of them come together with the Board of Directors to shape policies and ICANN work.

Supporting Organizations

- Addressing
- Country Code Names
- Generic Names

Advisory Committees

- At-Large
- Governmental
- Root Server System
- Security & Stability

Technical Advisory Bodies

- Technical Experts Group
- Technical Liaisons from IETF, ETSI, W3C, ITU

Board of Directors

- 16 Community Appointed Board Members