



INTUG This Week

30 October 2009

INTUG December meeting

The Open Meeting is on Networked Computing, and will be a broad discussion on Unified Communications and Collaboration and Cloud Computing on Wednesday 9 December 2009, Issy-les Moulineaux, Paris. Registration can be made [on-line](#).

ICANN Meeting

Rosemary Sinclair attend the ICANN Meeting in Seoul. Two big announcements from the meeting were about new Generic Top Level domains (gTLDs) and introduction of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs)

ICANN has many parts. One is the Government Advisory Committee which now has over 90 members. Issues of interest to this Committee include:

- the need to take full account of the security, stability and resiliency issues including those identified in the recent root scaling reports. These concerned the potential cumulative effects of changes resulting from the introduction and implementation of DNSSEC, IDNs, new gTLDs and IPv6;
- the importance of further economic studies to improve the community's understanding of all the costs, benefits and market impacts;
- the need for more effective protection of intellectual property rights;
- the ongoing discussions within the community regarding structural separation between registries and registrars, price caps and the potential impacts on competition in the DNS market;
- the need to explore track differentiation between categories;
- the need to respect national public interests and sovereign rights regarding strings with geographical meaning;
- the need to assist developing countries which would otherwise be constrained by their limited access to financial and technical resources.

Internationalised Domain Names

The first Internet addresses containing non-Latin characters from start to finish will soon be online thanks to approval of the new Internationalized Domain Name Fast Track Process by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers board.

"The coming introduction of non-Latin characters represents the biggest technical change to the Internet since it was created four decades ago," said ICANN chairman Peter Dengate Thrush. "Right now Internet address endings are limited to Latin characters – A to Z. But the Fast Track Process is the first step in bringing the 100,000 characters of the languages of the world online for domain names."

ICANN's Fast Track Process launches on 16 November 2009. It will allow nations and territories to apply for Internet extensions reflecting their name – and made up of characters from their national language. If the applications meet criteria that includes government and community support and a stability evaluation, the applicants will be approved to start accepting registrations.

Mexico – Al Consumidor

As you read this, Mexico's fiscal and 2010 budget crisis enters the final stretch of negotiations among the several actors involved: the executive branch, political parties in both branches of the federal legislature, key media journalists and lobbyists for telecomm consortia -- with the tax-paying and service-consuming public largely excluded.

While originally proposed as a 4% tax on all telecomm services, excluding mobile telephony, legislators reduced the amount to 3%. As we write, legislators are discussing whether this tax should apply to fixed line AND mobile telephony plus cable and satellite television services, with one option excluding commercial Internet connections. Political party leaders are squirming to avoid responsibility for this SPECIAL TAX ON PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (IEPS in Spanish).

Two other issues remain prominent: 1) the concession terms for bidders for the two strands of dark fiber of the national network installed by the public Federal Power Commission (published kilometer amounts vary from 21k Km to 26K Km plus the 1k Km fiber network of the recently "liquidated" Central Power and Light Company in and around the nation's capital region). A few critics call for a "Social Coverage" clause for new concessionaires, specifying service obligations that, predictably, no major player wants; 2) the Chamber of Deputies has approved a postponement of 1.7-2.1GHz spectrum use rights payments for two years, arguing this will be an incentive for new market entrants. Both issues have generated considerable press commentary re future implications of the decisions taken or to be made soon.

UK - CMA

Progress of the Package has been held up over the issue of illegal file sharing. The "Triologue" committee of MEPs, Council and Commission discussed the issue last week and arrived at an agreed compromise text for "Amendment 138" that will now go to formal Conciliation process on 4 November. A copy of the agreed text for the compromise is available from David Harrington. The "mandatory" aspects of the previous text have been struck through and new wording inserted that has the overall effect of softening the impact of the clause and allowing Member States to interpret the clause as they wish."