

IANA Report on the Redlegation of the .CX Top-Level Domain

Subject: Request of Christmas Island Internet Administration Limited (CIIA) for the .CX Top-Level Domain

Date: January 2006

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), as part of the administrative functions associated with management of the Domain Name System root, is responsible for receiving requests for delegation and redelegation of top-level domains, investigating the circumstances relevant to those requests, and reporting on the requests.

This report gives the findings and conclusions of the IANA on its investigation of various requests for redelegation of .CX, the country-code top-level domain (ccTLD) for Christmas Island – an external territory of Australia.

As an external territory, the island is not afforded the full rights of statehood, and instead its law is under the purview of the Australian federal government, managed by the Department of Transport and Regional Services. Whilst there is a small municipal government on Christmas Island, the creation and implementation of communications regulation is conducted by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA).

Factual and Procedural Background

In 1997, the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute (USC-ISI), which then performed the IANA functions, approved a request for establishment of the .CX top-level domain. The domain was delegated on 23 April 1997 to Karinna Love of what became Planet Three Ltd., a company based in London, United Kingdom.

In 1999, the local Internet community on Christmas Island had expressed an interest in bringing the domain under local control, and initiated efforts to effect a redelegation.

Initially, an organization named “Dot CX Limited” was identified as an appropriate party to receive the delegation. In 2000, the organization submitted supporting documentation that there was agreement of the existing delegee to transfer control of the domain.

At the initial recognition of the Dot CX Limited, the Australian government required that the sponsoring organization enter into an agreement with ICANN within a period of time. For the next several years, Dot CX and ICANN engaged in numerous efforts to conclude an agreement. Proposals and counter-proposals were offered, but no agreement could be reached on terms.

During this impasse, IANA processed name server change requests that originated from Dot CX with the approval of Australia’s Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) – the relevant government ministry responsible for Internet governance. These

name server changes assured that the .CX domain remained active and reachable on the Internet. The requested changes to the Sponsoring Organization, Administrative Contact or Technical Contact were not fulfilled pending further coordination between the Christmas Island Shire Council, Australia's DCITA, and the individuals requesting the redelegation.

Following a period of discussion between Dot CX and IANA in 2005 on the requirements to proceed, a new redelegation request was submitted to the IANA in September 2005, with the endorsement of the Christmas Island Shire Council. The redelegation request identified the organization, now renamed "Christmas Island Internet Administration Limited" (CIIA), as the appropriate delegee of .CX. The application designated the Chairperson Teo Boon How of CIIA as the administrative contact, and the Chief Technical Officer Brad Waugh of CIIA as the technical contact.

In November 2005, the Australian government provided IANA with a statement in support of the redelegation, consenting to CIIA as the appropriate delegee.

IANA has this document on file, as well as documents that support CIIA's competence in terms of administrative and technical capabilities.

On 10 January 2006 the ICANN Board of Directors authorized the President of ICANN to move forward with the redelegation from Planet Three Ltd. to Christmas Island Internet Administration Limited (CIIA).

Evaluation

This report is being provided under the [contract for performance of the IANA function](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm) (<http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm>) between the United States Government and ICANN. Under that contract, ICANN performs the IANA function, which [includes receiving delegation and redelegation requests concerning ccTLDs](http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2) (<http://www.icann.org/general/iana-contract-17mar03.htm#C.2.1.1.2>), investigating the circumstances pertinent to those requests, making its recommendations, and reporting actions undertaken in connection with processing such requests.

In acting on redelegation requests, the IANA currently follows the practices summarized in "Internet Domain Name System Structure and Delegation" (ICP-1, <http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm>). ICP-1 represents an update of the portions of <http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt> which was issued in March 1994) dealing with ccTLDs, and reflects subsequent documents and the evolution of the policies followed by the IANA through May 1999. Relevant guidance is also provided in the GAC Principles.

In considering delegation or redelegation of a ccTLD, the IANA seeks input from persons significantly affected by the transfer, particularly those within the nation or territory which the ccTLD has been established to benefit. As noted in ICP-1 (<http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a>), the parties affected include the relevant government or public authority: "The desires of the government of a country with regard to delegation of a ccTLD are taken very seriously. The IANA will make them a major consideration in any TLD delegation/transfer discussions."

Importantly, there is no disagreement between the old and new delegees that the new manager be installed. In practice, the new delegee is responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and operation of the .CX zone at present, The currently listed delegee organization no longer exists, and the named AC and TC have not presented any challenge to the redelegation, or the choice of delegees. CIIA associated personnel are currently managing the domain's name servers and performing other functions necessary to keep the .CX domain functioning and active on the Internet.

Based on the materials submitted, and the IANA's evaluation, CIIA qualifies as the appropriate manager for the .CX registry. The request has the support of both the Australian government, and the municipal government of Christmas Island.

The GAC Principles serve as "best practices" to guide governments in assuming proper roles with respect to the Internet's naming system, which the GAC has observed is "a public resource . . . administered in the public or common interest." (<http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-ccTLDprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.3>) In general, they recognize that each government has the ultimate responsibility within its territory for its national public-policy objectives, but also that ICANN has the responsibility for ensuring that the Internet domain-name system continues to provide an effective and interoperable global naming system. The GAC Principles recommend that governments and ICANN pursue their respective roles by creating a framework for accountability memorialized in communications with each other and with the ccTLD manager

(see [clause 2, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#2)). The GAC Principles guide governments on how to responsibly structure their relations with ccTLD managers (see [clauses 5.5, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#5.5) and [clause 9, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9)). Among these specific principles, the best practices contemplate that governments will assist in ensuring that the ccTLD manager complies with ICANN policies related to global coordination of the Internet DNS ([clauses 9.1.7 and 9.1.8, http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7](http://www.icann.org/committees/gac/gac-cctldprinciples-23feb00.htm#9.1.7)).

The proposed redelegation will promote service to the local Internet community and will help assure continued Internet interoperability through the global technical coordination that ICANN was created to provide. In this regard, the recognition contained in the Christmas Island government's discussion of the need for close coordination between ICANN and the government is particularly noteworthy.

Conclusion

It is IANA's view that CIIA meets the established criteria for a redelegation. Not only does it provide evidentiary support for this, the parties involved are presently the *de facto* operators of .CX, which addresses a number of transition issues the IANA considers in requests of this type.

The IANA therefore concludes that the .CX domain should be redelegated to the CIIA as per their request.