



Dear Registry and Registrar Friends,

As we approach the end of 2023, ICANN wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to you for your invaluable contributions and collaboration throughout the year. Your commitment has played a pivotal role in the successful accomplishment of several key initiatives that have significantly shaped the domain name industry.

1. Approval of the Domain Name System (DNS) Abuse Global Amendments to the RAA and RA:

Your support and collaboration to educate your companies and fellow contracted parties of the mechanics and benefits of the amendments to the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) and the Registry Agreement (RA) have been invaluable. These amendments mark a significant step forward in fortifying the framework to combat DNS abuse and ensuring a safer online environment.

2. Launch of the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS):

We would like to express our gratitude for the registrars' active participation in the successful launch of the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS). The input from the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Small Team and the registrar small group have been instrumental in refining this pilot service, which now stands as a test bed to collect data and inform the next steps in enhancing access to nonpublic registration data.

3. RDAP RAA and RA Global Amendment:

Thanks to your active involvement, the global amendments to the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) reflect the community's commitment to advancing industry standards.

4. Progress Toward the Next Round of gTLD Domain Names:

As we embark on the journey towards the next round of generic top-level domain (gTLD) names, we look forward to your insights and cooperation in shaping the steps we will take to ensure a smooth, transparent, and inclusive process for the next expansion of the domain name system.

Your continued support and dedication to the mission of ICANN are critical in ensuring the stability and security of the Internet's unique identifier systems. We look forward to our continued collaboration and appreciate your contributions.

Two reminders;

1. Our offices will [close](#) for the holiday break from 01:00 UTC on Saturday, 23 December 2023, and will reopen at 16:00 UTC on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.
2. Annual Certification for 2023 will be due 20 January, 2024. On 2 January, registry operators will be prompted to submit information in the Naming Services portal (NSp) and registrars will be sent electronic notifications.

We wish you, your businesses, and your families a wonderful holiday and a prosperous new year.

Best Regards,

Russ Weinstein
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