

IANA Report on Redelegating of the .KZ Top-Level Domain

IANA Report

Subject: Request of NCMC for Redelegating of .KZ Top-Level Domain

Date: July 2005

The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (the 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 pertinent 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 the .KZ (Kazakhstan) country-code top-level domain (ccTLD).

Factual and Procedural Background

In 1994, the University of Southern California's Information Sciences Institute (which then performed the IANA functions) approved a request for establishment of the .KZ ccTLD. At that time and today, that two-letter code was and is set forth on the ISO 3166-1 list maintained by the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (ISO 3166/MA) as the approved alpha-2 code for Kazakhstan.

In September 1994, the .KZ ccTLD was delegated by Dr. Jon Postel (then in charge of the IANA function at the Information Sciences Institute) to Pavel Gusev, affiliated with the RelcomSL Company, and he was designated as the administrative and technical contact. In August of 1999 a non-profit organization called the Kazakh Network Information Center (KazNIC) was formed to manage the domain in the interest of the local Internet community in Kazakhstan. Also in August 1999, the ccTLD information was updated to reflect KazNIC Registry as the Supporting Organization. Mr. Gusev remained the sole contact for the organization. From the time of the original delegation in 1994 through the present time, Mr. Gusev and KazNIC have provided exemplary service to the Internet community of Kazakhstan.

In July of 2004 the Agency for Informatization and Communications of the Republic of Kazakhstan (the Agency), represented by Agency Chairman Birzhan Kaneshiev concluded an agreement with the Kazakhstan Association of IT Companies (the Association), represented by President Nurlan Isin regarding the management of the KZ ccTLD.

The Association is a non-profit, and organizes activities regarding the Information Technology needs of Kazakhstan. It was established in April 2004 and as of November 2004 incorporated 32 companies including software companies, system integrators, Internet providers, telecommunications companies, and others involved in the sector.

KazNIC is a member of the Association, and has been subcontracted by the Association to continue providing services for the ccTLD.

In 2004 the Kazakhstan Government chose to take a more active role in the management of the ccTLD, and during meetings with Mr. Gusev it was agreed that the Government would be given control of the domain. The Government of Kazakhstan then designated the Association as the appropriate contractor for that responsibility. In postal mail dated 8 July 2004 Mr. Birzhan Kaneshv indicated this intention to ICANN, and included a copy of the agreement between the Agency and the Association.

In November of 2004 Mr. Nurlan Isin, President of the Association sent the required documentation regarding the Association and its relationship with KazNIC.

While there have been occasional delays in the processing of this request due to difficulty in reaching relevant parties in Kazakhstan, both the outgoing Administrative Contact (Mr. Gusev) and the proposed Administrative Contact (Mr. Isin) have now indicated their full support of this redelegation effort. Mr. Gusev will remain the Technical Contact on behalf of KazNIC.

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 [RFC 1591 \(http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt\)](http://www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc1591.txt) which was issued in March 1994) dealing with ccTLDs, and reflects subsequent documents and 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 \(http://www.icann.org/icp/icp-1.htm#a\)](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."

Based on the materials submitted and the IANA's evaluation of the circumstances, the Association qualifies as an appropriate manager for the .KZ registry. It has the support of the Kazakhstan Government.

Mutual agreement of the old and the new delegees is a factor that ICANN takes very seriously when considering redelegation requests. Both the outgoing Administrative Contact (Mr. Gusev) and the proposed Administrative Contact (Mr. Isin) have indicated their full support of this redelegation effort

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 to be administered in the public interest. 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 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)).

According to the relevant communications, the Association is well-suited to be inclusive of, and accountable to, the Kazakhstan Internet community; and to operate through appropriate processes.

Conclusion

The structure proposed by the Association and endorsed by the Kazakhstan Government is to have the Association undertake management of the .KZ ccTLD under appropriate oversight of the Kazakhstan Government concerning the national policy interests. The Association and the Kazakhstan Government also acknowledge and support ICANN's responsibility for coordinating management of the DNS, including the .KZ ccTLD, to safeguard global technical coordination interests. In reviewing the request, in light of the Kazakhstan Government's endorsement of the Association as the appropriate manager, the IANA concludes that the .KZ ccTLD should be redelegated to the Kazakhstan Association of IT Companies.