

Nominet's Board of Directors met on 9 July 2003.

ICANN

The board was pleased to learn that, at the Montreal meeting of ICANN in June, the negotiations for the establishment of a Country-code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO) had been successful. The resulting proposals should still protect the rights of the ccTLDs and, for Nominet, retain the overriding principle that policy-making for .uk should be for the UK's Local Internet Community to determine. Clearly, an exception is where proven global interconnectivity issues have to be agreed among all those affected. The board supported in principle Nominet's becoming a member of the ccNSO provided that only those Bylaws of ICANN which affect ccTLDs apply to us and that the fees for membership are reasonable and fall into the budget for the financial year starting October 2003.

Top Level Name Servers

It should be noted that IANA has now incorporated the new set of top-level name servers for .uk into the root. This reflects significant progress in re-engineering Nominet's constellation of servers making them more geographically and structurally diverse. This programme continues with the aim of introducing at least one server in the US and incorporating servers running different implementations of the DNS and different versions of the key software.

Pricing

The board reviewed the company's financial forecast with a view to making pricing recommendations for the PAB's meeting in August. The board agreed a recommendation not to change the main registration and renewal fees of £5 (£80 for direct registrants and non-members). The board also agreed to retain the current prices for tag changes and registrant transfers, but agreed that the fees for multiple tag changes and registrant transfers should be capped at the price of two individual change/transfers provided that all details (other than the domain name itself) are strictly identical for all the domains in question. This change is subject to consideration by the PAB, and its implementation is subject to a detailed technical rollout plan. In addition, the board noted that the tag change system should permit a registrant to defer payment of the £15 fee as well as any outstanding registration or renewal fees to the incoming tag holder. If the tag holder is prepared to take on these fees they will be added to the tag holder's normal credit account. Implementation is again subject to technical development.

The board agreed to review prices again before the end of the year.

Operational Reports

There were 2,772 active members as at 1 July 2003. During June 17 new members were added and 8 members resigned. There were 3,359 active tag holders, with 882 having been withdrawn and 174 suspended. There were 70,039 new registrations during June: 38 were direct registrations and there were 69,036 renewals invoiced.

AGM 2003

The Board was pleased to meet many members, old and new, at the 2003 AGM, which was held in Leeds. As members have already been informed, the Council of Management election gave rise to a change in board membership for the coming year. Jonathan Robinson replaces Rob Blokzijl and joins the board for a two-year term.

Rob was first elected to the board at the company's first AGM at Heathrow Airport in 1996 and has brought his wide and diplomatic experience to Nominet's decision-making. In particular, he brought a useful non-UK perspective to the discussions, always emphasizing that the Internet's "rough consensus" mechanism has proven itself over the years and that Nominet should often take a pragmatic view. We wish him well for the future and, in particular, his continuing role as RIPE Chairman.

We also welcome Jonathan to the board and look forward to benefiting from his long experience as a customer of Nominet and his work in the registrar community of ICANN.