

What has
ICANN done to
make the internet
a safe place for
trademark owners
and users?

By: Jonathan Cohen

TMDN,Inc.

Aventum LLP (Consultant)

#### Before ICANN

- ♦ 1998 ....The IHAC Kidnap attempt by WIPO
- ♦ The positive result
- ♦ The Green Paper
- ♦ The White Paper
- ♦ ICANN is born

## ICANN .. The Early Years

March 4,1999 ICANN Singapore meeting: The GNSO (DNSO) is Born

- ♦ 1999 JCC founds the IPC (intellectual property Constituency) with the support of John Orange and FICPI
- ♦ May25,1999 ICANN Meeting in Berlin. The IPC is presented by JCC to ,and approved by, the Board of ICANN
- ♦ The First Working Group (WG) of ICANN is created. UDRP under the Chairmanship of JCC
- August 1999 ICANN meeting in Santiago, Chile. Following weeks of review of ,and negotiations concerning, and amendments to, the WIPO Draft UDRP the Chair of the UDRP WG presents a final Draft to the ICANN Board for approval.
- ♦ The UDRP is approved.
- ♦ Public Comments are received and reviewed in the Fall of 1999.
- ♦ All Registrars are bound by agreement with ICANN to follow UDRP
- ♦ UDRP becomes operational early December 1999.
- ♦ First UDRP decision is rendered in mid January 2000.

### WHOIS

- ♦ WHOIS allows a search for the details of the owner of a Domain name.
- ♦ Its roots go back to the IETF in 1982
- ♦ ICANN requires Registrars to maintain WHOIS records for all its Domain names and make those records available to the public.
- ♦ IP lawyers are able to quickly discover the name and address of cyber "criminals" for purposes of UDRP or Court Action

### NEW gTLDs

- ♦ In 1999 WG C was established to decide if new gTLDs should be introduced in to the ROOT.
- In June 2008 The Board adopted the GNSOs recommendation to introduce new gTLDs
- ♦ ICANN Staff is instructed to develop a plan to expand the number of gTLDS
- ♦ March 6,2009 The IRT is approved by the Board at the request of the IPC
- ♦ In 90 days the IRT, comprised of international IP experts ,develops a comprehensive number of RPMs (Rights Protection Mechanisms) to be adopted and followed by new gTLDs.
- ♦ After much discussion, debate and commentary the RPMs are approved and made part of the Agreement between ICANN and new gTLD owners INCLUDING IDNs
- Among the RPMs are a Trade mark Clearing House; Thick WHOIS; Uniform Rapid Suspension System (URS)

#### **GDPR**

- ♦ 2016:The EU introduces strict privacy laws which affect Internet operations under its jurisdiction.
- Under GDRP rules the WHOIS comes under threat
- ♦ ICANN loses court challenges in Germany to the GDRP
- ♦ ICANN establishes a WG to come up with a position on WHOIS to present to the EU whereby IP practitioners may have access to WHOIS information under GDPR regulations.
- ♦ The First stage of the work of the WG is completed including a comprehensive survey about the experience of users of WHOIS including questions about PHISHING and Malware.
- ♦ Stage 2 begins

# New gTLDs 2

- ♦ ICANN announces it is preparing to open up a second round of new gTLDS
- ♦ The IPC will now consider what if any new requirements from a Trademark perspective should be considered for the second round of new gTLDs

