

DO NOT LINK THE ROOT ZONE MAINTAINER AGREEMENT TO THE .COM AGREEMENT! DO NOT PROCEED AHEAD.

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ICANN is already in over its head with Verisign by the fact that ICANN faced a lawsuit and caved to Verisign in order to give Verisign presumptive right of renewal over the .COM extension. What is called Regulatory Capture of the .COM agreement.

However, this extension contract is tying the Root Zone Maintainer Agreement to the operations of the .COM domain name extension and SHOULD NOT BE DONE. If ICANN proceeds ahead it will be getting itself even deeper into a situation that relies on Verisign for management of the RZMA.

Instead, ICANN should seek to separate out the functions of operation of the .COM top level domain from the RZMA.

For example – why were the negotiations for the RZMA between ICANN and Verisign not made public? Why were these negotiations held in private? Where was a bid put out for the RZMA agreement? Why was nobody else allowed at the negotiation table?

We do not have anything against Verisign being awarded the RZMA for the time being. However, the .COM extension should in no way be linked to the RZMA. Even if it means ICANN (and eventually end users of the Internet) have to pay slightly more for the management of the RZMA, it is in the public's best interest to try and keep RZMA functions completely separate and UNLINKED from management of the .COM namespace. The RZMA should be controlled independently of the .COM namespace.

We therefore do not recommend ICANN proceed ahead and try to link the RZMA to the .COM contract per this early extension. Instead, all efforts should be taken to not make these two systems “inextricably intertwined”, but instead should be completely separate and not tied together in any way to the .COM agreement which further beds ICANN with Verisign! Even if Verisign is awarded the RZMA, it should in no way be related or tied to infrastructure that is already in a “presumptive right of renewal”. All this does is that it gives Verisign more power and control when it comes to future negotiations with ICANN, and we all know how that wound up last time when ICANN caved and did the world a disservice by granting Verisign an unwieldy profitable monopoly over the .COM domain extension.

We support a decentralized system whereby more organizations are a part of this system and instead of being at “over 100 locations”, can and should be hosted at potentially thousands of locations worldwide. And strongly disagree with tying the .COM contract to the RZMA any more than it already is.

DO NOT GIVE MORE POWER TO VERISIGN as it has shown how ruthless and monopolistic it can be when it comes to negotiations with ICANN.

Signed,
Anonymous