

The video game industry in and around Chicago is robust, diverse and growing. This is, in part, thanks to the area's ability to support an environment where large companies, small studios, community groups and self-employed individuals are all able to thrive.

However, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is currently considering approving some recommendations to the current rules surrounding the use of proxy/privacy services that threaten to harm this environment.

Some members of their working group are [recommending that any domain names that are actively used for commercial purposes be prohibited from using proxy/privacy services](#) - services which provide an essential layer of security for many domain owners.

Even for domains which may be allowed to use privacy and proxy services, additional proposed changes will make it dramatically easier for almost [any individual to request and receive that private, and often personal, information](#).

Whether it's Chicago's several large studios, [numerous small independent shops](#), dozens of freelancers or any of our many [community groups](#), the Board of the Indie City Collective (ICC) believes any rulings approving these recommendations could greatly affect our local developer community.

If ICANN decides to rule that that almost anyone can gain access to someone's private information without taking justifiable legal action you create undue burden on those individuals and organizations.

This might take the form of a freelance contractor who works from home and has their personal address listed and now has salespeople showing up to their apartment. Or it may be an executive for a large company - possibly listed as the domain's designated contact - who faces a barrage of online harassment simply because a consumer is upset the developer [did not include their favorite character in the game](#).

ICC was created to provide a home for those who make games or push the games space forward in the Chicagoland area. If developers – especially indie developers – are inundated with unnecessary disruptions to their work, if they feel compelled to take extra measures to protect themselves, their businesses or their communities, then the time, effort and financial costs they incur take away from their ability to support their livelihood as well as the local industry which brings much needed revenue and jobs to the Chicago area.

We strongly encourage the ICANN Board to reject the recommendations that would broadly prohibit the use of privacy/proxy services to protect domain owner's private information.

– The Board of Directors of Indie City Collective