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Internet Governance Project Newsletter
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...current events in Internet Governance and the activities of the Internet Governance Project.
<http://www.internetgovernance.org>

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<http://internetgovernance.org/news>>

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[1] Hold the Date: Internet Governance and Security May 17
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Symposium: Internet Governance and Security: Exploring the Relationship between Global and National Solutions
May 17, 2007
2:00-6:00 PM
Swiss Embassy
2900 Cathedral Ave. N.W.
Washington DC

This meeting will focus on the tensions and complementarities between global and national policy making for issues related to the security and privacy of commerce and communication on the Internet.

Most cyber security initiatives are undertaken at the national level. But the Internet is a global infrastructure and effective policy often requires a globally coordinated effort. New global institutions such as ICANN and the Internet Governance Forum have been created to meet the need for global coordination and policy development. Older international institutions, such as the ITU and the United Nations, also wish to play a role. And powerful national governments such as the United States and China can often exert international influence over Internet policy. Many times these different sources of authority work at cross purposes or compete for influence. Often there are disagreements or uncertainties about what is the proper role of nations, international organizations, the private sector and the technical community.

The symposium will explore these issues, attracting an elite audience of technical experts, policy academics, U.S. and international policy makers in government, and industry players. They will identify and discuss Internet governance issues such as the security of the domain name system (DNSSEC), spam and cybercrime, identity and identification, and private sector security regimes in sectors such as banking.

Three academic institutions are cooperating to define the program: Syracuse University School of Information Studies; the George Mason University Law School's Critical Infrastructure Protection Program; and The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Lausanne. At the conclusion of the event, the Swiss Embassy will host a reception for sponsors, organizers, speakers, and invited guests. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Brenden Kuerbis at bkuerbis@internetgovernance.org

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[2] Whois Taskforce Recommends Privacy-Enhancing OPoC Proposal

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An alliance of public interest advocates (led by the Non-Commercial Users Constituency) and the domain name registration industry succeeded in getting an ICANN Taskforce to recommend a new policy to protect domain name registrants from unrestricted harvesting and mining of their contact data by spammers, intellectual property lawyers, and law enforcement agencies. The Whois Task Force recommended a proposal to allow registrants to shield some of their contact data by using an "Operational Point of Contact" (OPoC).

Under the OPoC proposal, accredited registrars will only publish three types of registrant data in the public Whois: the domain name registrant's name, country, state/province and the complete contact information of an intermediary (the OPoC). This would allow registrants to only publish the contact details of the OPoC, rather than the administrative and technical contact details. In the case of an issue with the domain name, the OPoC would contact the registrant. The OPoC proposal also includes stronger mechanisms for correcting inaccurate Whois data. The domain name technical details would continue to be published.

The proposal does not include any new mechanism for access to data not published in Whois. There is strong pressure from law enforcement agencies and intellectual property rights holders to achieve some kind of "tiered access" that will allow them to search through the information at will.

Proponents of the OPoC proposal have pointed out that current practice allows law enforcement agencies and other data requestors to work directly with Registrars to arrange for access to specific contact data on a case by case basis provided that such practices are backed up with a statement of best practices that all registrars could employ. However, the Registry Constituency, which voted in favor of the OPOC proposal, believes that considerable work still needs to be done to address the issue of access to non-public Whois information by law enforcement and others with a legitimate need for access.

The compromise represents a significant victory for online privacy rights, yet still falls short of requiring law enforcement and intellectual property rights holders to follow due process of law in obtaining Whois data.

Final Task Force Report On Whois Services, see: <
http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois-privacy/whois-services-final-tf-report-12mar07.htm#_Toc161480260>

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[3] ICANN's New gTLD Process Alarms Free Expression Advocates

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Eight years after its creation, ICANN is finally closing in on defining a process for adding new top level domains to the root. But the procedure it is putting into place threatens to give any individual government complete veto power over the words, concepts or symbols ICANN permits to be used as a top level domain. ICANN's policy development task force has put forward as an overriding principle the notion that "[proposed TLD] strings should not be contrary to public policy as set out in advice from the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)."

For the complete story, see: <
http://internetgovernance.org/news.html#UNTakeOverInternetThroughIcann_022207>

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[4] ICANN't Keep a Contract?

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Law Professor Wendy Seltzer argues persuasively that ICANN needs to take the public interest more seriously in its approach to contractual governance:

"During the Registerfly controversy, which damaged tens of thousands of domain

name registrants when an industry bad actor stopped service, ICANN Vice President Paul Levins posted to the ICANN Blog:

ICANN is not a regulator. We rely mainly on contract law. We do not condone in any way whatsoever RegisterFly's business practice and behavior.

This is disingenuous. The Registerfly debacle shows why this view is wrong as a matter of law and policy. ICANN was told more than a year ago of customer service problems at Registerfly, but did nothing to respond to those complaints, including escrowing data, leaving the company's 200,000 registrants at risk of losing domain names or the ability to update them when Registerfly's business troubles escalated early this year."

Seltzer continues, "ICANN should recognize that the reason for its registrar contracts is precisely to benefit third parties: domain name registrants and those who rely on the domain name system. ICANN is not (or shouldn't be) accrediting registrars merely to have a larger pool of organizations paying fealty to it. Rather, it is imposing terms and conditions on registrars and, with an "ICANN accredited" seal, inviting the public to rely on those terms for a secure domain name registration.

In cases where ICANN fails to recognize a registrar's problems, concerned members of the public should be entitled to take action themselves. As well as enforcing public-benefit obligations on its own, ICANN should facilitate individual action by removing the "no third-party beneficiary" language from its contracts."

For the complete article, see: <
[http://wendy.seltzer.org/blog/archives/2007/03/15/if_icannt_keep_a_contract_le
t_the_public_enforce_it.html](http://wendy.seltzer.org/blog/archives/2007/03/15/if_icannt_keep_a_contract_le_t_the_public_enforce_it.html)>

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[5] European Summer School on Internet Governance
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EURO-SSIG: Interactive Learning in a Multistakeholder Environment
30 July - 4 August, 2007
Meissen, Germany
Website: <<http://www.euro-ssig.eu/>>
Application Deadline: May 15, 2007

The European Summer School on Internet Governance (EURO-SSIG) will help to promote the understanding of the different dimensions of Internet Governance as it was defined in the Final Report of the UN Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) in July 2005. It will bring together students from different stakeholder groups to support a practice oriented interactive learning in a multistakeholder environment. The EURO-SSIG offers 40 hours of lectures and seminars on the different aspects of Internet Governance by leading international experts. The programme covers lectures and round tables with leading professionals from government, private sector and civil society on on the technical, political, legal, socio-economic and cultural dimension of Internet Governance as well as theories on global governance in the information age and multistakeholderism.