

PROCESS AND POWER IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE

REFLECTIONS ON THE IANA TRANSITION

PRESENTATION AT RIPE 72
26 MAY 2016, 0900-1030

Jan Aart Scholte
University of Gothenburg

QUESTION

What does the currently unfolding IANA transition reveal about the workings of governance around critical Internet resources?

OUTLINE

- the IANA transition in summary
- institutional processes in the IANA transition
- structural power in the IANA transition
- lessons: the promises to build on
- lessons: the perils to be overcome

IANA TRANSITION CHRONOLOGY

- NTIA announcement, 14 March 2014
- ICG process, July 2014-October 2015
- CCWG-Accountability, Nov 2015-March 2016
- USG review, March 2016-??
- RZMA talks, August 2015-??
- Transition complete, 30 September 2016 (?)

NTIA
ANNOUNCEMENT
& CRITERIA



ICANN

ENHANCING ICANN ACCOUNTABILITY

**CCWG-
ACCOUNTABILITY**

WORKSTREAM 2

LINKAGE

**CWG-
STEWARDSHIP**

CRISP

IANAPLAN

ICG



**CCWG
PROPOSAL**

WORKSTREAM 1



**ICG
PROPOSAL**



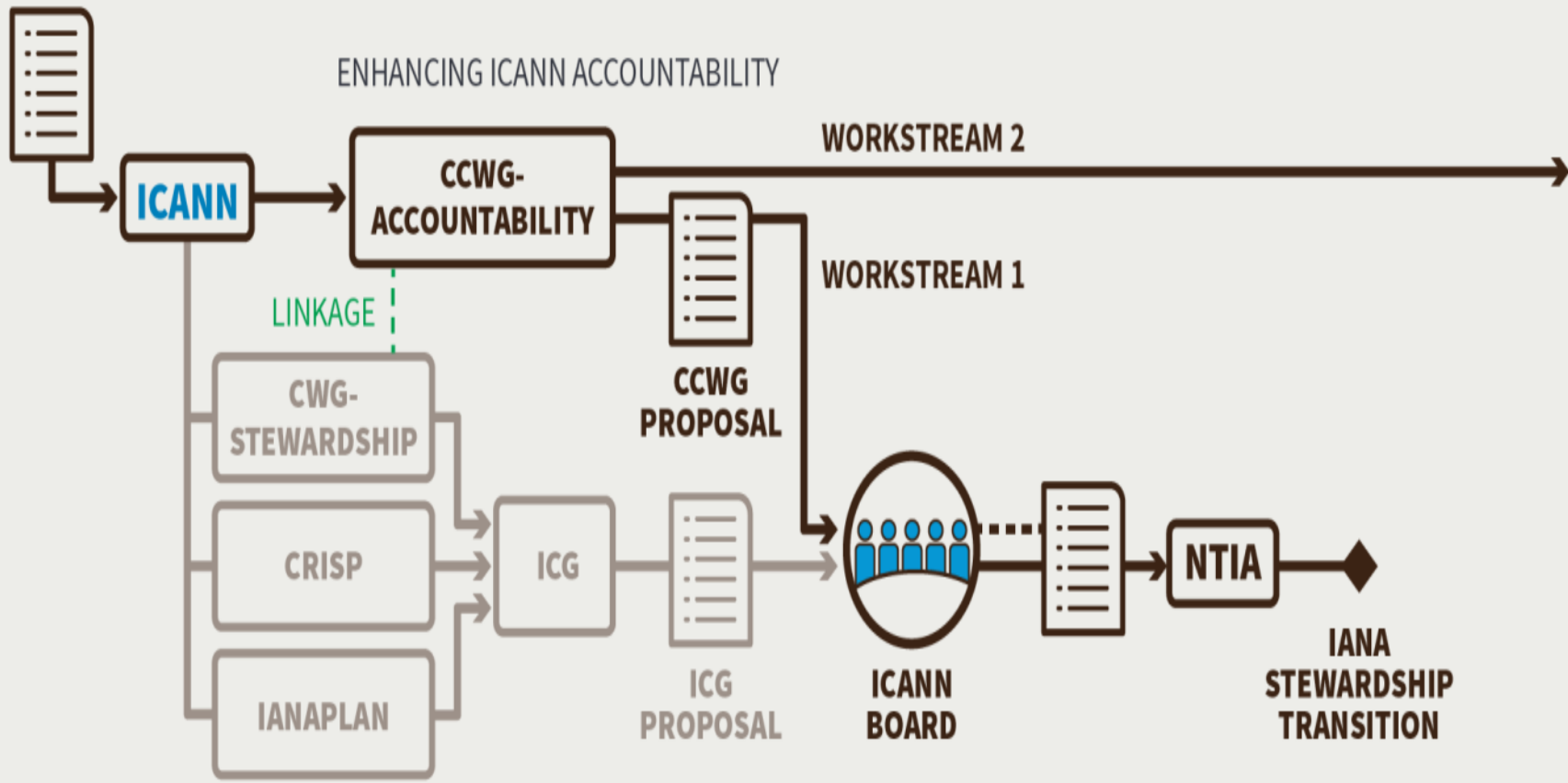
**ICANN
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NTIA

**IANA
STEWARDSHIP
TRANSITION**

IANA STEWARDSHIP TRANSITION COORDINATION



POLICY BY POLYCENTRIC NETWORK

- 1) transscalarity (interlinking global, regional, national and local agencies)
- 2) transsectorality (interlinking official, commercial and civil society actors)
- 3) diffusion (scattered over many sites)
- 4) fluidity (highly changeable over time)

POLICY BY POLYCENTRIC NETWORK

- 5) overlapping mandates (multiple agencies claim competence over the same issues)
- 6) ambiguous hierarchies (often unclear lines of command between agencies)
- 7) the absence of a final arbiter

INSTITUTIONAL POLYCENTRISM IN THE IANA TRANSITION

| | PUBLIC | PRIVATE and HYBRID |
|----------|--|--|
| GLOBAL | GAC, ITU, UN/WSIS+10 | ICANN, IETF, NRO, IAB, gTLD registries, ISOC, IGF, Verisign, W3C |
| REGIONAL | AU, EU, HLIG | RIRs, regional ccTLD associations, EuroDIG, regional IGFs |
| COUNTRY | NTIA, other state ministries and coordination bodies, US Congress, some ccTLDs | some ccTLD registries, national IGFs |
| LOCAL | | universities |

STRUCTURED POLYCENTRISM

'ORGANISED CHAOS'

- myths of horizontality and 'bottom-up' processes
- geopolitical structures
- social structures
- cultural structures
- power in polycentric networks as a function of intersecting hierarchies

POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE PROMISES

- richness (of information, insight, experience)
- creativity
- speed
- adaptability

POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE PROMISES

- responsiveness: addressing issues
- responsiveness: forum shopping
- relevance and quality
- democracy

POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- retooling
- navigating the labyrinths
- negotiating cultural diversity
- living with incoherence and uncertainty
- limiting duplication and inefficiency

POLYCENTRIC GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

- securing compliance
- checking special-interest capture
- obtaining accountability (of governance institutions)
- obtaining accountability (of stakeholder representatives)
- fostering access and turnover

MAIN TAKE-AWAY

- *The novelties of Internet governance give cause for celebration and worry.*
- *Embrace multistakeholderism, but do not do so uncritically.*

WHAT TO DO

- take care to locate oneself within wider polycentric policymaking networks
- be ever ready to renovate policy processes in order to maximise promises and minimise perils
- monitor and where necessary resist structural power, particularly where it generates arbitrary unfairness