

Combating DNS Abuse Through Clear Registry and Registrar Obligations



Since its inception, Identity Digital has been proud to help shape global internet policy through our leadership within the ICANN community. ICANN, or the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, ensures the global community has a place to come together to address technical challenges, exchange information, and develop policies that advance the mission of ensuring a stable, secure, and unified global internet.

As we prepare for the upcoming ICANN79 Community Forum in Puerto Rico, we take pride in our contributions to the critical work of tackling and resolving the genuine challenges within our internet ecosystem. Top of mind at this year's Community Forum will be the topic of recent developments to help identify and mitigate DNS Abuse, specifically phishing, malware, pharming, botnets and spam, when used as a delivery mechanism.

After two years of extensive work, involving comprehensive research and discussion with countless partners, we are proud of the meaningful improvements we have made to both the [2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement \(RAA\)](#) and [base generic top-level domain \(gTLD\) Registry Agreement \(Base RA\)](#). These substantial modifications will further promote the mitigation of DNS Abuse and provide greater accountability for registrars and registry operators, ensuring all claims of DNS Abuse are met with meaningful and prompt action. Moreover, these amendments grant ICANN Contractual Compliance the authority to take action against those who fail to promptly and adequately respond to well-substantiated claims of DNS Abuse. These modifications were voted on late last year and garnered overwhelming support from the larger ICANN community.

Scheduled to take effect in April, these changes represent a crucial stride forward in our ongoing efforts to combat DNS Abuse, but this is only one piece of the larger puzzle. Our work continues. In the coming months, we, along with our fellow stakeholder group members, will be focused on data gathering, measuring our success, and identifying potential challenges. At Identity Digital, we recognize that data-driven decision-making is the best possible way to safeguard our customers and uphold our commitments. That is precisely why we publish our quarterly report, the [Anti-Abuse Report](#). We must commit to performing this same level of analysis before making any additional adjustments to the registry and registrar agreements.

Moreover, we recognize that combatting DNS Abuse requires collaboration across various sectors. Whether it be registries and registrars, hosting providers, or online platforms, safeguarding the internet is a collective responsibility, and we're dedicated to fostering current partnerships while also forging new collaborations to achieve more together. Identity Digital looks forward to working with parties within and outside the ICANN multistakeholder community to continue the work started by these amendments to the RA and RAA.