

Country Code Names Supporting Organisation

6 December 2010

To: Peter Dengate Thrush – Chair ICANN
Cc: Rod Beckstrom

Dear Peter

Re: Board resolution on: “redirection”

On behalf of the ccNSO, I am writing to you in response to your request of June 2009, by Board resolution, to provide a report on mechanisms that could be employed to ensure that redirection and synthesis at the top level are effectively prohibited.

In October 2009, at the Seoul meeting, the ccNSO conducted an information session on redirection and synthesizing of DNS responses (“redirection”) to gain a better understanding of the issues involved, and invited members of SSAC and ccTLDs using redirection to present.

As a result, it was concluded that:

1. The vast majority of the ccTLDs do not use “redirection”.
2. In respect of the small number of ccTLDs who are “redirecting”, more information was needed, both to understand the issues associated with “redirection” and the need for the use of it.

The ccNSO Council therefore resolved to establish a study group to provide the ccTLD community and the ccNSO Council with a comprehensive overview and provide recommendations, if any, to deal with the issue.

In June 2010 the study group submitted its Final Report to the ccNSO Council. This report is attached to this letter. The Study Group noted during its work that behaviours of ccTLDs which could be qualified as “redirection” are not captured by RFC 1034, nor can these ccTLDs be identified unambiguously.

The ccNSO Council notes that of the eleven ccTLDs originally identified by ICANN as using “redirection”, five have ceased as a result of engaging them in the review.

Based on the study group final report, the ccNSO Council recommends that:

- ICANN should consider more clearly delineating which behaviours it seeks to target regarding this issue and develop an authoritative method to identify (cc)TLDs who are engaged in synthesis prior to taking any further steps.

- ICANN should engage in a full and frank dialogue with those ccTLDs concerned on their use of “redirection”, in order that both the reasons for use and possible harms are well understood and potential solutions are explored.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Disspain". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Chris Disspain