



7/10/2023

GDNR MEETING WITH LOCAL INTERNET COMMUNITY

Venue: NITA Conference Room

Date: 26th April 2023



Organization

GHANA DOMAIN NAME REGISTRY

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INTRODUCTION

The 2nd Local Internet Community (LIC) meeting was organized by the Ghana Domain Name Registry to officially welcome the point of contacts and discuss the roles they will play to help complete a successful transfer of .GH domain name management. The GDNR use the opportunity to strengthen the relationship between GDNR and the LIC. The meeting, which was a physical, lasted for two hours.

OPENING REMARKS

The Executive Director Mr. Asafu-Aidoo welcomed the point of contacts (PoCs) to the 2nd Local Internet Community meeting and stated that the Minister of Communications and Digitalization wanted to meet members of the LIC, but her schedule did not permit her to join the meeting. In our future meetings, the Minister will be there to address and meet with all members of the LIC.

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo mentioned that at the last LIC meeting, it was agreed that there should be a point of contact from each institution to have a continuity of LIC discussions, and he also emphasized that the aim was to develop the domain name space in Ghana and to do that, there should be meetings with the same persons to share ideas and grow.

OBJECTIVES

- Introduction of LIC Point of Contact
- Discussion on the roles of PoCs
- Discussion on why we need to accredit provisional registrars.

INTRODUCTION OF POCs

The chairman of the meeting outlined the process by which each PoC present will introduce him/herself.

Each person mentioned his/her name and the organization they represented.

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo then welcomed and congratulated the nominees.

DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF POCs

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo started the discussion by asking the nominees their understanding of the roles of PoCs and asked if they had any questions, they should ask so the discussion could start. Mr. Raymond Bill asked what their responsibilities are and what was expected of them, Mr. Asafu-Aidoo answered by saying that the PoCs are expected to facilitate every communication that comes from the GDNR to their organizations but there are some instances where there was the need for the head of the organization to take a particular specific action then the PoC will facilitate it. He stated that all PoCs are expected to attend all LIC meetings because LIC is designed to be a consultative group and being absent will not help grow a stronger LIC.

Madam Amma Amoako-Atta asked about the meeting plans for the LIC, Mr. Asafu-Aidoo responded that there were was a plan to have four meetings, but it might be more because the Minister had shown a great interest in what the community was doing and there was a plan to add one additional meeting for her and secondly it will depend on developments in the Domain Name Service (DNS) space in Ghana. He mentioned that we do not have registrars and currently, there are discussions to delegate the management of the .GH domain name to GDNR and when that is done there will be more meetings with the LIC to discuss policies that have been developed for inputs.

Mr. Richard Boateng suggested that there should be more private institutions such as Telcos and Ghana Internet Service Providers Association (GISPA) to be added to the LIC. He further said the delegation is key as it will open more avenues for Ghana to explore. He said Registrars will have the opportunity to invest and increase the area where we can host our resources. For those providing services here, some of their cloud systems are outside. There was a need to localize to cut down costs on the hosting services. Mr. Boateng said NITA is working very hard to incorporate Secure Socket Layer (SSL) for the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) which will help Ghana have a trusted registrar to sell SSL locally.

Mr. Abraham Fifi Selby suggested a Multistakeholder approach, he said there should be a requirement before you register a .GH. He recommended that we

involve the registrar's general department in the community because that was where businesses are registered. He also added that private and other organizations such as DPC, ISC², and Gridco should be included, they should be partnerships to make the LIC stronger. Mr. Fifi Selby stated that some individuals that work with state institutions still use Yahoo and Gmail for official duties which pose a security threat to the institution. Mr. Richard Boateng mentioned that the Minister gave a directive last year to all government institutions to use .GOV.GH emails for all official duties. He said most MDAs and MMDAs are being signed on to the smart workplace which will help sanitize the system

but there should be an orientation to educate IT officers across government institutions to set up policies that will guide electronic communications.

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo suggested that NITA, CSA, and GDNR could come together to organize an orientation for various IT officers from Ministries, Departments and Agencies and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs /MDAs) to help them understand the importance of using .GOV.GH for official communications. Mr. Benedict Sagoe further mentioned that the GDNR last year partnered with NITA and organized a virtual workshop for MMDAs on the importance of using .GOV.GH service for all official communications but going forward the GDNR will extend its partnership to CSA, DPC, and NITA to organize another workshop for MMDAs.

Mr. Selby proposed that we engage the various IT associations across the tertiary institutions and encourage them to buy .GH domain names for their websites or recommend them to their future customers. Mr. Boateng added that the price of .GH domain names should be looked at after the delegation process.

There was also a recommendation to invite the ISPs to be part of the LIC, Mr. Asafu- Aidoo said there was someone from GISPA on the GDNR board so the organizer should go through him to get a PoC from there.

Madam Amma Amoako-Atta asked whether the GDNR was looking to accredit registrars on a regional base, the chairman answered that registrars should meet the standard criteria and should be well established in Ghana and not geographically.

Ghana Dot Com was then asked to give an update on the state of domain

registrations, Mr. Delali mentioned that the active domain name registrations were 3000 and those inactive was 300. Mr. Richard equally added that .GOV.GH has 500 active domain names and .mail is around 40.

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo asked about the registration process of .GOV.GH and .COM.GH from both Ghana Dot Com and NITA, Mr. Justin Agbadokude said GDC has an online form where they receive data and input it into the registry system. Mr. Richard said an applicant must send a letter requesting the registration of the domain name on the letterhead of the requester. The request will go through verification and onward approval. Mr. Asafu-Aidoo proposed a partnership with NITA to build a system to fully automate the registration process of .GOV .GH.

Mr. Bill asked about the IANA checklist for delegation and how ready was the GDNR, Mr. Asafu-Aidoo answered that the GDNR is ready and will need the support of the LIC as part of the requirement from IANA. He further encouraged the LIC to come out with steps that will help improve the Internet ecosystem in Ghana. Mr. Raymond Bill insisted that the ISPs and GISPA would play an important role in the delegation process hence, organizers should make sure they are represented in the next LIC meeting. He also stated that the LIC would be ready to issue a support letter and make sure that the delegation is successfully done.

DISCUSSION ON WHY WE NEED TO ACCREDIT PROVISIONAL REGISTRARS

Mr. Asafu-Aidoo stated that the GDNR is planning to give provisional accreditation to potential registrars and give them orientation on what to do and what to expect. He instructed the organizers to make sure there were potential registrars in the next LIC meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The GDNR should organize more similar meetings to keep the LIC updated with the delegation process and the activities of the GDNR.
- The GDNR should invite more private bodies to the LIC meeting.

- The GDNR should partner with NITA to enforce the use of .GOV.GH domain names across MDAs/MMDAs

CONCLUSION

The meeting with the local Internet community PoCs was successful. The meeting saw in attendance important representatives from various organizations. The PoCs shared their perspectives and experiences with the.GH Domain Name Management. They were pleased with the progress of the work and encouraged the GDNR to hold more of such events.

APPENDIX

Local Internet Community Point of Contacts List

NAME OF INSTITUTION	NAMES OF NOMINEES	PRESENT AT THE LAST LIC MEETING	REASONS FOR NOT ATTENDING
National Communication Authority (NCA)	Mr. Raymond Bill/ Mrs. Ivy Hoetu	Yes	N/A
Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovation (MESTI)	Dennis Dela Setsoafia/ Mr. John Williams	Yes	N/A
Ministry of the Interior	Mr. Dominic Savio Numekeover	Yes	N/A
Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice	Madam Amma Amoako-Atta/ Mr. Paul Agyeman-Duah	Yes	N/A
Cyber Security Authority	Mr. Godfred Kumi Kwakye Ms. Jemima owusu-Tweneboahh	Yes	N/A
NITA	Richard Boateng	Yes	N/A
Data Protection Commission	Lawrence Otu-Nyarko	Yes	N/A
Institute of IT Professionals Ghana (IIPGH)	Richard Kafui Amanfu	No	He was caught up in another meeting
Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation		No	I followed up but there was no response
Ghana Communication Technology University	Dr. Kester Qist	No	He was caught up in another meeting
Ghana Chamber of Telecommunication	Mr. Kenneth Kwaku Ashigbey/ Mr. Louis Bobbie Osei	No	They both had separate meetings at NCA
Ghana Dot Com	Isaac Delali Nyarku Justin Agbadokude	Yes	N/A
Internet Society Ghana Chapter	Mrs. Muad Ashong Elliot Abraham Fifi Selby	Yes	N/A
Registrar General	No		I followed up but

Department			there was no response
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New Invitation

Ghanaian Academic Research Network (GARNET)	N/A	N/A	Invitation letter for POC sent
Ghana Internet Service Providers Association (GISPA)	N/A	N/A	Invitation letter for POC sent
Google Developers Group	N/A	N/A	Invitation letter for POC sent
Ghana Tech Lab	N/A	N/A	Invitation letter for POC sent



Attendees present at the 2023 Local Internet Community Meeting