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Title[1]

Internet Governance in Australia: Modelling Self-Regulatory Structures in the Domain Name System

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Key words

Australian Internet governance, regulatory structures, private sector regulation, domain names.

Abstract[3]

This paper sets out the development of Internet governance in Australia. It describes the history of the administration of the .au country code, the formation of a private sector not-for-profit regulatory structure and provides some commentary on particular aspects of the establishment of new models for managing the technical resources of the global Domain Name System (DNS).

The paper is part of a larger body of work for a doctoral dissertation on the globalisation of regulation and the development of a new regulatory economy. The key concepts for that work include discussion of:

- legislation and regulation
- sovereignty and stewardship

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[1] The initial ideas for this paper were presented at the UNSW seminar in May 2002 on internet governance.

[2] The author's biodata is provided at the end of the paper. Research assistance was provided by Bruce Arnold.

[3] The author was a member of the .au Domain Administration's Competition Model Advisory Panel prior to her election to the Board of Directors for the .au Domain Administration during 2001-2002. She is the immediate past Deputy Chair of the Board. She is actively involved in the ICANN community and has worked on both corporate and not-for-profit projects in the field. She is currently finalising her Doctoral dissertation – *The Globalisation of Regulation and its Impact on the Domain Name System: Domain Names and the New Regulatory Economy* - at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in the Faculty of Information Technology.

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- ownership and trusteeship

- national and international;

- commercial and non-commercial

The market context for this academic work includes the maturation of the domain name industry through the late 1990s and the dot com boom. At the same time, there was a significant push towards making the .au space far more competitive and commercial – for example, by ending Melbourne IT's monopoly over the registration of .com.au names. The significance of the re-delegation of the .au country code is also discussed.

The legislative and regulatory basis for the management of the .au DNS is now fairly stable with a small, solid administrative body running the policy functions and regulatory arm of the .au domain.

The implementation of changes to the .au and in particular, the introduction of new second level domains (2TLDs) will happen over the next few years.

This paper sheds some light expected regulatory developments and provides some commentary on the success of the regulatory model Australia has chosen.

Curriculum Vitae – Executive Summary

Liz began researching and writing about computers and the Internet in 1992 whilst university teaching in Japan. Since then she has completed a Masters in Communication (University of Canberra) on regulating the Internet and privacy (http://www.lizwilliams.net/ma_thesis.htm). She was awarded a University of Canberra Research Scholarship to complete her studies.

She is completing a doctoral dissertation - *The Globalisation of Regulation and its Impact on the Domain Name System: Domain Names and the New Regulatory Economy* - at the Queensland University of Technology's Faculty of Information Technology (http://www.lizwilliams.net/phdthesis.htm).   Liz was awarded a QUT Post Graduate Research Scholarship to complete her doctoral studies.

Liz Williams was an elected member of the Board of Directors for the .au Domain Administration (http://www.auda.org.au) in 2001 and 2002.   .auDA is responsible for the management of the .au country code registry, the conduct of registrars in Australia and the development of the domain name industry in Australia.

Liz also served as the Deputy Chair of the Board. Prior to joining the Board, Liz was an active member of the Competition Model Advisory Panel which provided detailed advice to the Board about the nature of competition in the Australian domain name market.

Whilst on the Board, Liz chaired the Registrar Code of Practice Committee which developed the mandatory Code of Practice for regulating registrar and reseller conduct. This Committee involved working on the interim Code of Conduct; marshalling resources and commitment from a wide variety of stakeholders and producing a document that was submitted to the Board for approval. In addition, Liz was an active member of the Membership Sub-Committee, responsible for determining a new membership structure, fees and charges for membership and member benefits.

At an international level, Liz has been very active in ICANN's Registrars' Constituency, working on diverse issues such as the development of policies for the transfer and deletion of domain names and the development of policy on new registry services. In addition she conducted a comprehensive review of the Registrars' Constituency By-Laws to enable the Constituency to work more effectively.

She has also been involved in the ccTLD constituency as a member of the .auDA Board. She is on the .cx Policy Advisory Board and assisted the DOT CX corporation with their negotiations with the Commonwealth of Australia and ICANN on key re-delegation issues.

Liz has advised the Pacific Island Forum Secretariat on domain name system governance issues and opportunities for Pacific nations to participate more actively in ICANN processes and activities.

She has an ongoing commitment to PIF to provide advice and assistance on a wide range of Internet governance issues.

In addition to her work on Internet governance, Liz is an expert in telecommunications regulation and policy. She is currently managing a large telecommunications policy formulation and capacity building project for the Asian Development Bank providing advice to the governments of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos.   She is based in Hanoi and travels to Cambodia and Laos on a regular basis.

She specialises in facilitating the development of regulatory structures and corporate governance models to build capacity within institutions. She has worked with a range of private sector and government clients in both developed and developing countries.

Liz has been active in the APEC Telecommunications Working Group for many years and has completed APEC funded projects, in conjunction with AusAid on regulatory structures in APEC economies. Liz has appeared regularly before government policy-making bodies and legislators to advocate positions on telecommunications matters including competition policy and regulation, technical standards and Internet governance.

She previously held a senior position at British Telecom Asia Pacific, where she was responsible for all regulatory matters in Australia and, in an Asia Pacific regional capacity, for all Internet-related regulation.

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