

The ONLY way the NTIA can make sure that it follows its own mandate “to ensure that the Internet is open, secure, and providing maximum benefits to the American people” is to have oversight authority over Internet functions.

The multistakeholder model will not work!

Absent any oversight or direction over ICANN, the Internet will change over time, and as a result, new technologies will be developed and replace the DNS entirely.

Case in point, look at what just happened with GDPR and ICANN last month. In a matter of weeks, the GDPR forced fundamental changes on the entire DNS industry:

- made it more difficult to track bad behavior on the internet (criminals, anti-phishing, anti-spyware, trademark enforcement, local law enforcement, etc.)
- made domain transfers less safe (registrars no longer require FOA to verify proof of ownership.)

ICANN is now beholden to the European Union - and at this very point in time, I would argue that the EU has more power and influence over ICANN than the United States. (way to go EU!)

How did this happen? Even though the United States created the Internet, the IANA Functions transitioned away from the United States in 2012 to the global “multistakeholder” model. As a result, the US no longer has oversight.

Thus, it will only be a matter of time until another country forces additional changes to the DNS. How long will it take for Russia or Australia to pass new legislation which forces ICANN’s hand? Will Vietnam’s recently passed Cybersecurity law, which takes effect on January 1, 2019, force additional changes to the DNS?

Will ICANN immediately follow those directives (as it did with GDPR?)

The only way NTIA ensures that the Internet follows its own mandate is to have oversight authority.