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ICANN Weighs Recommendation To Go Private

A strategy committee is encouraging the board of directors to explore options to allow ICANN to adjust to the Internet's growth and development.

By K.C. Jones, [InformationWeek](#)

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URL: <http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=198800647>

Looking to fortify its charter, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) recently released a report indicating it would like to change its legal status and become a private entity.

The nonprofit private-public partnership oversees Internet Protocol address space allocation and domain name system management, among other responsibilities.

In a March 23 [report](#) (PDF), the strategy committee appointed by [ICANN](#) president Paul Twomey encouraged the board of directors to explore options for becoming a private international organization based in the United States.

"The Committee wants to be clear that in referring to a private international organization it is not suggesting a treaty organization or an intergovernmental organization," the report said.

"The balancing of these aspects is essential to maintaining not only a single global interoperable Internet, but also a model that is sufficiently versatile to adjust to the Internet's growth and development," the report said. "The private sector based multi-stakeholder model repeatedly demonstrates itself as the most viable, responsive, mechanism to ensure stability and security of the Internet's future."

The committee also stated that ICANN should maintain its multistakeholder model, its processes for organizational improvement outlined in its bylaws and mechanisms for accountability. The report stated that ICANN may consider incorporating California state laws or U.S. federal rules into its arbitration process.

No timetables for legal changes to the ICANN charter have been publicly disclosed.

"The Committee considers such developments may contribute to the further improvement of stability," the report said.



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