



Representing the ecosystem of Internet -Bharat Model

CCAIOI Newsletter

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TRAI Publishes comments received on the Consultation Paper for OTT services

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has published the comments it has received on its consultation paper on 'Regulatory Framework for Over-the-top (OTT) services'. The last date for submitting comments was 24th April, 2015, while counter comments can be submitted by 8th May 2015

The interest in the subject of net neutrality has been further triggered, when earlier this month Airtel launched a zero rating plan called 'Airtel Zero,' which was severely criticized for being discriminatory, allowing consumers to freely access mobile applications by paying a certain charge to the company.

With the topic of net neutrality heating up in the nation, TRAI has received over a million email submissions from individuals, civil societies, industry associations, service providers and organizations. Owing to the volume of comments received, the authority has classified it into three categories: Comments from service providers, comments received from service provider associations and comments received from other stakeholders. As the comments received in the other stakeholder category is huge, it has been sorted date wise.

The stakeholder communities are divided in the subject. Some of the arguments have been highlighted below.

Most consumers, consumer organizations, civil societies have urged the government to keep the internet open and free for all and not discriminate between the different types of content or services flowing through the internet.

Industry associations IAMAI, NASSCOM and bodies such as Internet Democracy, CCAOI have been advocating for an open with no barriers to access content and services. They are of the opinion that there should not be any discrimination and the industry needs less regulation as that would hamper tech entrepreneurship and application development.

In their submission, IT for Change, suggests that though internet and Internet services need regulation, TRAI should initiate an independent process for these internet –related issues. The current consultation they suggest should focus on – net neutrality, interconnection regulation, and revenue models and sustainability of telecom business in the new data-centric environment, which can include discussing possible revenue sharing between telecoms and Internet services. They suggest OTT players should pay TSPs on ‘uplinking’ however there should not be any charges on ‘downlinking’.

CIS in their submission shares that there needs to be regulation to ensure net neutrality, and the ‘ gatekeepers’ need to be regulated so that they do not misuse their power to discriminate between similarly situated persons, content or traffic. They also support reasonable network management so that ISPs can effectively manage performance and costs on their network.

Telecom operators and internet service providers on the other hand have been advocating for regulations. Telecom associations, COAI, AUSPI, ACTO and Internet service providers association ISPAI, has been demanding that OTT services be regulated. They are of the opinion that currently there is a regulatory imbalance especially with reference to internet messaging services between OTT players and service providers. COAI and ISPAI suggest same services should have same set of rules.

Industry association, Assocham has suggested that an Indian version of net neutrality is required in India. While they advocate open internet with no blocking or throttling, they also suggest that “NN should permit reasonable traffic management”. Industry Association ACTO

For more details visit:

<http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/ConsultationPaper/Document/201504270537262717717Comments.pdf>

The CCAOI submission can be viewed from the following link: [http://tra.gov.in/comments/24-April/20150424-Comments%20on%20Consultation%20Paper%20on%20_Regulatory%20Framework%20for%20Over-the-top%20\(OTT\)%20services_-1141031090.html](http://tra.gov.in/comments/24-April/20150424-Comments%20on%20Consultation%20Paper%20on%20_Regulatory%20Framework%20for%20Over-the-top%20(OTT)%20services_-1141031090.html)

CWG Second Draft Proposal on IANA stewardship Transition pertaining to Naming Related functions open for Comments

The ICANN Cross Community Working Group (CWG-Stewardship) responsible for preparing the naming related proposal of the IANA Stewardship Transition has released their 2nd draft proposal for public comments. The last day for submitting comments is 20th May 2015.

It may be noted that, once the proposal on the naming related functions is finalized by CWG stewardship community, it will be submitted to the IANA Stewardship Coordination Group (ICG), who in turn will then compile the responses received from the naming, protocol and numbers community into one single proposal and submit to the ICANN board.

This draft stewardship proposal has been built on a few assumptions which include, ICANN will remain the IANA Functions Operator. It also assumes that a contract similar to the existing IANA Functions contract would be functional post transition, ICANN will conduct the IANA operations basis the requests of the multistakeholder community, and the latter will have the right to select a new IANA operator if required. The draft assumes there will be policy and operational separation for the IANA operator and mechanisms to approve changes to the Root Zone environment. The CWG-Stewardship also agrees that changes to the content of the Root Zone will no longer need authorization and external communications and reporting will no longer need external approval post-transition.

The 2nd draft proposes to create a separate legal entity - Post-Transition IANA (PTI) which would be a "wholly owned subsidiary" of ICANN. By entering into a contract with ICANN, PTI will get the rights to operate as the IANA Functions Operator. The IANA Functions would continue to reside within ICANN, subject to accountability mechanisms already in existence and those being developed by the CCWG-Accountability.

There will be a Customer Standing Committee (CSC), responsible for monitoring IANA Functions Operator performance according to contractual requirements and service level expectations, resolving issues directly with

the IANA Functions Operator or escalating them if they cannot be resolved. The CSC can also trigger a special review of PTI if needed.

To resolve issues a series of issue resolution mechanism, escalation process will be set up. The inputs of the multistakeholder community especially related to the annual IANA operations budget needs to be accepted by ICANN.

A multi-stakeholder IANA Function Review will be established to conduct periodic and special reviews of PTI and also if required recommend ICANN board whether or not to renew the IANA Functions Contract with PTI.

However the draft proposal is dependent on the CCWG-Accountability process of making ICANN more accountable to the community. Few of the issues include improving accountability with respect to ICANN budget, ICANN board oversight, IANA function reviews, making suitable changes in the ICANN bylaws, etc.

For further details view the following link: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/cwg-stewardship-draft-proposal-2015-04-22-en>

Amazon India invites small and medium business to procure business supplies online

Amazon India has launched a pilot in Bengaluru where the organization is inviting small and medium businesses to procure supplies from a new website, thereby marking their entry into wholesale ecommerce, an online business segment where foreign direct investment is permitted in India.

The entry of Amazon into the wholesale business in India comes at a time when rival Alibaba, regarded as the pioneer in this category, is widely expected to begin operations in the domestic market.

Expected to go live by mid May, the website will allow registered members to buy a variety of products -- office, kitchen and home supplies, health and personal care products as well as food and beverages -- with a minimum order value of Rs 1,000. Amazon will negotiate wholesale rates directly with manufacturers and sell to its members. The Indian website will mostly be modeled on Amazon Supply , the website focused on business consumers in the US that was launched in 2012.

With no membership fee, the company expects to have onboard online kirana stores, hospitals, schools and home entrepreneurs -- anyone who has a valid business licence. Experts are of the view that the Jeff Bezos-led company will enjoy a first-mover advantage in this category in India as there are, as yet, no significant competitors.

Udit Aggarwal, partner at consultancy EY believes that for Amazon "... from a regulatory standpoint, it's a win-win situation. The model is government-approved and a great opportunity for Amazon," He however estimates that Amazon could encounter "some pain points" which include a need to keep a strict vigil to ensure that only businesses are transacted on its website, while also offering flexible payment methods."Businesses are not used to net banking or paying by credit cards. They have a standard account payable process for 30-60 days, which (Amazon) may need to address," he said.

For further details visit :http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-04-21/news/61379047_1_amazon-india-amit-agarwal-website

Google clarifies Non-mobile friendly sites won't disappear from mobile searches

Google's senior vice president and chief business officer Omid Kordestani has clarified that non-mobile friendly sites won't disappear from the mobile searches. He stated that mobile friendliness is an important factor, but end of the day it is just one of the over 200 search signals Google uses to evaluate the best results. In case a website offers good content that users want, it'll still rank high in search results. He also mentioned that it's still very early to speculate if these changes will impact monetization. According to Kordestani, Google is not just looking at the most relevant and timely content, but also how easy or difficult it is to read it on a mobile phone with smaller screens.

It may be noted that recently Google has upgraded its algorithms. Factors such as readability, responsive design and not using non-mobile friendly software (like Flash) will also be taken into consideration in a website's search ranking.

For more information visit: <http://www.medianama.com/2015/04/223-google-q1-2015-concall/> and <http://www.businessnewsdaily.com/7808-google-search-ranking-mobile.html>

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Workshop being organized by IT for Change on 'Regulating the Internet in public interest - Net neutrality and other issues' on the 2nd of May in New Delhi.
- The McGill university is offering Capacity building assistance offer to digital rights advocates (for Fall 2015, in the Americas only, preferably not in Canada or the US) seeking research that supports their Internet-related policy advocacy work. Of particular interest are proposals from groups involved in IGF (or considering becoming involved in them). Other proposals for research assistance are also invited. The process consists of the following steps: 1) an expression of interest by a potential civil society partner; 2) based on a possible match, an invitation for a short proposal (template will be provided); and 3) if selected, a jointly-crafted memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the selected civil society partner and their class. There are no costs to the partner organization other than a modest commitment of time during the semester-long project. For more details contact Becky Lentz (roberta.lentz@mcgill.ca).
- There is a participation call for the 11th International Conference on Open Source Systems (OSS 2015), to be held in Florence, Italy, between 16th -17th May, 2015. Interested participants may register online through the ICSE registration site at <http://2015.icse-conferences.org/registration> , until 8th May, 2015. For further details visit <http://www.oss2015.org/conference-program/>
- Africa @ Convergence Africa World 2015 Expo, Nairobi, Kenya, between 17 -19 June, 2015. To participate and for more information, please contact Mayank Gautam (mayankg@eigroup.in) or visit www.convergenceafricaworld.com

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