

The Council of Management (board of directors) met on 6th & 7th March 2003

ENUM

As part of Nominet's participation in the UK ENUM trial, the board was pleased to learn that the first Nominet registration had been processed.

INTERNATIONAL

Over the last few months, the board has worked on papers re-emphasizing the importance of a lightweight, private sector IANA function for the technical co-ordination of the DNS root. In particular, the summary paper at: <http://www.itu.int/itudoc/itu-t/workshop/cctld/028add1.html> was submitted to an ITU workshop on ccTLD experiences.

RISK ANALYSIS

The Board carried out a wide-ranging risk analysis exercise to review potential risks, preventative/corrective measures and priorities. The Executive will use the results of this exercise to update the risk strategy.

STRATEGY

This two-day extended board meeting was the board's annual strategy review meeting. The company's broad strategy for the coming 12 months and beyond was debated and will form the basis of further detailed planning.

REVIEW OF PREVIOUS YEAR OBJECTIVES

The board reviewed the recommendations agreed for the previous twelve months in March 2002. Two key objectives were set: to strengthen the management structure and to improve the ways in which Nominet relates with the outside world. In a communique from the strategy review of 2002 - <http://www.nominet.org.uk/comreports/2627march2002.html> - the board identified a number of key areas for change in response to the evolving demands on Nominet. At the March 2003 meeting, the Board was pleased to note that the recommendations had been implemented or were currently in progress.

LOOKING FORWARD

With the identified operational improvements now well under way, the board agreed that in the coming twelve months, and beyond, Nominet should focus on the following strategic objectives. A more detailed strategic plan will now be developed to move towards these objectives.

(a) To be a centre of technical excellence in the DNS.

It is important that Nominet is able to respond quickly to new international technical agreements and, indeed, to help mould them. Areas to be considered include: internationalized domain names (IDN), secure DNS (DNSSEC), synchronous registry interface protocols, ENUM and IPv6.

(b) Improved Communications

The board reviewed the methods by which Nominet currently communicates with its stakeholders: member meetings and workshops, Nominet News, and the various mailing lists. However, the board concluded that Nominet needs feedback from a broader range of stakeholders, not only for re-assurance that it is doing the right thing, but also to steer Nominet into areas for future development and, potentially, to remain ahead of the game.

(c) Nominet Online

The board re-iterated its commitment to developing on-line services for registrants and tag holders, moving as much as possible to automating routine processes or providing self-service mechanisms, but where necessary using humans where their specific skills were vital.

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

There were 2,738 active members as at 1 March 2003. During February, 23 new members were added and 26 members resigned. There were 3,245 active tag holders, with 735 having been withdrawn and 254 suspended. There were 67,441 new registrations during February, 31 were direct registrations and there were 74,592 renewals invoiced. As part of the Terms and Conditions Project, contact has now been made with 3,456 tag holders and a total of 19 tags remain suspended (following at least three contacts with the tag holder).