



# **PUBLIC INTEREST REGISTRY (PIR) OVERVIEW**

**Paul Diaz**  
VP of Policy



Created in 1984, .ORG is one of the Internet's original Top Level Domains (TLDs) along with .COM, .NET, .GOV, .EDU and .MIL. Although it is "open" and "unrestricted," .ORG has assumed the reputation as the domain of choice for organizations dedicated to serving the public interest.

Public Interest Registry (PIR) is a not-for-profit organization specifically created by the Internet Society (ISOC) to manage the .ORG domain. Since January 2003 PIR has maintained the authoritative database of all .ORG domain names – which today include over 10.3 millions names registered around the world.

PIR also manages .NGO and .ONG, domains exclusively for use by non-governmental organizations worldwide, and three Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs, non-Latin-based scripts that mean "organization," "org" or "institution") in Cyrillic, Devenagari and Chinese. Although the IDNs have limited use today, they will become more applicable over time once certain technical challenges are addressed and the Internet continues to expand across developing countries.



Based in Reston, Virginia (USA), PIR currently has 35 employees. This also includes a handful of staff in Canada, Switzerland, and Ireland, with plans for further international expansion in the coming years.

Since 2003, Afilias has provided the back-end services used to operate .ORG and our other TLDs. Donuts recently announced that it will acquire Afilias' technical assets, and PIR is confident that they will continue to deliver the stable, reliable and secure services that the .ORG Community has come to expect.

The PIR Board reflects the geographic and gender diversity of the .ORG Community. The Board draws on its wealth of non-profit and corporate sector knowledge to provide for PIR's planning, governance, and oversight.

Similarly, the PIR Advisory Council is composed of industry leaders from a broad spectrum of organizations and countries to advise PIR on issues ranging from public policy to the introduction of new services. Most importantly, Advisory Council members serve as an intermediary between end users and PIR, ensuring that the needs and concerns of registrants are known and addressed.



PIR has always been an active participant in the ICANN community, and continues to play a leadership role in the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) as well as in policy development processes (PDPs) and other cross-community efforts (Nominating Committee, Review Teams, etc.).

PIR pioneered IDN registrations at the second level (2005), led the industry with policies to eliminate “domain tasting” (2007), and was the first gTLD to implement DNSSEC (2008).

More recently, PIR has been a driving force in industry efforts to address DNS abuse. This includes the 50+ gTLD and ccTLD Registries and Registrars that have signed the Framework to Address Abuse as well as other initiatives that will launch in early 2021.

PIR also has long supported industry associations (LACTLD, CENTR, etc.) and well as regional DNS Forums and Schools on Internet Governance. Last month we launched the .ORG Learning Center to provide trusted resources for organizations looking to establish their Internet presence and excel online.



**QUESTIONS?**