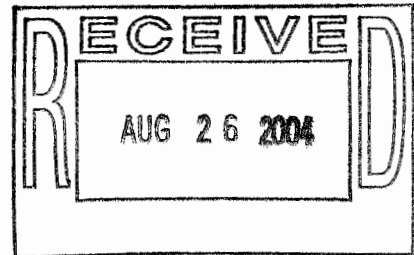


Office of the Vice President
IBM Technology and Strategy

Route 100
Somers, NY 10589

August 24, 2004

Mr. Paul Twomey
President & CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330
Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6601




Dear Paul:

As you know, over the years, IBM has been very supportive of ICANN. Indeed, members of my team played important roles in its creation. You and your colleagues can be rightly proud of what ICANN has done to provide Internet users with new top-level domain names, increase the number of domain name registries, reduce the price of domain names and to improve the security and robustness of the domain name system.

I understand you are now in the process of developing a Request for Proposal as part of the process of designating a subsequent .NET Registry operator. As you do this, I urge you to put special emphasis on the need to ensure the stability and reliability of the domain name system. I know that reliability was an important consideration in ICANN's evaluation of bids for the .ORG registry, as I trust it will also be in the case of the .NET registry. The domain name system is part of the foundation of the e-business infrastructure that IBM and thousands of our customers depend upon every day. We all want to see that the .NET registry continues to be run by a trusted and reliable company. Verisign has set a high standard for dependable service, and whichever company is chosen to manage the .NET registry in the future, I hope it will meet or exceed that standard.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me or follow-up with Michael Nelson on my team. He can be reached at MRN@US.IBM.COM or 703-598-5187.

Sincerely,



Irving Wladawsky-Berger
Vice President Technology & Strategy, IBM

cc: Vint Cerf, Chairman, ICANN