

Notice of ICANN .bitcoin TLD community application

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@wiz · Aug 6

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Dear Bitcoiners,

As the operator of mempool.space and one of Bitcoin's DNS seeds (wiz.biz/bitcoin/seed), I take the responsibility of operating infrastructure for the community very seriously. Today I am writing to you about a new development on the Internet that I feel is important for Bitcoin and I need to ask the community to support my effort.

For the first time since 2012, ICANN is accepting applications for new generic top-level domain names in the DNS root. Many companies will likely apply to register the .bitcoin TLD, so if there is no successful "community priority application" on behalf of "the community", the .bitcoin TLD will most likely go to auction and be sold to the highest bidder, potentially falling into the wrong hands, completely outside the reach of the community.

Since I am not aware of ongoing community effort to secure the .bitcoin TLD, and with the filing deadline for these new TLD applications just days away, I am going to file a "community priority application" with ICANN in the current new gTLD round for the .bitcoin top-level domain, defined as the community of people and organizations that run, build, and provide the infrastructure, software, and services of the Bitcoin network - only this can prevent it from going to auction.

My application to ICANN proposes to operate the .bitcoin TLD with a registration policy that is strictly Bitcoin Only, in the same manner that I have operated mempool.space for the Bitcoin community for the past 7+ years. For examples of other Bitcoin Only content that my team has vetted, see the bitcoin-only.com website which we also maintain and operate.



The proposed Registration Policy will allow anyone in the following categories to be eligible to register a .bitcoin domain name after they *verifiably* demonstrate performance of at least one Qualifying Function under the published policy:

- Network operators (verifiably reachable Bitcoin nodes, DNS seed, or other critical Bitcoin infrastructure operators)
- Protocol and software contributors (verifiable commits to node implementations or other consensus-compatible node software, standards process editors)
- Infrastructure and service providers (publicly accessible infrastructure such as explorers, wallets, exchanges, custody, payments, mining-related services)
- Documentation, education, and publication (authors of publicly visible content)
- Conveners (organizers of public conferences, meetups, working groups)

And most importantly, any projects promoting altcoins or other cryptocurrency protocols will be explicitly prohibited from registering .bitcoin domain names. This registration policy will be overseen by a Registration Policy Committee consisting of members from the above categories. The committee will be able to determine, under published criteria, which domain names qualify under the Bitcoin Only policy (including any Layer-2 systems) and which do not.

While having a committee isn't perfect, the alternative of an auction to the highest bidder would take the .bitcoin TLD completely out of the hands of community oversight. As the applicant, I would just get one ordinary seat, no veto power, and no registration priority. I will do my best to keep the .bitcoin TLD strictly Bitcoin Only for the community, and I will assemble a committee of hardcore bitcoiners to enforce that policy.

And just to be very clear, this ICANN application for the .bitcoin TLD and its proposed Registration Policy Committee concern only the .bitcoin top-level domain in the traditional DNS root; they shall express no opinion with regards to changes to Bitcoin, its consensus rules or peer-to-peer network, any implementation thereof, any standards process, etc. - this is just about keeping the .bitcoin TLD strictly Bitcoin Only instead of letting it get sold off to the highest bidder.

The .bitcoin Registry will also give back to the community, by pledging to donate 21% of revenue each year to funding the open-source developers who maintain, secure and grow the Bitcoin network.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT NEEDED TO KEEP DOT BITCOIN IN OUR COMMUNITY

ICANN's Community Priority Evaluation examines whether the application has support from the identified community. For my application to succeed



(and for the .bitcoin TLD to not get auctioned to the highest bidder), I need written statements from relevant operators, projects, and organizations. The most useful letters:

- are issued on organizational letterhead (or clearly identify the individual capacity),
- name the applicant (Wiz & Associates S.A. de C.V.) and the TLD string (.bitcoin)
- state the signer's role,
- give an approximate figure for the number of operators, members, or entities represented, and
- state that it may be published as part of the application.

A short "no objection" is also valuable from parties that prefer not to endorse actively.

If you are a Bitcoiner in the above categories that is willing to provide a statement (or have questions or concerns), please contact me directly. I will also circulate a more detailed summary of the proposed policy and committee charter to anyone who requests it.

The filing window closes on August 12th, 2026. I am making this notice now so that the intention is public and so that any serious objections can surface early rather than during evaluation.

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Legal note: The above policy is specifically intended to become binding Specification 12 text.

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Bitcoiner. Founder/CEO of Wiz & Associates and Mempool Holdings,
together operating critical infrastructure for the community