

Proposed .vu ccTLD Structure and draft .vu Domain Names Management and Administration Regulation

Pre-consultation period close presentation to Industry
Stakeholders, 25 Feb 2015,
Port Vila



The Government
of The Republic
of Vanuatu



Telecommunications &
Radiocommunications
Regulator

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~~Objective of Discussions~~

- Explain the TRR proposed .vu management and administration structure and regulation.
- Discuss and clarify any queries you may have prior to finalising your submissions (end of Feb)



Overview of Domain Names and Services

Domain Name

- Address of a person/organization on the Internet (business name, product name etc. – e.g. the Internet address of TRR is “trr.vu”).
- Every device connected to the public Internet has a unique numeric address
 - Numeric address string is called an “IP address.” IP stands for “Internet Protocol.” For example 180.222.210.9 is the IP address of MyCompany’s website.
 - String of numbers is difficult for most people to remember.

Domain Name System (DNS) and Services

- The DNS translates unique IP addresses into user readable names that are easier for people to remember
 - User types in www.trr.vu (user understood name) and not lengthy *180.222.210.9* (IP address or numbers), and get to the right website, i.e. MyCompany website.
 - Domain names are linked to IP addresses.



Overview of Domain Names and Services

Domain Name System (DNS) and Services (cont'd)

- Domain names are used to send email, browse websites etc. – DNS ensures you reach correct email recipient or website.
- A domain name can remain unchanged even if a website is moved to a different host computer or server because the DNS can be told to point an existing domain name to a new IP address.
- They provide users with useful, meaningful addresses that make navigating the Internet's vast wealth of information resources possible. Without Internet domain services, the Internet would be effectively useless for the majority of its users.



Overview of Domain Names and Services

Country Code Top Level Domain

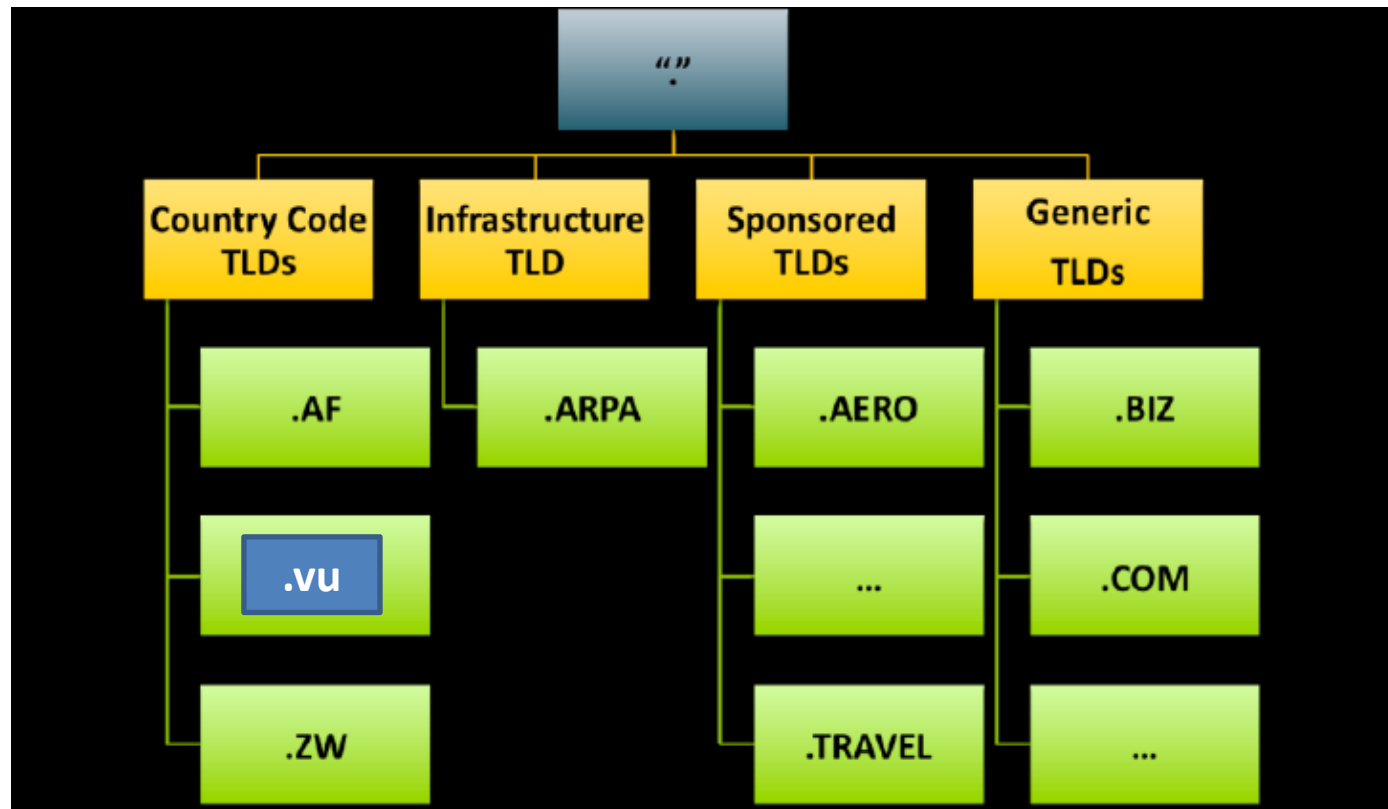
- According to the two-letter codes in the ISO 3166-1 standard "Codes for the Representation of Names of Countries and Their Subdivisions", ccTLDs are assigned to local Internet communities. A ccTLD is a Top Level Domain (TLD) used to uniquely identify a country or territory, for example ".vu" for Vanuatu or ".pg" for Papua New Guinea.



Overview of Domain Names and Services

Domain Name System (DNS) Structure

- In a DNS hierarchy, all Internet domain names can be broadly categorized under the generic Top Level Domain (gTLD), country code Top Level Domain (ccTLD), infrastructure Top Level Domain and Sponsored Top Level Domain.



Background

- Under the **TRR Act section 7,4(e)** TRR may make regulations for the management and administration (including the exclusive management and administration) of country code top level domain names for Vanuatu and domain name registration for Vanuatu.
- **National ICT Policy 2014** - The Government will also promote and, where appropriate, ensure that publicly or centrally controlled resources (such as radio spectrum, numbering, IP addresses, and national “.vu” domain names), necessary to support provision of infrastructure and services, contributing to the socio-economic development, are readily available and accessible in a transparent, fair, non-discriminatory and efficient manner as per swift procedures, based on objective and proportionate criteria, conditions and procedures, and are utilised in an efficient manner for the benefit of Vanuatu users, citizens and residents. A level of public control exercised over such resources should be minimum necessary to achieve the overall objective of this Policy.



Background

- According to International Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) best practice guidelines, a **Country code Top Level domain (ccTLD) is generally treated as a public resource and one whose managers have a duty to serve the community.**
- Organizations and individuals that apply for the use of a domain are subject to certain technical, legal, and policy or regulatory requirements, as are the organizations providing domain registration services to the public. The same is true of the overall domain name governance bodies.



Background

- TVL has an agreement with ICANN and is formally recognized by Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA), ICANN's technical body, as the .vu domain manager and this has been in place since the telecommunications sector monopoly days.
- TRR consulted publically on the future arrangements and management of .vu ccTLD in October 2012. The limited feedback at that time was not sufficient to implement any major ccTLD management change, but TRR has had regular discussions with present/former TVL staff and its present/former CEOs, as well as other interested parties, to reach the understanding outlined in the discussion paper, and the way forward from hereon.

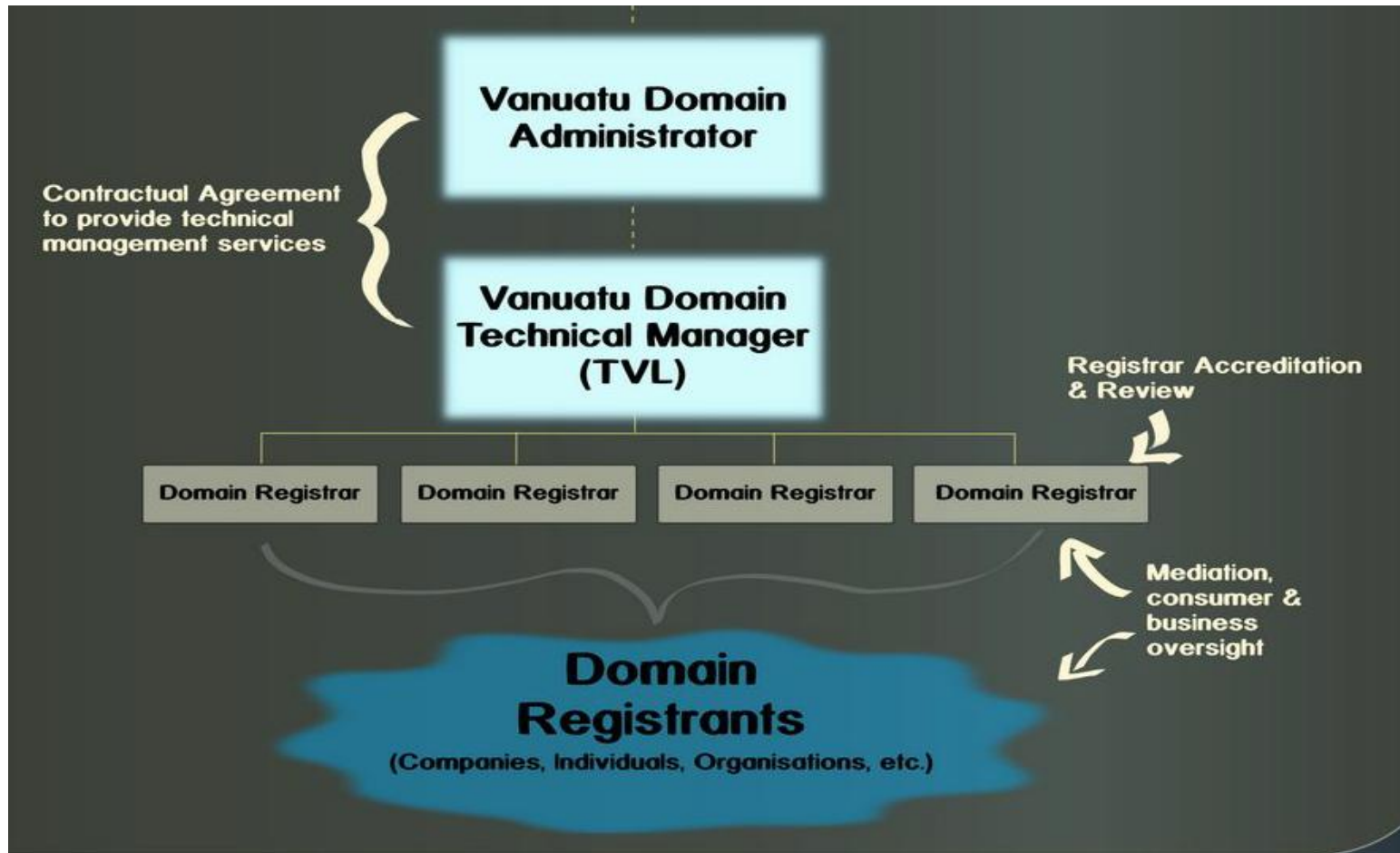


Background

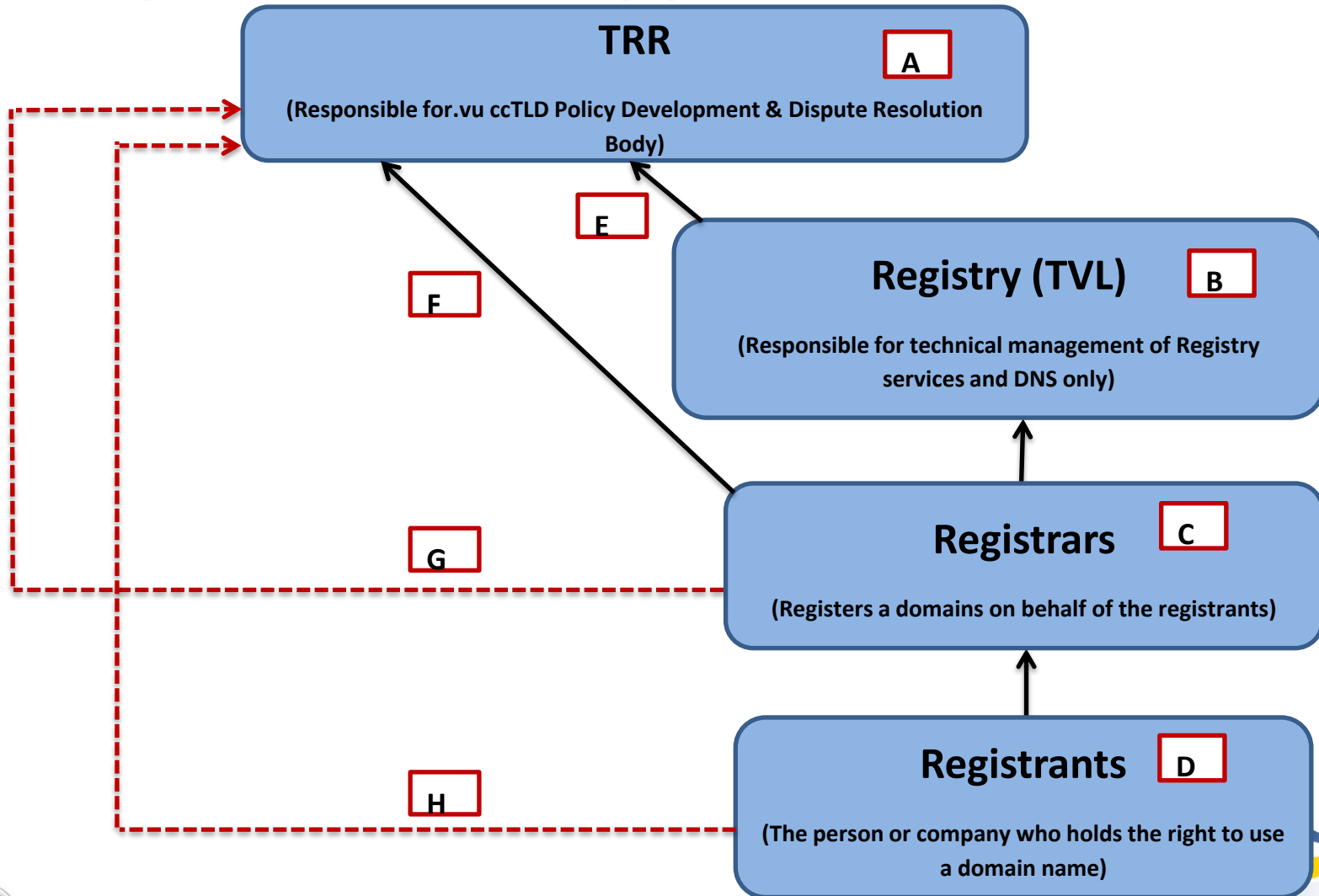
- TRR acknowledges and commends TVL for currently managing and administering the operations of the .vu domain name space and associated services.
- **On behalf of the local Internet community, and in accordance with the Act, TRR believes that in a liberalized and competitive domain market it is appropriate and timely to develop a transition arrangement of the .vu ccTLD management to the independent regulator.**
- Opening of the Internet services market requires that we consider how Vanuatu's Internet domain (.vu) can best be managed **to promote an open, competitive and fair Internet market environment.**



Proposed TRR Approved Model



Model of .vu ccTLD Management Proposed TRR Approved Model



Administrative and Technical Management Issues of .vu ccTLD

ccTLD as a Public Trust or Service:

- Current ccTLD technical operator objective for .vu domain name management and services is one of profit making which is paramount to the technical operator over public service.
- This, in turn, creates a conflict of interest and makes it challenging for the technical operator in a competitive environment, to develop impartial domain policies in order to maintain the public service aspect and to make the domain names services competitive and equitable for all users, in terms of pricing of domains.



Administrative and Technical Management Issues of .vu ccTLD

Model and Policy or Regulatory Framework of .vu ccTLD

- TRR is of the view, after some years now of monitoring and assessment, that there are currently no appropriate and formal domain policies or guidelines which are publicly available.



Administrative and Technical Management Issues of .vu ccTLD

Plans on Growing the .vu Domain Market:

- Sales model and scope of .vu domain registration is unknown
- Current resellers are unknown due lack of domain policies governing resellers.
- More competition, newer opportunities and choices, and technological developments in the .vu domain market are not easily achievable or not possible because of the current Registry/Registrar integrated role.
 - This in turn creates a limitation on the services offered in the .vu domain namespace and market.



Administrative and Technical Management Issues of .vu ccTLD

Technical Infrastructure and Administration:

- There is no clear, documented, publicly available and communicated registry and associated DNS server business and operation continuity plan.
- There is no clear, documented, publicly available and communicated operational and business continuity plans of the technical infrastructure of .vu ccTLD.



TRR Proposed Actions & Recommendations

- TRR has taken the following decisions and steps:
 - Approved an appropriate .vu ccTLD model where a .vu ccTLD policy or regulatory framework will be developed (proposed in this consultation).
 - Under section 7(4,e) of the TRR Act, has developed a draft .vu domain names management and administration Regulation.
 - Put the approved .vu ccTLD model to public consultation since December 2014.



TRR Proposed Actions & Recommendations

- TRR has taken the following decisions and steps:
 - Decided on the domain name space Policies/Regulations covering important domain administration aspects; such as those set out in section 3.2 of the briefing paper.
 - Continued to, and will continue to, provide advice and support to TVL (current .vu Registry/Registrar operator) on domain issues and complaints until the appropriate domain Policies/Regulations are publicly consulted on and approved.



Additional Considerations

Other consideration on the Public Consultation document *will now include*, but are not limited to, the following:

- The need to negotiate and establish a stabilizing Registrar.
- An appropriate transition period when the proposed structure becomes effective.
- Potential for developing detailed .vu domain Policies in conjunction with GOV to reinforce specific compliance Rules and Procedures.
- .vu administration and Management Policy and Regulation responsibilities to be performed by the regulator.
- The need to include a .vu domain dispute resolution or mediation mechanism.



Regulatory Impact Assessment

9 ANNEX C - CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with the proposed new ccTLD Structure and regulatory framework, and why/why not?
2. If not, what kind of .vu ccTLD Structure and regulatory framework would you like to see implemented instead?
3. What are the risks, if any, of TRR's preferred Structure and approach?
4. Do you agree that the .vu resource be managed as a public resource? State your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing.
5. Do you agree that the 'Registrar' service be opened to competition which means there will be more than one Registrar in Vanuatu? State your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing.
6. Should the Registry and Registrar roles be separated? State your reasons for agreeing or disagreeing.
7. Do you think opening up the Registrar market to competition would assist other ISPs to offer domain name registration services to supplement their usual portfolio of Internet connectivity, email and web hosting services?
8. Do you have any comments on specific provisions in the draft Regulations at Annex D? Please cite the number of the section concerned when making comments.
9. Has TRR covered all relevant aspects in the draft Regulation? If not, please outline additional provisions that should be included.



Any Questions?

