

Explain how top-level domain names are proposed and approved.

Top level domains are the rightmost portion of the domain name. For example canvas.macomb.edu has a top-level domain name of EDU. There are several/many other top-level domain names, some which were created when the internet was first created, and others which are much newer. For example, some of the top-level domain names which were first created are things like .COM, .MIL, .ORG, and country domains like .CA for Canada, and .AU for Australia. Other top-level domain names which are much newer are names like AI (for Artificial Intelligence), AERO,.FOOD, MUSIC, and more.

Top-level domain names are traditionally managed by the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) which managed many things concerning standards related to Domain Names, IP Addresses and Protocols. Traditionally, the ICANN group was very reluctant to create new top-level domain names. However, pressure to create additional domain names has caused these newer domain names to be created. ICANN has slackened the control of top-level domain names allowed. This has caused some controversy, but overall, it seems to be working. It may be a decade or more between when new top-level domain names are allowed to be considered and then approved. ICANN global headquarters is in Los Angeles area, California, USA. There are other office locations throughout the world also.

To apply for a new top-level domain name, the ICANN team must approve it, and the applicants must demonstrate a purpose and expertise in the specific top-level domain name. Once it is created, the sponsoring group which requested and received approval for this new top-level domain must administrate of the domain names created within that top level. The creation of new domain names is not taken lightly, and with the power comes the responsibility to administrate it appropriately.

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Sources:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/ICANN>

“Electronic Commerce, Twelfth Edition”. Gary P. Schneider. Cengage Learning 2017, 2015. Chapter 2, Pages 75 and 76.