

Letter to the Editor, Wall Street Journal

L. Gordon Crovitz's [An Internet Giveaway to the U.N.](#) is premised on errors of fact. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) does not enjoy an "antitrust exemption."

ICANN is not, and never has been exempted from antitrust laws. In 1998, [the Department of Commerce stated](#) that the nonprofit organization to be created to fulfill the U.S. Government's directive to privatize the domain name system (ICANN) would be subject to antitrust laws: "Applicable antitrust law will provide accountability to and protection for the international Internet community." If the U.S. Department of Commerce's stewardship of the IANA functions is transitioned to the Internet Community, ICANN will have no mandate, need or reason to seek to be overseen by another governmental group for protection.

ICANN's multistakeholder model has been supported by all Presidential Administrations since 1998. ICANN's antitrust status has never changed. ICANN has not been granted an antitrust exemption by any of its contracts with NTIA. No ruling in ICANN's favor has ever cited an antitrust exemption as the rationale.

This article disregards the diligent work of the ICANN Community, including U.S. businesses, academia, technical experts, end users and civil society, who developed a plan for the transition that specifically ensures the role of Commerce is not replaced by another government or intergovernmental organization.

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