

ICANN received more than 1900 new gTLD applications, requiring a process to divide the applications into batches for evaluation and processing.

New gTLD Application Batching Process

The batching process has two parts: assignment of a secondary timestamp (also known as “digital archery”); and batch formation.

Secondary Timestamp

To get a secondary timestamp score, all applicants must log in to the TLD application system some time between 00:01 UTC on 8 June 2012 and 23:59 UTC on 28 June 2012. Once they log in, applicants will:

- Agree to the batching process rules.
- Indicate a preference for being in the earliest batch (by selecting "opt in") or any batch (by selecting "opt out").
- Select a target date and time.
- Return as the selected target time approaches and generate the timestamp.

The secondary timestamp score will be assigned by calculating the absolute difference between the target time and the timestamp generated by the applicant. Therefore, an applicant that is one millisecond early receives the same score as an applicant that is one millisecond late.

Batch Formation

The secondary timestamp score, along with other criteria, will determine an applicant's place within the batching process.

ICANN will allocate applications into batches based on four factors:

1. Whether or not the applicant prefers to be in the earliest batch
2. The geographic region of the applicant
3. The secondary timestamp score
4. String contention

Step-by-Step Description of Batching Process

1	APPLICANT AGREES TO BATCHING PROCESS RULES
Description	Applicant agrees to the batching process rules. (A copy of the rules is included below. ICANN reserves the right to reject, or place in any batch, any application for which the applicant has not agreed to the rules and set a target date/time.)
Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Log in to batching system.✓ Read and agree to batching system rules.

2	APPLICANT IDENTIFIES BATCHING PREFERENCE
Description	Applicant indicates a preference for being in the earliest batch (by selecting "opt in") or any batch (by selecting "opt out").
Steps	✓ Select either "opt in" or "opt out".
More Info	<p>"Opt In" applicants will have first priority of being placed in the earliest batch possible based on the batch formation algorithm indicated below.</p> <p>"Opt Out" applicants will be placed in batches after all "Opt In" applications have been allocated, unless they are included in a contention set. While "Opt Out" applicants might not have a preference, they should nevertheless generate a timestamp for their application(s) to facilitate the ordering of all applications into batches.</p>
3	APPLICANT SETS TARGET DATE/TIME
Description	Applicant selects a future date/time target (for example, 15 June 2012 at UTC 14:00:00) for each application submitted.
Steps	✓ In batching system, set a future date and time to generate a secondary time stamp.
More Info	The applicant can reset the target date and time until the applicant has generated the secondary timestamp or until the system closes.
4	TESTING THE BATCHING SYSTEM
Description	Users may test the batching system functionality to help calibrate their system time to the batching server time and simulate the timestamp process. The test function provides timestamp scores in milliseconds.
Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Applicant launches the testing function. ✓ Applicant sets a target time (hour and minute). ✓ Applicant generates a timestamp. ✓ The batching system displays the time that the test timestamp was recorded.
5	APPLICANT GENERATES SECONDARY TIMESTAMP
Description	Applicant logs into the batching system and clicks on the "Generate" button.
Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Each Applicant will return to the batching system once for each application to record a secondary timestamp by clicking the "Generate" button. ✓ The secondary timestamp score is the time difference between the target date/time and the recorded date/time.
More Info	<p>The secondary timestamp score will be assigned by calculating the absolute difference between the target time and the timestamp generated by the applicant. Therefore, an applicant that is one millisecond early receives the same score as an applicant that is one millisecond late.</p> <p>If measuring the timestamp in milliseconds is not sufficient to allocate applications into appropriate batch sizes, then smaller time increments will be used.</p> <p>Timestamps will not be disclosed to applicants or the general public until they are publicly posted concurrent with the batching order.</p>
6	ICANN FORMS APPLICATIONS INTO BATCHES
Description	ICANN will sort applications into batches based on opt-in/opt-out selection, geographic regions, the secondary timestamp score, and contention sets.
Steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications will be selected for batches based first on whether the applicant opted-in or opted-out as described above. 2. Those who opted in will be ranked within their geographic region (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean and North America) by their secondary timestamp score.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Then, the best timestamp score from each region is selected, one region at a time, on a rotating basis. If a region runs out of opted-in applications, the “round robin” continues across the remaining regions. This process continues until the batch is formed, with the opted-out applications last. 4. Next, applications in contention with an application in the batch are pulled into the batch regardless of the applicant's batching preference. 5. Steps 1 to 4 are repeated to develop subsequent batches until every application has been placed into a batch.
7	ICANN POSTS BATCHING ORDER
Description	ICANN anticipates posting the results of the batching process on 11 July 2012.
More Info	ICANN will post the batching results after all applications have completed the secondary timestamp process and the batches have been determined.

Batching System Rules

(Note: in order to participate in the batching process, all applicants must confirm via the online system that they have agreed to these Application Batching Rules.)

The batching of applications by ICANN in accordance with these rules will be final. The batching order, including timestamps for all applications, will be publicly posted once all batches have been determined. Applicant will not be entitled to review or re-allocate any application(s) into a different batch than what has been assigned to its application(s).

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to ensure generation of the timestamp, including responsibility for applicant's own hardware and Internet connectivity. Applicant will also be responsible for re-selecting a new target date and time if ICANN determines that the batching system is unavailable for access at the target date/time selected by the applicant.

While ICANN will use reasonable means to ensure the availability and operation of the batching system, ICANN cannot guarantee the continuous availability and operability of the batching system, and each applicant agrees that ICANN will not be liable for any system issues including but not limited to availability, error, maintenance, security attacks or other technical issues.

ICANN may require applicants to re-select a target time, re-generate a time stamp, and may issue any other reasonable directions to applicants regarding the batching system or allocation process due to any system issues, including availability, error, maintenance, security, or other technical issues.

ICANN reserves the right to amend these rules or modify any batching system deadlines from time to time as may be reasonably required in the interests of ensuring the integrity and operability of the batching process. ICANN will notify all applicants of any such amendments to these rules.

Applicant acknowledges that the batch allocation process for new gTLD applications has been implemented in order to determine batching priority by a contest of skill rather than a contest of chance. Applicant accepts the risks of

participating in the batching process and the final determined batch allocation of its application(s). Applicant acknowledges that the terms and conditions of these Rules form a part of the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook (as supplemented and amended). The applicant also acknowledges and accepts that the terms and conditions of the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook (as supplement and amended) are incorporated herein by reference, including the representations, warranties, covenants and other agreements contained in Module 6 contained therein. Accordingly, without any intent to limit the scope of Module 6 of the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook, applicant hereby releases ICANN and its affiliated parties from any and all claims by applicant that arise out of, are based upon, or are in any way related to, any action, or failure to act, by ICANN or any of its affiliated parties in connection with these rules or the batch allocation process.

For a further description of the batching process, please refer to the description of the batching basics posted by ICANN at <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/tas/batching-basics>, which description is incorporated by reference herein.

ICANN reserves the right to delay an application to the last batch or to reject an application entirely if ICANN reasonably determines that the applicant abused the batching system or intentionally interfered with the performance of the system or any other applicant's use of the system.



**For more information, go to
newgtlds.icann.org**
