



Sen. Jay Rockefeller
Chairman
Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
Hart Senate Office Building 5311
2nd & C Streets
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-224-7665

Sept. 19, 2012

Re: ICANN's Generic Top Level Domains

Dear Chairman Rockefeller:

I am writing to express Consumer Watchdog's concern over the blatant attempts by Google and Amazon to buy control of huge swaths of the Internet by purchasing generic Top Level Domains through the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). We know that you have closely followed ICANN's plan to expand domain names beyond those that are familiar, like .com, .net and .org, having urged the organization to move ahead with the plan "slowly and cautiously." You warned, "The potential for fraud, consumer confusion and cybersquatting is massive and argues for a phased-in implementation."

We believe the plans by Google and Amazon are extremely problematic and call on you to help prevent their implementation. It is one thing to use a Top Level Domain name that is associated with your brand name. In Google's case that might be .Google or .YouTube or .Android. Similarly it makes make sense for Amazon to acquire .Amazon or .Kindle. But, that is not what is happening.

Google has ponied up \$18.7 million to buy 101 domain strings like .eat, .buy, .book, .free, .web, and .family. Amazon is close behind the Internet giant applying for 76 domain strings including such names as .free, .like, .game, and .shop.

If these applications are granted, large parts of the Internet would be privatized. It is one thing to own a domain associated with your brand, but it is a huge problem to take control of generic strings. Both Google and Amazon are already dominant players on the Internet. Allowing them further control by buying generic domain strings would threaten the free and open Internet that consumers rely upon. Consumer Watchdog urges you to do all that you can to thwart these outrageous efforts and ensure that the Internet continues its vibrant growth while serving the interests of all of its users. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Simpson".

John M. Simpson, Privacy Project Director