ICANN

ICANN: Global Coordination in Practice



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London Internet Exchange | November 2026

One Internet, Shared Responsibility

Six billion people rely on the Internet each day – this represents 74% of the world's population.



ICANN's work spans:

- Policy development
- Contractual relationships with registries and registrars
- Technical coordination of the Internet's unique identifier systems

What is ICANN?

Global nonprofit organization made up of stakeholders from around the world.

Our Mission:

To ensure the stable, secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

Our Vision:

To strengthen the single, globally interoperable Internet for all.

Why a Single Internet Matters:

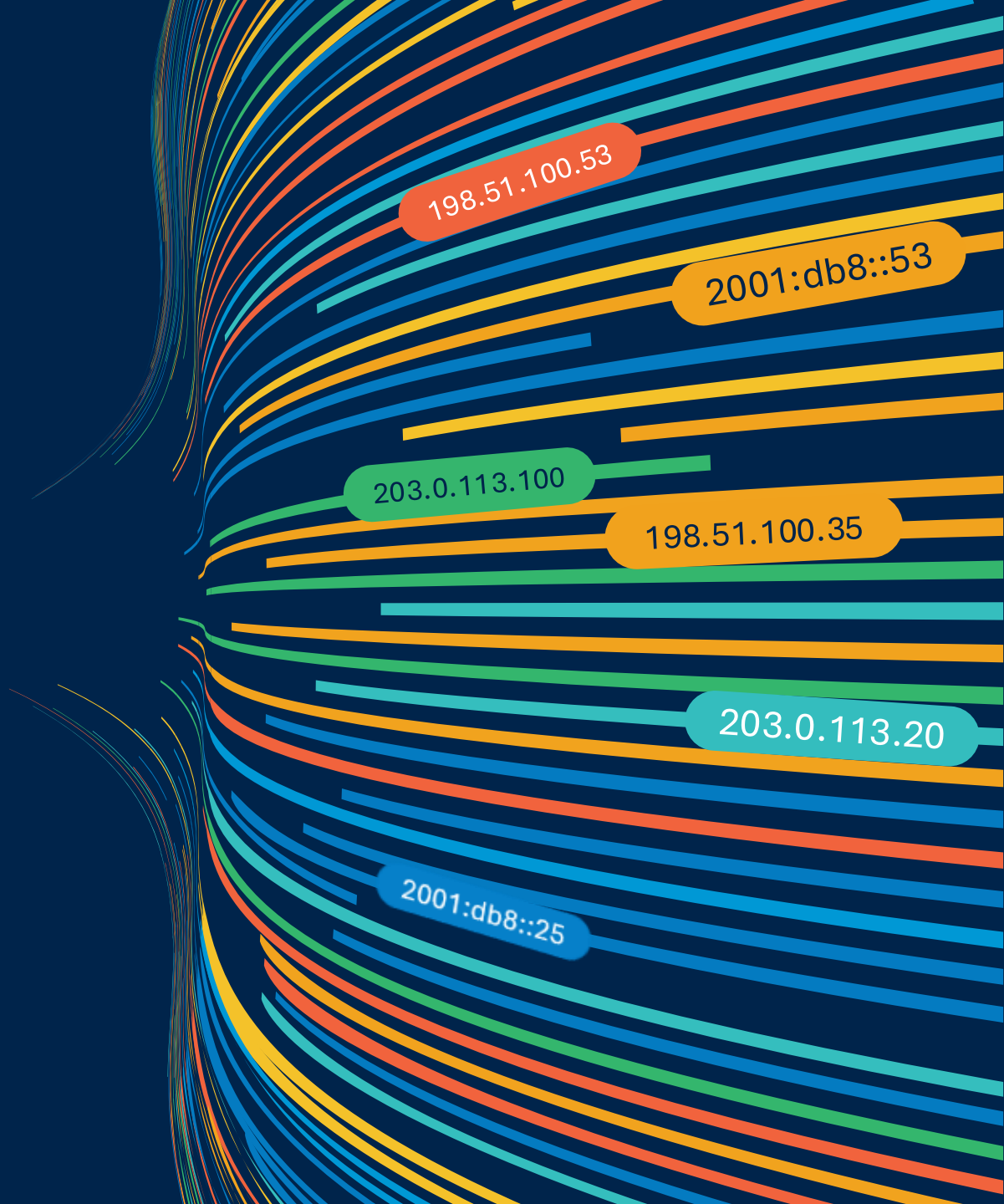
- Shared standards and globally coordinated names and numbers allow independent networks to function as one Internet.
- A single, globally interoperable Internet allows users to reach their intended destinations across networks and borders.
- Fragmentation could disrupt that connectivity, preventing communications from reaching their intended recipients.

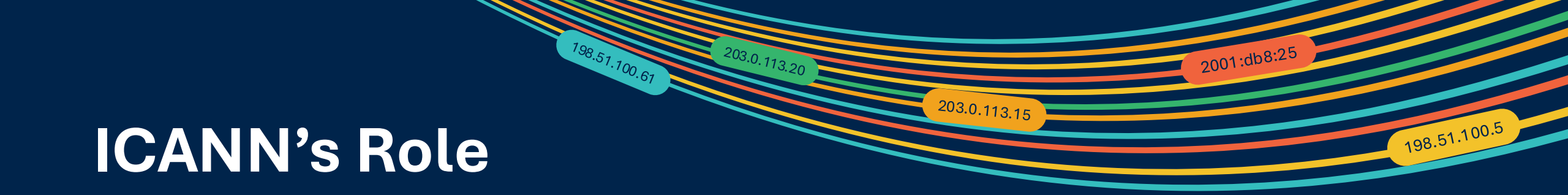
Independent Networks and Global Coordination

The Internet is a network of independently operated networks.

Common technical protocols and globally unique identifiers enable these networks to work together.

ICANN coordinates these identifiers in cooperation with technical partners around the world.





ICANN's Role

Ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems.

Support global coordination within a defined technical mission.

Coordinate essential technical functions with global partners.

Carry out this work through three pillars:

1. Policy development
2. Technical coordination
3. Contractual agreements with registries and registrars

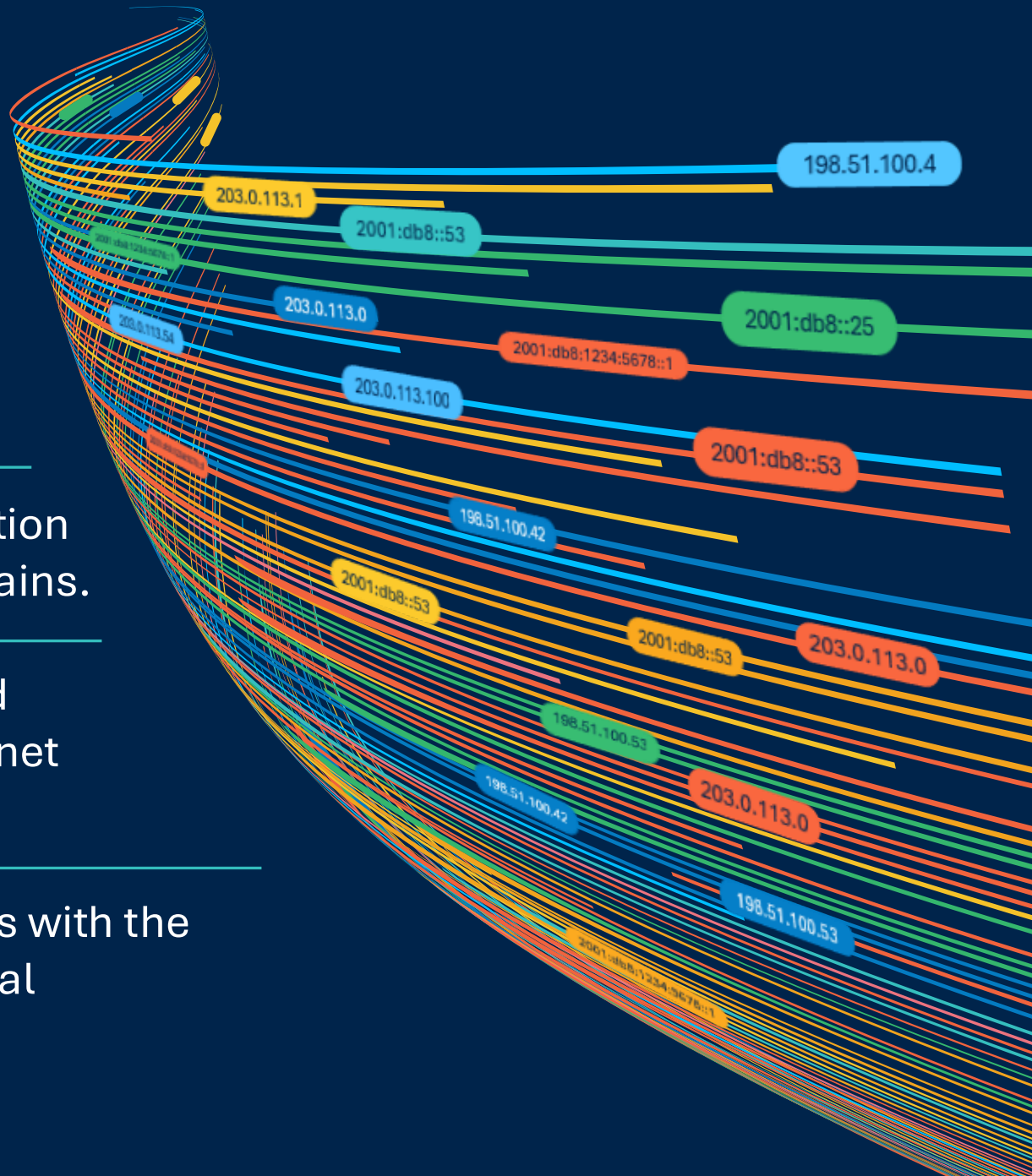
What That Coordination Involves

IANA functions coordinate three areas:

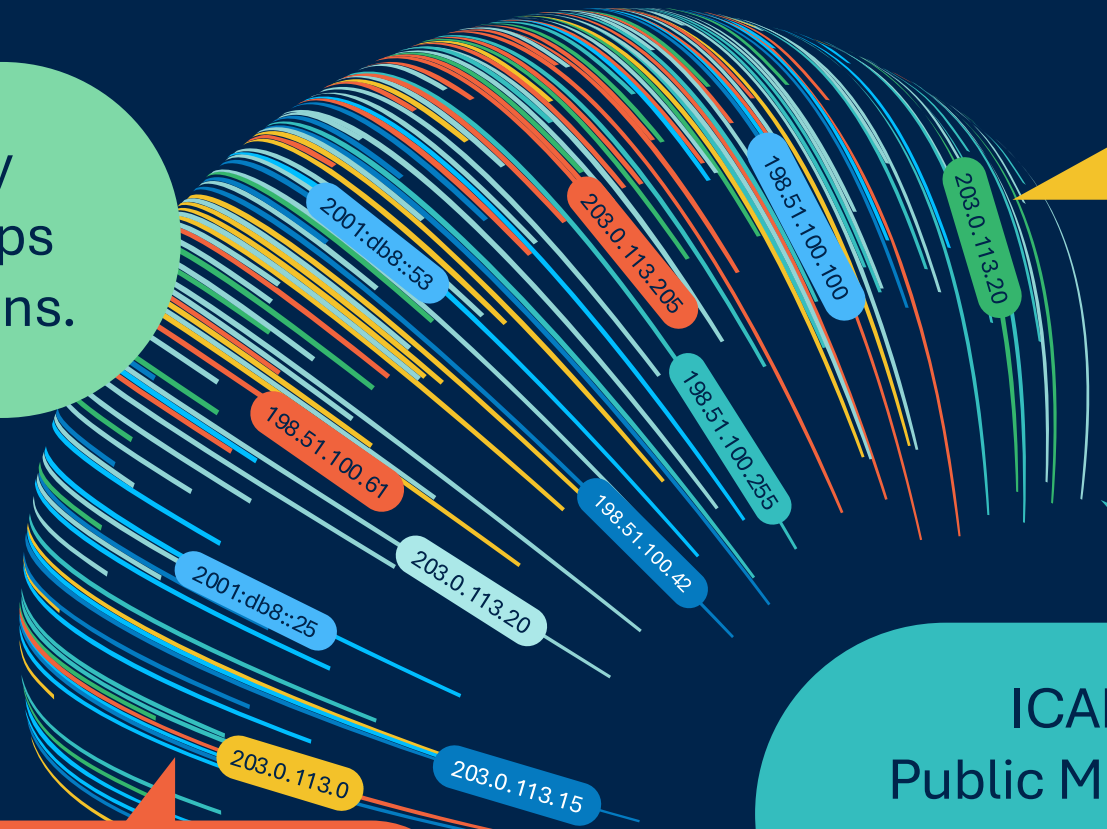
Domain names: Maintain DNS root zone information identifying authoritative servers for top-level domains.

Number resources: Coordinate IP addresses and autonomous system numbers with Regional Internet Registries.

Protocol parameters: Maintain protocol registries with the Internet Engineering Task Force and other technical communities.



Where Network Operators Contribute



Community working groups and discussions.

Internet Service Providers and Connectivity Providers Constituency.

Public Comment proceedings.

New gTLD Program: 2026 Round.

ICANN Public Meetings, including remote participation.

gTLD

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

Expansion of generic top-level domains (gTLDs) to foster diversity, encourage competition, and enhance the utility of the DNS.

Applications published on 7 October 2026; more than 1,600 applications received.

Evaluation assesses proposed strings and applicants' operational and financial capabilities.

One World, One Internet

gTLD

NEW gTLD PROGRAM: 2026 ROUND

- Share feedback on applications during the input period.
- Contribute to related open Public Comment proceedings.
- Participate in community discussions and policy work.

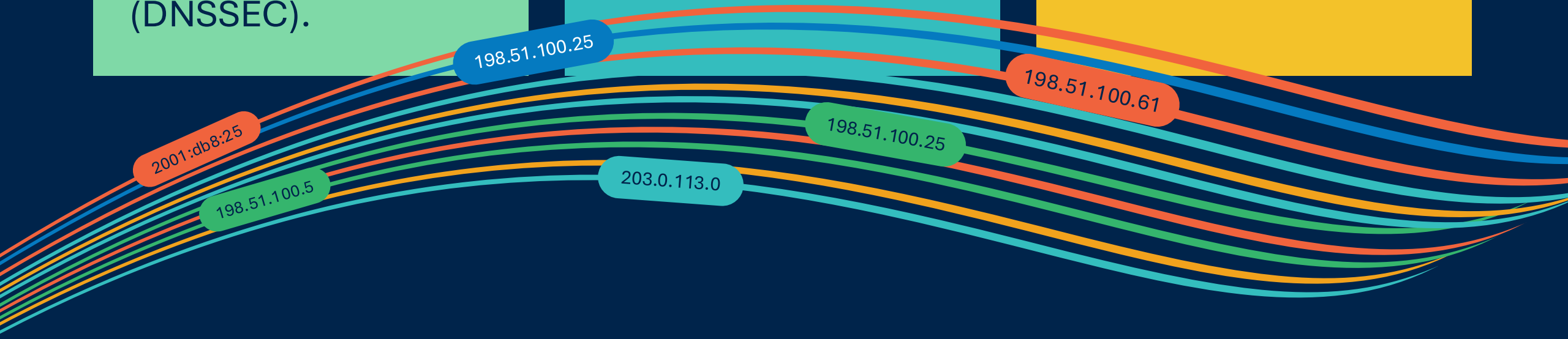
Review the published applications

The Root Zone KSK Rollover

The root zone key signing key (KSK) serves as the trust anchor for DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC).

The new key began signing on 11 October 2026.

Periodic rollovers help maintain security and operational readiness.



KSK Rollover: Next Steps for Operators

Verify that validating resolvers have the correct trust anchors.

Follow resolver vendor guidance.

In January 2027, the previous key will be marked as no longer trusted.

In March 2027, the previous key will be removed from the DNS root zone.

Consult ICANN and IANA guidance for operational updates.

DNS Abuse: Obligations and Reporting

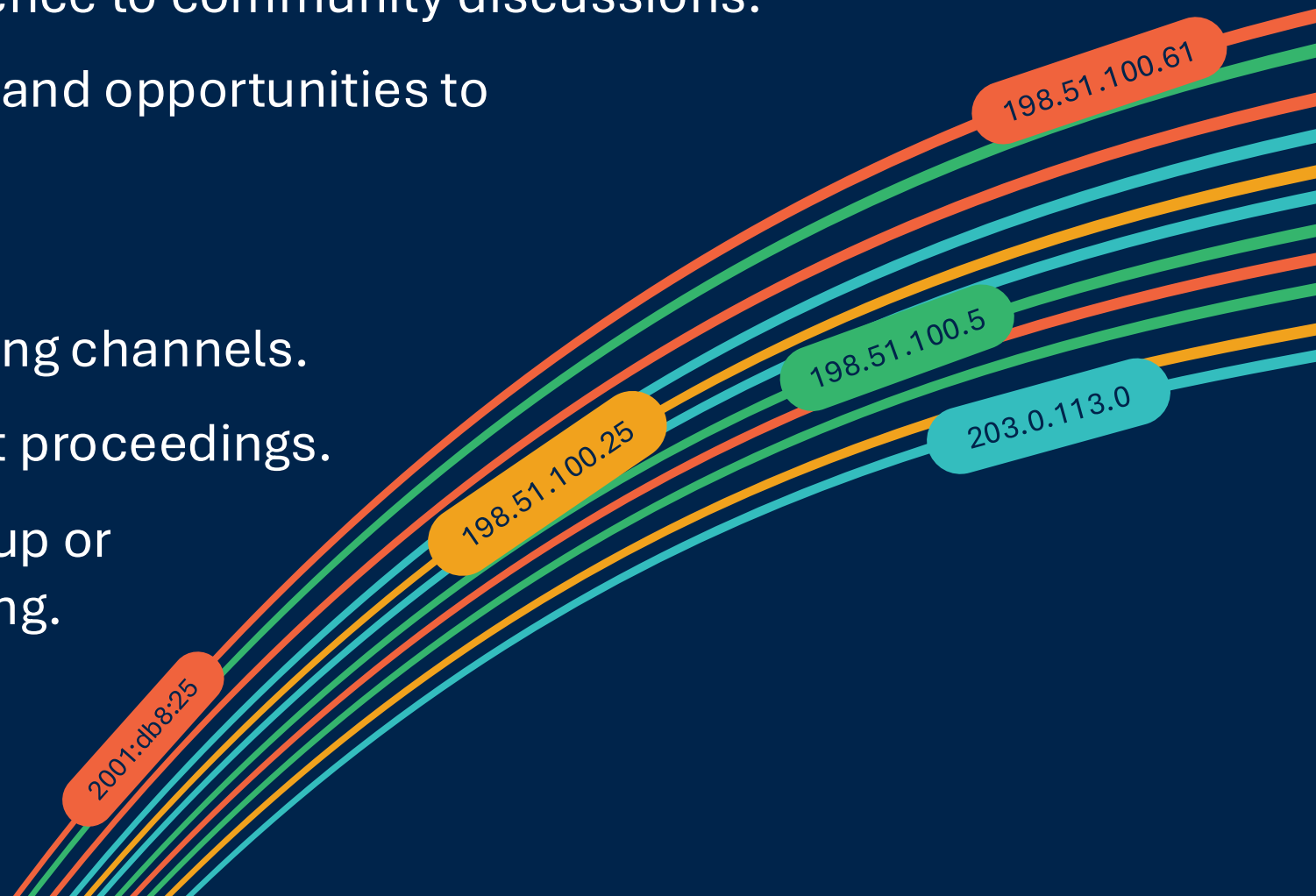
Registries and registrars have obligations to protect users from DNS Abuse.

Malware, botnets, phishing, pharming and spam when used to deliver the others.

- Contracted parties must take mitigation action against well-evidenced DNS Abuse.
- ICANN contributes research, tools and contractual enforcement.
- Report abuse to the responsible registrar.
- Report unresolved contract concerns to ICANN Contractual Compliance.

Participating in ICANN's Work

- Contribute operational experience to community discussions.
- Follow the New gTLD Program and opportunities to provide input.
- Maintain DNSSEC readiness.
- Use established abuse-reporting channels.
- Participate in Public Comment proceedings.
- Join a relevant community group or participate in an ICANN meeting.



Thank You!