
Date: Monday, July 27, 2009

Applicant Organisation: Greater Toronto Area Linux Group (GTALug)

Region: NARALO

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1) COMMITMENTS

a. Does the applicant commit to supporting individual Internet users' informed participation in ICANN?

YES: X NO:

b. Does the applicant agree to assist the RALO in performing its function?

YES: X NO:

2) GOVERNANCE

c. Which geographical area(s) are the applicants membership drawn from?

The greater Toronto area. The ALS would be part of NARALO.

d. Is the applicant constituted so that participation by individual Internet users who are citizens or residents of countries within the geographic region in which the ALS is based control the organisation?

YES: X NO:

Please explain the answer and the source material, with URLs, for the response:

As stated in question 1b(i) of their application, individual members are elected by the membership. As stated in question 1b(ii), the members of the Board of Directors actively request "suggestions, ideas and recommendations" from the individual members.

Does the applicant really have individual members?

YES: X NO:

Provide any references used to answer the question here:

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The applicant organization indicates ‘yes’ to question 2a (Do you have individual members with the ability to vote...) and ‘no’ to question 2b (Do you have organizations as all or part of your membership). The description of their membership includes professionals in the IT field, hobbyists, journalists, technology watchers, etc. (see 2d.ii). In addition, their response to question 2f (Approximately how many members...do you have) states that they have approximately 40 paid members.

In addition, the organization’s constitution states that membership is available to those individuals who have an interest in further the objectives of the organization.

If YES on (c) above, are these members active, or do they mostly just sign up and delegate to their leaders?

ACTIVE: X DELEGATE:

The Board actively seeks comments and suggestions from individual members.

e. Does the applicant have organizations as members?

YES: NO: X

IF YES: Provide details about the nature, type, and number of such members:

IF YES: Provide information about the control they exert over the organisation, whether or not the organizational members are themselves predominantly organised for the benefit of individual internet users.

f. Does the applicant have governmental bodies or quasi-governmental bodies as members?

YES: NO: X

IF YES: Provide details about the nature, type, and number of such members. In particular, describe whether or not the nature of these members is congruent with the *Guidelines for Evaluating ALS Applications* as regards the Second Criterion, and how you arrived at your judgment in this regard:

Does the applicant permit additional participation by others that is compatible with the interests of the individual Internet users within the region?

YES: X NO:

Please explain the answer and the source material, with URLs, for the response:

The organization's website (http://gtalug.org/wiki/Main_Page) has a wiki to which any person who has registered may contribute.

However, the application states that all of its current members are from the greater Toronto area.

g. Is the applicant self-supporting? (i.e. will not rely on ICANN for funding).

YES: X NO:

How is the organization funded and what source material or information did you rely on to make your judgment?

The primary source of funding is derived through membership fees (see question 4.a).

h. Does the applicant post on the Internet current information about their goals, structure, description of constituent group(s)/membership, working mechanisms, leadership, and contact(s)?

YES: X NO:

If YES, please provide the URLs where you found the information (preferably specific to the question, not simply the homepage URL):

The organization's leaders are listed on their webpage (<http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/People>). The organization posts information about past executive (http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/Executive_meetings) and board (http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/Board_meetings) meetings.

The organization's manifesto is stated on their website: <http://gtalug.org/wiki/Manifesto>.

Their constitution, which sets out the duties of their Board of Directors and Executive Committee and rules of procedure was sent with their application.

i. Do the membership, leadership and internal mechanisms described in the application correspond to those exposed on the website?

YES: X NO:

If 'YES', how and where are the references?

The organization's leaders listed on their webpage (<http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/People>), correspond to those listed in the application under question 7.

j. How does the applicant appear to be funded?

Outline funding sources: membership fees

Where / what sources did you use to find the answers to this question?

The primary source of funding is derived through membership fees (see question 4.a).

k. Does the funding mechanism show dependence on other interest groups (i.e. industry, government)?

YES: NO: X

If YES, please provide some further information on what sources you can identify:

If 'YES', please clarify if possible whether the sources are likely to influence the governance of the organization (for example, a grant from a charity or foundation may well be free of 'strings' of this kind, where corporate donations in some cases might not be):

l. Are the leaders of the applicant organization involved in other organizations or entities?

YES: X NO:

If 'YES', please reference the sources for this answer:

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The primary contact for GTALug, Myles Braithwaite, is an IT consultant who established “Monkeyinyoursoul” an Open Source consulting firm (see: <http://mylesbraithwaite.com/about/>) as well as “Braithwaite Technology Consultants” (see: <http://myles.myplaxo.com/>). He also is a member of “UnixUnanimous”, an informal group of people who share interests in Unix.

If YES were they already involved in Internet governance issues in the past, and in which role?

YES: X NO:

If YES, role(s):

See above.

m. Is the mission / policy statement actually related to ICANN / Internet governance issues / advocating users'/consumers interests?

YES: X NO:

If YES, include mission/policy statement, and reference the source:

The Greater Toronto Area Linux User Group is committed to the free exchange of Linux-related information. Our goals as a user group include the creation of mechanisms that allow people with a common interest in linux to socialize.

To promote interest in and use of the [Linux](#) operating system, the [Free Software Foundation](#), and the [GNU Public License](#).

To foster Linux education and training.

To organize and sponsor special events

To encourage public acceptance of Linux and [Open Source](#) solutions. This may involve demonstrating [Linux equivalents](#) to proprietary software.

To provide various means for the free exchange of information, news, and ideas about Linux and the Open Source advantage.

To employ Linux and Free Software solutions in addressing social and technological problems in the Greater [Toronto](#) Area.

We have tended to find it more important to do and to promote these things than to work very hard to solicit [Membership](#). Traditionally, we would like to have members, but think it particularly important to encourage useful activity. (Source: <http://gtalug.org/wiki/Manifesto>)

3) INTERNET PRESENCE

a. Is the contact information for the organization and its contact person complete and reasonable?

YES: X to some extent NO:

List of mailing lists is available at: http://gtalug.org/wiki/Mailing_lists

List of people associated with the organization is available at:
<http://gtalug.org/wiki/People>.

However, there is no specific contact information on the organization's officers is readily apparent.

Does the listed URL work?

YES: X NO:

Does the website seem to be regularly updated?

YES: X (somewhat regularly) NO:

Does the website have online discussion forums?

YES: X NO:

If archives are publicly available, do these forums show signs of recent activity (in the last few months)?

YES: X – a wiki NO:

If public, are they kept up to date?

YES: X – somewhat regularly NO:

4) **ADDITIONAL DUE DILIGENCE**

a. How active and well known is the applicant organization?

Number of results for a Google search of organisation in quotes:

A Google Search of the organization resulted in approximately 19,900 results (see: <http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=%22Greater%20Toronto%20Area%20Linux%20User%20Group%22>).

Additional information if any:

b. Were you familiar with this applicant before the applicant applied to become an ALS?

YES: NO: X

If ‘YES’ please provide some detail of your previous knowledge:

c. What kind of issues does it focus on mostly?

Outline focus issues:

- Has the applicant set up any event, meeting, or real-life activity pertaining to Internet governance issues, or other issues related to the interests of individual users?

YES: X NO:

Additional information if any: GTALug has held a large number of meetings related to the Internet and software since 1994. The primary type of meeting has consisted of invited speakers. See:

http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/Historical:Meetings#Meetings_2009.

Evan Leibovitch, NARALO Chair, spoke to the group in April 2009 on ICANN: <http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/Meetings:2009-04>.

- Has the applicant been active in international, regional or national Internet governance issues?

ACTIVE: X INACTIVE:

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If Active, please provide details of activities or reference URLs for the same:

Recently had Evan Leibovitch, Chair of NARALO, speak about ICANN and the new gTLDs (see: <http://tlug.ss.org/wiki/Meetings:2009-04>).