



Background of Mark James Elkins

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Mark was born and educated in the UK. He attended Queen Mary College (London University) from 1979 to 1982. From that very first day at university (as “mje”) – Mark has been working on Unix based computer systems. He moved to South Africa in 1983.

After twelve years at Olivetti Systems and Networks (Unix Support), he started his own company (Posix Systems – an Internet Service Provider) and has been involved in Computer Communications since 1984 (UUCP, TCP/IP).

He acquired the administered of the “CO.ZA” Domain name administration system on behalf of UniForum S.A. from 1995. He then automated it – the majority of this code still runs today, though now as the Legacy system. Today, the CO.ZA Domain has well over a million Domain Names and is by far the largest Domain in Africa.

Noteworthy Achievements include

- CCIE (Cisco Engineer) No.1992, 6 June 1996
- CEO of Posix Systems (AfrINIC LIR, Registrar, Registry operator)– 1996 onwards
- Running IPv6 at Posix Systems since January 2007
- DNSSEC at Posix Systems since 2010
- Director of /usr/group/sa --> UniForum SA --> ZACR (Member No. 1)
- Director of COZA Cares
- Director of DNS (Domain Name Services)
- Member of the IoD (Institution of Directors) – 2011
- Chair Person of the South African (DoC) IPv6 Task force committee
- Manages the EDU.ZA and the ALT.ZA SLD Registries – with DNSSEC (with a CDS Collector) and IDN.
- Board member of AFRINIC (2009 for 6 years) including ASO-AC, NOMCOM & Vice Chair
- ICANN DNSSEC & Security Program Committee Member for Africa
- DNS & DNSSEC Trainer for the ZARC (South Africa Registry Consortium)
- ICANN UA Ambassador (Universal Acceptance)
- Part of the ICANN “DNS Study for Africa (2016 & 2023)” working group.

Personal words

Worked on the CO.ZA Administration system – which I wrote (fully automated) back in 1995. IPv6 was added in 2007, ahead of the crowd. Within the UniForum organisation, we have travelled to and attended multiple ICANN and AFRINIC meetings and participated in various events, workshops – often giving presentations on Domain Name Systems.

I became involved with the creation of AFRINIC and spent six years as a Board Member. This has allowed me to gain even greater insight into the Internet Business around Africa. I have been involved in numerous AFRINIC Policies and understand the policy process including the global policy development process. I hold much institutional memory of AFRINIC. I have also been involved with the African ccTLD organisation (AFTLD) and the African DNS Forum, often giving presentations.

I have travelled much of Africa and consider many of those who operate both ISP's and ccTLD on the continent as friends. I know that many have taken my counsel to make the DNS and Internet business in Africa better for Africans. I'm also involved in four of the new gTLD's, the three South African city names and dotAfrica.

My hobbies include SCUBA Diving and am a NAUI Dive Instructor – I like to teach and pass on knowledge.

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