

Critically discuss the following statement.

If NTIA allows the Cooperative Agreement [between Verisign Inc and the US Department of Commerce/NTIA] to expire, jurisdiction and oversight [by the US] over the Internet will be lost.¹

Please focus on the function or functions of the Verisign-NTIA Cooperative Agreement in the transnational context of Internet governance and regulation. In this context, also consider what consequences an expiry of this agreement might have on the future of price regulation for generic Top-Level Domains by ICANN. You should also address the relevance of recent changes in the Internet governance institutional framework (during the last few years), especially focussing on US oversight over ICANN and Verisign. Although legal issues under US law could be relevant, they can be disregarded for the purposes of this assignment.

¹ Letter by Donald Smith (Internet Commerce Association), to David Redl (NTIA), dated 17 July 2018 <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/publications/smith-letter-to-david-redl-ntia-comment-feedback.pdf>

Background: The Verisign Cooperative Agreement (with amendments) between NTIA and Verisign is available here: <https://www.ntia.doc.gov/page/verisign-cooperative-agreement>