
Foreword

Recounting the history of LACNIC means accepting that it is possible to capture all the elements of a collective effort in just a few pages, assigning each their fair degree of relevance in the development of LACNIC. This is clearly an impossible challenge, or at least one that is beyond our reach.

We do, however, hope to reflect on the elements that have been part of this ongoing history from the point of view of the persons that were interviewed and based on anecdotes, correspondence and documents. We have worked on identifying the phases of community building and development that we consider to be the most relevant and, wherever possible, we have turned to the individuals who participated in these efforts. While some may not have much to say, they have all had a great deal to do with this history.

Our goal is not simply to list a sequence of events, as we understand that there is not much value in the mere addition of a timestamp. Instead, we believe that value lies in locating each of the elements we have identified and grouping them under various challenges, considering the regional historical context, the global context, and the development of the different Internet institutions themselves.

We also believe that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has much to tell the world about this experience of more than twenty years during which we have not only learned a lot but also managed to define a community starting out from very little. And I am not only talking about the 600 or 700 professionals that come together for each LACNIC event, but about each professional, enthusiast and student who participates in the technical forums that have been created over the years, in LACNOG, and in the projects and efforts of other regional organizations such as ICANN, the Internet Society and LACTLD.

As the organizers of this work, we wanted to keep ourselves at a certain distance from the final document and allow Carolina Aguerre freedom to tell the story of each challenge in the way that best suited her research, focusing our support on the more technical aspects. We believe that the result will be of great value to the community we are part of and hope that this document will become a reference of what this community seeks to maintain and develop.

Oscar A. Robles

Montevideo, 15 April 2019