

Ross Rader

Geek, adventurer and lover of the internet

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Summary

Over the years I've focused on strategic development, new product introduction and "bootstrapping". Since 1999, I have been active in several key areas of internet policy development and governance, and elected to key senior policy positions on a national and global scale. I'm keenly interested in questioning operating assumptions in an attempt to "find a better way", helping my people find their best, and continuing my personal development path.

In my spare time, I struggle to balance developing my internet interests with my physical and mental well-being. I'm a record holding ultra-distance cyclist who chips away at the Canadian winter with long distance running. I love books and music and will read anything, including the cereal box - and listen to anything, but opera.

Specialties

I specialize in Internet business policy and strategy. I have a special interest in developing new lines of business from startup to widespread adoption in addition to rejuvenating stagnant lines of business, or winding down the real dogs. I've been in leadership roles since my early twenties, and my thirties have seen me in a number of governance, policy development and oversight roles as I seek to improve myself and the world around me.

Experience

General Manager at Hover, a service of Tucows Inc.

2005 - Present (5 years)

Hover is Tucows retail domain service. We're a small but scrappy team looking to make it awesome and easy to own a domain name and get the most out of it.

Director (Board member) at CIRA

September 2004 - Present (6 years 4 months)

CIRA is not-for-profit governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of 14 members who set policy and establish strategies in support of Canada's Internet community and users. Directors are elected by CIRA members, holders of dot-ca names. As an elected Director, I seek to balance the needs of the organization with the interests of Canada's internet community. For 2004 through 2005, I served as the Board Secretary, from 2007 through 2008, I served as the chair of the board Technical Oversight Committee and as a member of the board Executive Committee. In October 2008, I was elected chair of the board Governance Committee and re-elected for a second term in 2009.

I have been a board member since 2004 when I was originally elected for a one year term, re-elected in September 2006 for a two-year term and again in 2008 for another three-year term.

Board Elections Committee at UMCA

April 2010 - December 2010 (9 months)

UMCA is a not-for-profit membership organization, which promotes endurance bicycling, also known as ultra cycling, around the world. We have members in over 20 countries. The Elections Committee implements and oversees the UMCA Board elections rules and process.

Board Nominating Committee - ALAC Representative at ICANN

2007 - 2009 (2 years)

ICANN's Nominating Committee (Nom Com) is an independent committee tasked with selecting a majority of the members of the Board of Directors and other key positions within ICANN's structure.

I was twice elected by the At-Large Advisory Committee as their representative from North America for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 sessions of the committee.

ICANN is an internationally organized, public benefit, non-profit corporation dedicated to: preserving the operational security and stability of the Internet; promoting competition; achieving broad representation of global Internet communities; and supporting the development of policies appropriate to its mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes.

Director, Retail Services at Tucows Inc.

May 2006 - January 2009 (2 years 9 months)

Tucows Retail Services group manages a portfolio of internet services including Domain Direct, NetIdentity, Kiko, Blogrolling, Newshub and more. My responsibilities include managing the overall strategic direction of the group, setting and achieving our long-term objectives and assisting individual team members to achieve their respective goals.

Councillor, GNSO Registrar Constituency at ICANN

December 2003 - November 2007 (4 years)

The GNSO Council is an elected body responsible for defining ICANN's overall policy agenda for issues related to generic top-level domain names (.com, .net, .org, .info, etc). I was elected to this body in 2003 as the North American representative of the GNSO Registrar Constituency. The Registrar Constituency is one of six GNSO constituencies - its representatives include delegates from Network Solutions, GoDaddy, eNom and over 200 other ICANN accredited registrars. Due to term limits, I stepped down from this position in November of 2007 as I reached the end of my second consecutive term.

1 recommendation available upon request

Director, Research & Innovation at Tucows Inc.

December 2001 - April 2006 (4 years 5 months)

Tucows Research and Innovation group is responsible for getting out ahead of where the company is going and finding new products, services and markets that the company can grow into. Past development projects have included OpenSRS, eBarn (the Tucows Software Store), Tucows SSL, managed email and DNS, Blogware and a lot of things you've never heard about. Our focus for the last couple of years has been on RSS and online gaming.

Director, Assigned Names Division at Tucows Inc.

January 1999 - December 2001 (3 years)

As the Director of Tucows AND, I was responsible for launching the wildly successful OpenSRS, the first large-scale commercial web service. OpenSRS was the first and most successful wholesale domain registration services and increased Tucows revenues four fold in its first year. At its peak, this team included over 40 people and was eventually absorbed back into Tucows as its main line of business.

Director, Marketing at Internet Direct

January 1997 - January 1999 (2 years 1 month)

As the Director of Marketing for Internet Direct, I was responsible for the implementation of the corporate marketing strategy during a period marked by heavy growth as this precariously dynamic startup grew to become Canada's largest Internet Service Provider.

General Manager at Internet Direct

January 1993 - January 1997 (4 years 1 month)

As the general manager, I was responsible for overseeing and coordinating the activities of the different operations department of the company including sales, marketing, administration and the other non-technical groups of the company.

1 recommendation available upon request

Education

University of Toronto - Rotman School of Management

Not-For-Profit Governance Essentials Program, 2009 - 2009

The University of Western Ontario - Richard Ivey School of Business

Advanced Management Training (AMT), 2006 - 2006

The University of Winnipeg

Economics, Anthropology, World Religions, English, 1989 - 1991

Interests

I'm totally into charity and competitive endurance cycling (long rides on road bikes to put smiles on kids faces), long distance running, photography, music and all things internet.

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2 people have recommended Ross

"In the sometimes-stormy seas of ICANN, Ross is a positive voice of calm reason."

— **Mike O'Connor**, *Domainer, Bar.com, pub.com, grill.com, place.com, corp.com, shelter.com, television.com etc...*, was with another company when working with Ross at ICANN

"Ross has a very rare gift, the ability to see around corners, especially when it comes to identifying new technological trends. He is an absolutely superb strategist, who can develop and lay out an effective strategic plan. Calm, collected, keen, humble, these are some of the adjectives that can be applied to Ross. For me, it was a pleasure working with him."

— **John Nemanic**, *President and CEO, Internet Direct Canada Inc.*, managed Ross indirectly at Internet Direct

[Contact Ross on LinkedIn](#)