Discussion Document for
Expert Working Group Beijing Session on
Next Generation gTLD Data Directory Services

Background

In December, ICANN announced the creation of an Expert Working Group (EWG) on gTLD Directory Services, as a first step in fulfilling the ICANN Board’s directive to help redefine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data. The work of the Expert Working Group is expected to serve as a foundation to help GNSO create a new global policy for gTLD directory services, as part of a Board requested Policy Development Process (PDP) to be commenced upon the conclusion of the Expert Working Group’s activities.

Recent Activities

The EWG participated in a series of in-person and telephonic meetings. In fulfilling its mandate, the EWG is conducting a comprehensive review of issues surrounding the requirements for gTLD registration data directory services, including the following:

- Usage requirements & business needs for gTLD registration data
- Identification of permissible purposes for data collection, use, and disclosure
- Registrant classification
- Requester classification
- Identification of data elements available & required
- Data protection requirements & impacts on registration data
- Registrar local law exceptions
- Requirements for data accuracy, reliability & quality
- Processes for inaccuracy prevention & remediation
- Access elements & accountability structures to minimize abuse
- Data display considerations
- Storage considerations & performance metrics
- Security requirements
• Technical protocols
• Internationalization and localization considerations

Community Input Sought in Beijing

Beijing presents a unique opportunity for the EWG to provide an update on its progress and to hear from the ICANN community on a range of topics to inform its post-Beijing work.

For example, participants in the Beijing Session are invited to comment on questions currently under discussion within the EWG, including:

• Whether collection, storage and provision of registrant data is necessary
• Whether to incorporate different registration data requirements for domain names for commercial use versus non-commercial use
• Whether and how anonymous registrations should be accommodated
• Potential costs/benefits of a distributed versus a centralized database
• Possible safeguards to minimize abuse and protect the privacy of registrants
• Whether and how remedies for inaccurate data should differ (for example, in cases of fraudulent, criminal, or malicious conduct)
• Whether tiered access is desirable, depending upon the requestor’s purpose

For More Information on the EWG

• Meeting Reports and other information regarding the EWG’s activities can be found at the EWG’s public wiki space at: https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=40175189