

ICANN 33



gTLD Registry Continuity Plan

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gTLD Registry Continuity Plan

- Overall goals of Plan:
 - Protection of Existing Registrants
 - Ensure confidence in the DNS
- The gTLD Registry Continuity Plan is one of ICANN's key projects in its Operational Plan: Sec. 1.10.1 of '07-08 Ops Plan: ICANN will "Establish a comprehensive plan to be followed in the event of a financial, technical or business failure of a registry operator, including full compliance with data escrow requirements and recovery testing."



Update - Since Paris

- Plan finalised at ICANN Paris, posted for public comment from Jul-Aug 2008
- SSAC comment – plan was implementable & should be tested
- Meeting conducted in Washington DC 29 Sept of core planning team, ICANN staff for next test exercise
- Plan updated following 29 Sept 2008 meeting
- Staff developing implementation details and preparations for joint ICANN-gTLD registry test exercise in Jan 2009



Update – Improvements to Plan

- Clarified plan is for protection of existing registrants
- Retitled plan and references in new gTLD documents as gTLD Registry Continuity Plan
- Updated composition of ICANN's crisis response team
- Incorporated elements into new gTLD draft materials
- Live test planned with gTLD registries, others



gTLD Registry Continuity Plan

- Plan is a guide for ICANN actions in failure situations and defines roles of ICANN and registries, in line with existing gTLD registry agreements
- Includes an approach to situation handling, communications between ICANN and registries, description of ICANN's crisis response team (with roles and backups), business continuity and TLD transition elements



gTLD Registry Continuity Plan

- Plan identifies the following critical registry functions:
 1. Maintenance of nameservers and DNS for domains
 2. Shared Registration System
 3. Data security and data escrow
 4. Accessibility of Registration Data
 5. IDN Tables (if offered by the registry)
 6. DNSSEC keys (if offered by the registry)
- Within these functions are levels of importance
- List was based on existing gTLD agreements



gTLD Registry Continuity Plan

- Situation handling for when ICANN learns of or receives information
- System for noting, logging situations
 - Registry at issue
 - Timeline of situation
 - Critical functions involved
 - Identity of party providing information
 - As much detail as possible on nature and impact of Situation
- Staff will assess and communicate results internally
- If Situation requires a manager, coordinated, inter-departmental response & coordinated outside communications, Situation will be declared an Event



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- Crisis Response – following contact with registry or independent confirmation of Situation/Event & assessment, ICANN may initiate crisis response team
 - VP of Corporate Affairs
 - General Counsel staff
 - Services team
 - Security staff
 - Global Partnerships
 - Other staff as necessary
- Roles should have designated backups
- ICANN shall test crisis response at least once per year



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- Crisis Response – Team shall inform Executive Mgmt + Board of Event, known facts and course of action
- VP of Corporate Affairs is designated spokesperson
- ICANN will make best efforts to coordinate with the affected registry media staff on public statements
- Public awareness program may be implemented
- ICANN Corporate Affairs will maintain central media contacts
- ICANN staff shall inform registrars in line with agreements



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- Crisis Response – ICANN will communicate w/registry or sponsor and provider technical assistance where appropriate or requested
- In consultation w/registry, determine whether Event occurred as a result of technical, business/financial or other reasons
- If registry cannot be reached and backup operations provider is known and available, ICANN should contact backup (or seek alternate confirmation of Event and contact escrow provider)
- ICANN will attempt to reach all available registry contacts before contacting backup



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- Crisis Response – If registry's contingency plan activates registry services continuity provider, registry must make contact w/ICANN and confirm level of service to be provided by backup to registrars & registrants
- Registry or Backup will use commercially reasonable efforts to maintain critical functions
- ICANN will confirm with registrars on notice to community and registrants



gTLD Registry Continuity Plan

- Business Continuity – plan presumes registry has own contingency plans
- ICANN may offer to provide or locate technical assistance to the registry or sponsor, if appropriate
- Registry shall provide notice to community of the timeline for return to normal operations
- If registry cannot continue operations, registry will invoke contingency plan or backup provider to ensure continuity of service for the TLD
- Backup provider must meet ICANN requirements for operating TLD



Continuity – New gTLDs

- Provisions included in draft new gTLD materials and base agreement derived from gTLD Registry Continuity efforts
 - Applicant questions on continuity planning & technical capacity
 - Revised Registry Data Escrow Specification
 - Draft Registry Interoperability, Continuity & Performance Specification
 - Pre-delegation check



Jan 2009 Continuity Exercise

- Joint ICANN-gTLD exercise planned for late January 09
- Core planning team meeting occurred in Washington DC; meeting again in Cairo
- Participants include Afilias, NeuStar, PIR, VeriSign
- Scenario-based table top simulation plus data escrow simulation
- Update to be given at ICANN Mexico City

