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Domain Listing Service – Deleting Domain Names

The purpose of this document is to identify possible concepts for enabling the smooth, efficient disposition of domain name registrations by registrants for the purpose of facilitating open industry discussions on this topic during the ICANN meetings held in Capt Town, South Africa.

The Domain Listing Service would be a service operated by VeriSign to facilitate the open exchange of deleting domain name registrations through the auction-style sale of domain name registrations that have expired.

The Domain Listing Service would be available exclusively to registrars, and all registrars would be able to actively participate in the Domain Listing Service as representatives of buyers and sellers of domain names.

As part of the deletion processes all domain registrations would be automatically listed for an auction-style sale during a five day period concurrent with the current pending delete period.

After the 5 day auction period the Domain Listing Service would trigger an automatic one year registration of the domain name for the buying agent registrar with the winning bid. The registration would be effective the first day after the 5 day period, the same day during which the name would otherwise have been deleted and available for registration.

Funds would be collected from the buying agent registrar and distributed to the listing agent registrar once the registration is complete.

With a starting price to be set, any domain that does not receive a bid during the 5 day period would be deleted and become available for registration as it does today.

Payment Flow

At the conclusion of the auction the registrar representing the registrant with the winning bid would be charged the amount of the winning bid less 5%. The purchaser would pay the buying agent registrar for the winning bid.

Collection of funds from the purchaser remains the responsibility of the buying agent registrar. As a value added service VeriSign would provide clearing services for collection of funds from the purchaser.

The domain would be registered by the Domain Listing Service to the buying agent registrar automatically upon receipt of funds. The registration process initiated by the Domain Listing Service follows standard policy and procedures and the standard fee applies.

Following confirmation of the successful registration, the Domain Listing Service would distribute 80% of the auction proceeds to the listing agent registrar. The Domain Listing Service would retain 15% as a listing service fee.

It is the responsibility of the listing agent registrar to distribute funds to the selling registrant.

Technical Interface

Registrars wishing to offer this service to their customers would have two technical interface options. The first is through an Application Program Interface (API) connected to the Domain Listing Service platform at the registry.

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Alternatively there would be a white labeled Web Service Interface designed to allow registrars to integrate into their existing business process flows.

Buying agent registrars could include in their inventory of available domain registrations those that are for sale on the Domain Listing Service.

Refunds

The buying agent registrar would be able to make refunds for purchases under their own customer agreements and policies. However, the Domain Listing Service would only grant refunds if the buying agent registrar experiences a charge back. In the event of a refund the Domain Listing Service would reverse the payment flow.

If a charge back was to occur within 60 days of the registration all funds would be returned to the buying agent registrar and the domain registration would be placed back into the Domain Listing Service for auction again. Included in the terms and conditions of the service the listing agent registrar would agree to return proceeds from the auction under these circumstances.

5 day ADD Grace Period

A deletion within the ADD grace period would result in a refund of the registration fee. The proceeds from the auction would not be refunded.

It is in the best interests of the buying agent registrar to restrict deletion of domain registrations within the 5 day ADD grace period when purchased through the Deleting Name Domain Listing Service.