



gTLD Registry Failover Project Update

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gTLD Registry Failover Project Update

- The gTLD Registry Failover Plan is intended to provide protection for registrants and add to the security and stability of the Internet in collaboration with experienced registries.
- The plan defines ICANN's role if the event of gTLD registry failure.
- This is a key project in the 2007-2008 Operational Plan.

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- Plan calls for registries to have their own contingency plans to maintain critical functions for a period of time until a replacement can be found or provide a notice period to registrants on closure.
- An initial draft was published on 20 Oct 2007, and revised on 25 Nov 2007.

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- ICANN successfully executed the gTLD Registry Failover Exercise on 24-25 January 2008
- Exercise was designed to validate processes and procedures associated with implementation of the draft *ICANN gTLD Registry Failover Plan*

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- Four exercise objectives:
 - Validate and harden draft *ICANN gTLD Registry Failover Plan*
 - Train the staff for crisis response to specific failure situations
 - Assess maturity of ICANN's technical decision making progress
 - Achieve completion of a key ICANN project during fiscal year 07-08

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- 5 scenarios touching on following elements:
 - Escalation of temporary issues
 - Implications of DNSSEC
 - Internal vs External communication
 - Failure of a sponsored TLD
 - IDNs
 - Natural disaster
 - Government/regulatory action on gTLD
 - DDoS attack/terrorist attack
 - Backend provider issues
 - “Bad” acts

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- Following the exercise, staff revised the draft plan on 5 Feb 2008.
 - Revised definitions for an event and what triggers crisis communications plan
 - Added section on information sharing to improve communications during normal operations
 - Identified need for ICANN to have a coordinated inter-departmental response and outside communications if an event were to occur
 - ICANN also exploring certification of backend registry operators

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- After Action Report and description of the Failover Exercise will be provided to SSAC
- Latest iteration of Failover Plan will also be provided
- Staff looks forward to continued discussions with SSAC on this topic