



# Update report on GNSO-requested Whois studies



**Liz Gasster**

Senior Policy Counselor

7–12 March 2010

# Goals of Whois studies

- Whois policy has been debated for many years
- Many competing interests with valid viewpoints
- GNSO Council hopes that study data will provide an objective, factual basis for future policy making
- Council identified five Whois study areas to test hypotheses that reflect key policy concerns
- Council asked staff to determine costs and feasibility of conducting one or more of those studies

# 1. Whois Misuse Studies

Two possible studies to assess whether public Whois significantly increases harmful acts and impact of anti-harvesting measures.

1. One would survey registrants, registrars, research and law enforcement orgs about past acts.
2. Another would measure variety of acts aimed at Whois published vs. unpublished test addresses.

Used RFP approach, 3 responses, analysis underway  
Will provide cost/benefit and feasibility results to  
GNSO Council circa March

ToR: <http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/tor-whois-misuse-studies-25sep09-en.pdf>

## 2. Registrant Identification Study

- How do registrants identify themselves in Whois?
- To what extent are domains owned by businesses or used for commercial purposes:
  - 1) Not clearly identified as such in Whois; and
  - 2) Related to use of privacy and proxy services?
- Also used RFP approach, 5 responses received, analysis underway – will provide cost/benefit and feasibility results to GNSO Council in March timeframe
- ToR: <http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/tor-whois-registrant-identification-studies-23oct09-en.pdf>

### 3. Proxy and Privacy Services Studies

- **P/P “Abuse” study** - Relationship between domains associated with illegal/harmful Internet acts and P/P abuse to obscure perpetrator identity, if any
- Would study broad sample of domains associated with many kinds of acts and compare to the overall frequency of P/P registrations
- Draft RFP is almost complete
- Target release in March 2010
- **P/P “Reveal” study** – would measure Proxy service responsiveness to registrant identity reveal requests
- Draft RFP delayed – April 2010 or later

## 4. Readability of non-ASCII Whois

- Study would involve a technical analysis of how various client-side software displays non-ASCII registration information
- This study is on hold pending work of the SSAC-GNSO Internationalized Registration Data Working Group.
- See [https://st.icann.org/int-reg-data-wg/index.cgi?internationalized\\_registration\\_data\\_working\\_group](https://st.icann.org/int-reg-data-wg/index.cgi?internationalized_registration_data_working_group) for more information about the Working Group

## 5. Whois Service Requirements Inventory

- Council asked staff to compile a list of Whois service requirements based on policy discussions
- Staff will have first draft for Council and SO/AC review/input in the March timeframe

# Timeline and Next Steps

- Proposed next steps
  - Finalize report to GNSO Council on first two study areas
  - Finalize draft Whois Services Requirements Report and circulate to GNSO Council and SOs/ACs
  - Develop/finalize RFPs on P/P Services studies
  - Council discussion and next steps
  - Consideration in context of FY 2011 budget process
- Staff Contact: Liz Gasster  
Policy-staff@icann.org



# Progress Report on Whois Service Requirements study

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# Background: May 07 Council resolutions

Resolved,

- The GNSO Council requests that Policy Staff, with the assistance of technical staff and GNSO Council members as required, **collect and organize a comprehensive set of requirements for the Whois service policy tools**. These requirements should **reflect** not only the **known deficiencies** in the current service but should **include** any **possible requirements** that may be needed to support various policy initiatives that have been suggested in the past.
- The synthesis of requirements should be done in consultation with the SSAC, ALAC, GAC, the ccNSO and the GNSO and a **strawman proposal should be prepared** for these consultations. The Staff is asked to come back with an estimate of when this would be possible.

# Goals

- To collect and organize a set of requirements for community consideration including
  - Current features identified as needing improvement
  - features to support various, past policy proposals
  - features recommended by ICANN SOs, ACs, community
  
- “Requirement” means technical requirements
  - NOT gathering policy requirements
  - NOT recommending policy
  - Purpose of study is to assure that the data and supporting technology exist to enable policies developed via consensus policy process

# Preliminary Compilations

- Mechanism to find authoritative Whois servers
- Structured queries
- Well-defined schema for replies
- Standardized errors
- Standardized Set of query capabilities

# Preliminary Compilations

- Quality of domain registration data
- Internationalization
- Security (authentication, authorization, auditing)
- Thick vs. Thin Whois
- Registrar abuse point of contact

# Timeline and Next Steps

- Proposed next steps
  - Release a draft Whois Requirements Report for in March 2010 for GNSO review
  - Conduct overview Webinars (March, April 2010)
  - Consult with the other SOs and ACs on the draft report, incorporate their input (March and April 2010)
  - Release final report by May 2010

Staff Contact:

Steve Sheng, [policy-staff@icann.org](mailto:policy-staff@icann.org)



**Questions?**

**Thank You**