

# Discussion Document for Expert Working Group Buenos Aires Session on Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services

## Background

The Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG) has been working to envision a clean-slate approach to better meet global Internet community needs for domain name registration data with greater privacy, accuracy, and accountability. In its Initial Report published in June, the EWG recommended a series of principles and proposed a model for the next-generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) to replace today's WHOIS system.

## Recent Activities

In advance of the ICANN-48 Meeting in Buenos Aires, the EWG has published a [Status Update Report](#) highlighting responses to address key issues raised by the EWG's Initial Report and informed by Community feedback. The ideas presented in this Status Update Report are works-in-progress, not consensus recommendations, and may be further updated by the EWG in Buenos Aires. It is hoped that this Status Update Report will provide insight into the team's recommendations, answer questions, and stimulate lively Community dialogue in Buenos Aires.

## Community Input Sought in Buenos Aires

The EWG will be presenting an overview of its recommendations in Buenos Aires at the public session "[Exploring Replacements for WHOIS - The Next Generation Directory Services](#)" on Wednesday, 20 November 2013, 8:30-10:00 ART. Interested community members are also invited to participate in an [interactive open EWG Workshop](#) on Wednesday, 20 November 2013, 16:30-17:30 ART.

The EWG hopes to use Community input and research into specific areas to reach fact-based recommendations in its Final Report. While the EWG welcomes constructive feedback on all aspects of its Initial Report, the group is especially seeking Community input on new ideas presented in its Status Update Report, including:

- Data elements to be freely available on an anonymous basis, and those that might require authenticated, gated access by accredited users for permissible purposes
  - Do proposed criteria for data collection and disclosure strike an appropriate balance between registrant privacy and accountability?
  - Should legal person registrants be required to make more data elements public?
  - When considering accreditation of RDS users, what existing organizations should be investigated as potential accreditors?
- Proposals for better shield (privacy) and proxy services and for secured protected credentials for use by at-risk individuals
  - Would proposed principles and processes for accredited shield (privacy) and proxy services actually overcome known deficiencies?

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- Are there additional problems that must be addressed, such as criteria for unmasking a proxy customer's data?
- How could the proposed Secure Protected Credentials approach be operationalized?
- Proposals to improve data quality through standardized validation, periodic checks, prevalidated contacts, and a reusable contact management system
  - Would proposed processes for validation address the causes of inaccurate WHOIS data, and what existing validation services might be utilized by the RDS?
  - What are the potential benefits, limitations, and impacts of a contact management system which allows individuals and organizations to manage their contact information across multiple roles and domain registrations?
- Consideration of jurisdictional and applicable law issues, harmonization of data protection and security measures, and a framework for binding corporate rules
  - Would our recommendation for ICANN to develop binding corporate rules be the best way to address concerns about jurisdiction and applicable law?
- How existing technical protocols could be utilized by the EWG's recommended model (such as EPP or the RDAP protocol under development by the IETF)
  - Why are EPP and RDAP well-suited for next-generation RDS access and display?
  - What circumstances (if any) would render EPP or RDAP ineffective?
- The pros and cons of various system models examined by the EWG, and how effectively each might support RDS principles and community needs for registration data
  - Have the most viable models been vetted against the EWG's criteria for comparison, and have all important criteria been considered?
  - For the two most promising models identified by the EWG, are there significant pros and cons not yet considered?

### **For More Information**

Information about EWG meetings and activities can be found on the EWG's public wiki:

<https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=40175189>

The EWG's Initial Draft Report, FAQs, and associated online comment forum can be found at:

<https://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-3-24jun13-en.htm>

The EWG's status update report can be found at:

<http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-11nov13-en.htm>