
ICANN77 | PF – GNSO Registrars and ICANN: Accreditation and RDRS Engagement
Monday, June 12 2023 – 10:45 to 12:15 DCA

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

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With that, I'll hand the floor back over to Ashley Heineman, please begin.

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ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

Thank you very much, and for the record, my name is Ashley Heinemann. I am chair of the Registrar Stakeholder Group. Welcome to all of you who've joined us today. So this meeting is going to cover a bunch of different angles here, and for the first part, we're really going to focus on either companies who are not yet members of the Registrar Stakeholder Group or perhaps are not accredited by ICANN. So this is your opportunity to hear what we have to say. Hopefully we can maybe convince you to come over to the Registrar side. And I encourage those of you to please come to the table if you're in the audience. Don't be shy. We're a happy, friendly bunch. And also, if you're still scared to come to the table, don't hesitate to ask questions. Do so on the mic or log into Zoom. That's there for you.

With that, I am actually going to turn things over first to Andee Hill, who is a director of gTLD accounts at ICANN, and she's gonna talk about accreditation. So, Andee, over to you.

ANDEE HILL:

Thank you, Ashley. I wanted to walk through what it takes to become an accredited registrar.

So next slide please. We're gonna give a little bit of a background as far as how registrars fit within the DNS ecosystem, what are the benefits of being a registrar, what to consider before you just apply, and of course fees, because that's always a consideration.

So next slide please. This is an old graphic that I love. It does illustrate how registrars fit within the ecosystem and then also resellers and

registrants. And so I just wanted to kind of share this with you. I don't need to talk you through it but just give you a visual.

Go ahead and go to the next slide. So there's different kinds of registrar business models as many in the room know. But just to point out a few, there's corporate registrars that may deal with big brand names and help manage their registrar defensive registrations in addition to their actual marketing domain names. And then there's also wholesale registrars, retail registrars that may be selling to the end user directly—just the person that wants their domain for whatever their business is or small business—and then of course domain registrars; so domain investors that some registrars may cater to, offering tools for them to manage larger portfolios of domain names that they intend to resell. And then a lot of times there's combinations of these and kind of other focused registrar types.

Next slide, please. What are the benefits? So, many of you in the room may be a reseller. That's always an option, but some of the benefits you get as being an accredited registrar is, first of all, the reputation as far as that you're an ICANN accredited registrar. You can put the logo on your site and it maybe gives you a little bit more credibility with your customers that you've gone through the accreditation process. You also have direct access to sign agreements with gTLD registry operators. Many registrars will sign, you know, many different agreements with different registry operators and then they may also continue to be a reseller for some others. So you get to select the strings. The registry pricing level might be a little bit different. You have API access when you have a direct agreement. In addition, you get to be part of this wonderful group. So to be part of the Registrar Stakeholder Group, you

do need to be an ICANN accredited registrar. And we're gonna hand it back over to Ashley later on to discuss some of the—maybe not Ashley, but someone here—great benefits to being part of this group. And I always encourage when someone's going through the registration or the application process to definitely look at joining the Registrar Stakeholder Group. And then in addition ICANN will interact with you directly when you're an accredited registrar.

So next slide. So what to consider? Cost and fees, which we'll touch on the next slide here shortly, is always a consideration of course. But also you do have certain obligations within the contract. But compliance obligations seem to be of course a big consideration. And there's the funding within not only to fund the registrar application and accreditation fees, but also, when you're looking at signing contracts with registry operators, there's funding requirements there also. You do have abuse complaint handling, which kind of ties into some of the compliance obligations, data validation requirements, data retention requirements, escrow obligations. And then you also have that direct relationship with the registrant and the responsibilities that are around that.

Next slide. So what does the application entail? So the application process asks you quite a few different things. It is an application form. We actually have not only the application on our site but also kind of some instructions and guidance around how to fill out that application. Sometimes it's a little bit hard to understand what we're asking, so that's why we give you a whole page of describing what are we asking for in each section of this and what bar are we looking for you to hit. So we want to know what type of registrar, what kind of staffing. We're

really just making sure that if we go through and accredit somebody, you're going to be able to operate a business to the level that is expected of you. So, we ask things around your operational and technical abilities and how you're set up, what your funding is to support the type of business model you have, and really we also look at who are you. And we do background screenings on you and making sure that you're an upstanding citizen that we would want to accredit.

And then with the next slide, let's touch on the fees. So there is an application fee. This application fee has been the same for quite a while. It is \$3,500, US. Part of that is going to the background check. And then, it's pretty labor-intensive for staff to review these applications. And then, there's also an annual accreditation fee. You can make that in a one-time, \$4,000, one time a year, or you're allowed to split that up quarterly, if that's more appropriate for you. In addition to that, there's quarterly variable fees, which can be a little bit confusing. So the way it's written is we're giving you an approximate of what that is per quarter. It depends on the dumps that you have under management. And then there's also a per transaction fee for each registration or renewal or transfer.

So I think that's our last slide. It is. This is the email address that you would want to send for any questions that are application questions directly. You can also contact global support, but this one will get you exactly where you need to go, and you can also ask me.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Thank you, Andee. Why don't we just take a quick pause here and see if anyone has questions specific to ICANN accreditation that you would

like to pose to Andee? Feel free to put your hand up in the zoom so we can monitor. I'll look around, see if anybody's raising their hand. Otherwise, we can go to—Eric, please go ahead.

ERIC ROKOBAUER:

Thank you. So maybe I missed it. When someone does do an application, fills it out, is there a particular form? Do they expect to then get a response? Is there like an interview process, a deliberation? Like maybe there's follow-up ICANN wants to have? Like how does that process kind of work following submitting the application?

ASHLEY HEINEMANN:

Thanks, Eric. Yes, there is. So when you submit an application, And there's kind of a quick review to make sure basically that you've filled out all of the information. And then it's actually reviewed by several different departments within ICANN. And you'll typically get at least a first round of questions. And we call them clarifying questions. Most people get more than one. And part of that is that a lot of people don't answer the questions very thoroughly. And some of the questions are a little bit open-ended because we want to really dig deep to see if you understand what it takes to run a registrar. So we're not, we don't lead you into what the answer is. So we definitely will have several rounds typically of clarifying questions.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Any other questions? If not, we'll keep going. All right. Can we go to the next slide, please?

All right. I am going to now turn it over to Heidi, one of our members, to talk to us about what it is to be a Registrar Stakeholder Group member and what are the benefits there. So I will turn it over to [Heidi], please.

[HEIDI]:

Thank you, Ashley. So, Andee talked to us a little bit about the accreditation process, and now I will go into the benefits of being a member of the RrSG.

So, as just an overview of what the Registrar Stakeholder Group is and what we do and how we fit into the bigger ecosystem that is ICANN, the Registrar Stakeholder Group is the main representative body for ICANN accredited registrars, as Andee mentioned, that is a part of the accreditation process. The group participates in ICANN policy-making process and serves as the voice of registrars within ICANN. And so within the ICANN community, the Registrar Stakeholder Group is a part of the GNSO, Generic Names Support Organization, which is the primary policy making body within ICANN. And then the Registrar Stakeholder Group elects three GNSO Council members to serve as a part of the GNSO Council. Our current council members include Greg DiBiase, Theo Geurts and Antonia Chu, and then we have one individual to serve on the nominating committee. I will not name off all of the names, but here's a list of our RSG leadership XCOM. We have Ashley Heinemann as our chair and Owen Smigelski as our vice chair of policy.

Next slide please. And then one of the many benefits of being a part of the RrSG membership is being able to participate in our different groups and small teams. And so there are RrSG groups specific to the Registrar Stakeholder Group; so as we just mentioned, the ExComm, which is our

leadership group, compliance, DNS Abuse, Comms and outreach team, which is responsible for putting together this panel today. And then we have the Contracted Party House groups with Tech Ops, DNS Abuse, the RDAP Working Group, and then specific PDP project-based teams. And so with that, you can be as involved or not as involved as you'd like, and it's a good way to sort of delve deeper on specific topics that are percolating within the group.

So going a little bit more into the benefits of being a member of the RrSG, you will have direct involvement in decision-making. And as you know, the more diverse of a group that we have in the decision making process, the more informed our decisions will be. And then it's also having the knowledge of what is going on within the ICANN community and within the RrSG, how different policies are impacting the RrSG and the domain business. So you'd have the opportunity to share your knowledge and experience in problem solving and get access to historical and subjective and subject expertise.

And then lastly, there's development. So there's the opportunity to build relationships with people in the community, potential to improve leadership skills through opportunities to sit on the ExComm or to participate in one of those committees; the RrSG or CPH subgroups.

So here's a list of websites where you can find more information about the RrSG, our website, our charter, and then a list of our members who are currently participating.

And I will turn it back to you, Ashley.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN: Thank you so much. And I have to say, we are a really fun group. I might be a little bit biased, but we do a lot of fun, cool things. As our membership group, we meet twice a month virtually. This is a good opportunity for us to meet face to face. So yeah, we're also fun. That's the other benefit. That might be too strong.

With that, Zoe, if you could remind me who's gonna be talking about accreditation. Sarah, please go ahead.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you. I just wanted to share my thought on the best benefit of being a member of the Registrar Stakeholder Group. It's the collaboration and confirmation that I am not completely wildly off base when I'm trying to understand, how do I proceed? How do I interpret this policy? What should our direction be? What's the best way to approach this? It can feel very isolating if you don't really know other people to talk to, right? So being a member of this group has really given me a lot of great relationships with different people with different perspectives, as [Heidi] said, that can help me to understand how best to approach all of these different obligations. Thank you.

ASHLEY HEINEMANN: Does anybody have anything they would like to talk about? I already said how fun the group is. Do any of our members wanna talk about their experience with the group? I see Jothan has his hand up. Please go ahead.

JOTHAN FRAKES:

Thank you. And I really appreciate that intervention, Sarah, to talk about this. So one of the neat things about being a registrar, as was outlined, is you get a chance to interact directly with the registries and you play a fundamental role in enabling registrants or resellers for the registrants to be able to power the digital economy. You're doing great things. We as a group don't talk about this a lot because folks are talking more about DNS abuse and other things that we're trying to maybe make the internet safer, but this business got people through a global pandemic, helped people thrive and build businesses and stay functional during a global pandemic. And I think that's a really noteworthy thing.

You can accredit and become a registrar, but you don't immediately become a member of the RRSg. And with membership in the RRSg, as Sarah identified, you have peers that you can check in with about things. Because some of the journey is a little mysterious as you're first starting out. And then you also may face questions about policies or how to implement them that you can bounce off of others. So it's a really fantastic sort of fellowship of people that you're able to do more and do better with.

So it's a great thing if you are considering becoming a registrar to also consider becoming a member of the RrSG. There's quite a lot of benefits to that. And people who are fun and enthusiastic as Ashley pointed out.

I won't talk forever because I see someone I respect tremendously, Rubens, has his hand up and I'll defer to you to speak.

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- RUBENS KUHL: I have a question that's more to Andee from ICANN Org, but if any registrar wants to chime in, feel free to. I come from a country with currently zero ICANN=accredited registers, a country that once had seven or eight ICANN accredited registers. So, I wonder if you have a ... I don't know if it's a rule of thumb or something, but it's where resellers ended up becoming registrars, or registrars [for that] "The account doesn't fit in, so let's move to resellers." There are a number of domains under management that feel like golden number of, "Hey, become a registrar after that," or, "Give up being a registrar if you don't go to that number of domains."
- ASHLEY HEINEMANN: That's a great question and I would expect many in this room can answer that a lot better than I could. That's a great question.
- OWEN SMIGELSKI: While I can't speak to what size would be good to go from a reseller to a registrar, I was at ICANN compliance when a lot of those registrars left to become resellers. And I think a lot of it was around the 2013 RAA and all of the complications that came up with that. And I don't know whether it was just a language barrier or a technical barrier or something along the lines. But for a lot of them, some of them did receive public breach notices, and then the result was they just went to become a reseller somewhere else. So I think it was just "easier." Even maybe there's less money or less control, but that was a concern. So I don't know how we can drive that to incentivize that it's better to be a registrar. Maybe it's 10 years on, maybe it's a little bit easier to do the

2013 RAA now, but I'm not really sure what that magic number is.
Thanks.

ASHLEY HEINEMANN

Thank you.

Sarah, your hand's up.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you. I have once again unmuted myself in the Zoom room, which is wrong. Okay, I wanna ask if members of the Comms and outreach team could just put our hands up, please. Comms friends, thank you. So if anybody here wants more information about being a registrar or about being a member of the stakeholder group, I would definitely invite you to find one of us to start those conversations.

And while I'm still talking I do want to check in. If anybody in this room is not yet accredited or not yet a member of the stakeholder group, I would specifically invite you if you have any thoughts questions to raise your hands and share those with us. Thank you.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

Thank you so much Sarah. We have one more hand in the queue and that's Michele. Please go ahead.

MICHELE NEYLON:

Thank you Madam Chair. On the question I suppose that Ruben's asking around the kind of magic number, I don't think you're going to find one. I mean in our case, financially [it] wasn't the main driver. I think a lot of

it came down to being able to have a consistency in the service they were able to offer, whereas if you're acting as a reseller – it's not to cast aspersions and register as for whom you might be acting as a reseller – the reality is there's layers, there's layers when there's an issue. So somebody comes to you with a quick and simple issue that you want to deal with and you have to go back to a third party, get them to look into it, get them to investigate it, and that can take time, and with time zones and everything, it can become a bit of a pain. So I mean, that was one of the drivers behind us becoming accredited.

It also, I think, gave us a certain degree of differentiation in the market; that we actually had the ICANN accredited logo, that we were able to say that we had met standards, because the problem in the entire kind of hosting domain space is that there aren't any standards really. I mean you can go down the ISO route but for a lot of people that doesn't really make a lot of sense. They don't really understand what it means. So I think that was kind of thing driving us.

But I mean as for the lack of registrars in in a particular country, it's a metric some people look at but I don't think it's the correct metric I suppose it's more the metrics I'd be looking at is, is there a problem that needs to be solved beyond ticking a box and saying there's an ICANN accredited registrar? Is there an issue? Is it a case that Brazilians cannot get domain names or the Brazilians cannot access the internet? I don't think that's the case. And if it is, it's probably down to geopolitics and very little to do with anything that we're dealing with. But I mean, if it's a case of that nobody can get a domain name, nobody can set up website, nobody can get an email address, then maybe that's on you as the ccTLD.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

Thank you, Michele.

Last call for questions or comments on this particular subject before we shift gears.

I assume that's an old hand, Michele.

All right. Well, thank you all. So we really are going to shift gears. We're going to actually do a bit more of a deep dive on one of the more pressing issues that are facing the community but registrars in particular, and I'm gonna turn it over to Sarah Wyld, who's gonna talk to us a bit about what we call RDRS, Registration Data Request Service, and looking at it from a perspective of our group in particular. So Sarah, please go ahead.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, all right, this is Sarah, and I am once again here to talk about the Registration Data Request Service.

Okay, so next slide please. And again. All right. How did we end up here? As many of us know, this RDRS is a pilot project. It is building a portal that people can use to submit requests for the disclosure of domain name registration data. Those requests are routed to the registrar for review and response. And if the registrar does need to disclose data, that happens outside the RDRS. And then the registrar will document the outcome in the RDRS for tracking and reporting.

Now I will not go through the whole history of how we got to this point, but I do want to remind everyone that the RDRS is intended as a trial. It

is not a long-term system. Its purpose is to be the portal so that all requests can be funneled in through it. And that way, they can all be counted. And this volume information will be used to help refine the cost estimates that were in the EPDP Phase Two operational design assessment. The Board can then use that updated cost information to make a data-driven decision about proceeding with building a full system for standardized access and disclosure of non-public gTLD registration data, or not.

Next slide, please. And again. Thank you. So the Registrar Stakeholder Group is encouraging all registrars to participate in the RDRS. As we just mentioned, the purpose of this pilot is to gather data about the volume of disclosure requests. So if we don't have a high rate of registrars participating, the data might not be sufficient to base a decision on. This is also helpful to us. Participation in the RDRS can be beneficial. Requests coming in today are often very diverse. We could say they contain different pieces of information depending on what the requester thinks we need. And that adds time and effort to the process because we have to tell the requester what they need to provide to us for our evaluation. If requests are sent in through the RDRS portal, they will be fully populated with the required information before we even see them.

Next, please. And again. Thank you. All right, so the multi-stakeholder model I think we all believe is important. It is the best way for this industry to conduct ourselves. We are supporting that model by following this process through the completion and helping to gather this volume data.

Next, please. There is, of course, an expectation that registrars will still do our due diligence and review disclosure requests individually before making decisions. The RDRS does not do that part of the review for us. It organizes requests so that they are easier for us to process and can be tracked centrally. Now, unfortunately, since disclosure is not guaranteed, we understand that some requesters will not use the RDRS. That is out of our control.

Next, please. We have dates. ICANN is hard at work setting up the system, and they have let us know that they expect to be able to onboard registrars actually fairly soon, looking at September, with requesters starting to get set up in December of this year. The RDRS is then expected to operate for at most two years with regular reporting throughout that period; monthly reporting.

Okay, that was everything I wanted to go through today. So now we are gonna get into some poll topics and then discussions. So if everyone can please turn to your Zoom. The first question for our poll is we'd like to hear, has engagement with the RDRS been discussed in your register? Have you even thought about whether you're going to participate or not? So please answer the question and then click submit. We'll give it a couple minutes, then we'll see the responses and open it up for discussion about that response.

Let me see how many people have responded, what I see. All right. Just another few moments, anybody? All right, let's see what we're doing. Yes, so we're going to end the poll there. and then see the outcomes. Oh, oh that's great. This is actually higher than I had expected. I'm so pleased to hear that. Anybody who has been discussing this within your

registrar, would you like to say maybe what you're talking about, what you're thinking? Anybody who has not discussed this yet, can we hear from you? Oh, Owen, I see your hand please.

OWEN SMIGELSKI:

So we had a very interesting discussion in my registrar for this. I told them we were doing it. And my boss kind of went, oh, really? I said, yes, because if we don't participate in this, we don't get the data, we can't see where it goes, we can't help that, we can't guide it. And so it's very important that we participate. And he went, oh, okay. So, yeah, it was a pretty easy discussion to have. I mean, we already have a disclosure process just kind of plugging into that. And again, I think it's very valuable to get as much data out of this to see whether merit's going forward with a larger scale system. Thanks.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Owen. And I neglected to read out the response rates, so my apologies. The responses for the question (has engagement been discussed?) was 89% yes and 11% no.

Reg, I see your hand up, please.

REG LEVY:

Thanks. Reg Levy from Tucows. And the conversation at our registrar was similar, except that you told me we were gonna do it. However, we also agree (I also agree) that it's very important for us to provide the data that we have and the data that will be collected on the basis of requests to Tucows. We have that data. We publish that data. It's going

to be very easy for us to integrate with this system. I know that it might be more difficult for other registrars, but I'm also happy to talk to anyone. I've been doing this for ... I don't do math, Five years, Sarah's telling me again. So yeah, I'm very familiar with this sort of disclosure review and happy to discuss it.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Reg.

Ashley?

ASHLEY HEINEMANN:

Hi. Ashley here, Chair of Registry Stakeholder Group but also GoDaddy. And I just wanted to add a little bit of a different flavor, recognizing the importance of gathering the data. But also it was really critical from our point of view that we follow through with this because it was a result of a PDP. It was a result of the policy development process here at ICANN. And as a company, we want the community to accept the results of policy development. So it's important that we do the same as well. So that was also a factor of ours in participating in this. So just wanted to add that. Thank you.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Ashley.

Jothan, I see your hand.

JOTHAN FRAKES:

Yeah, I'd like to speak up. Consensus at my registrar is very easy because I have a very small number of employees and I'm the CEO, so I can basically proclaim with how it shall be. But I probably represent the other end of the spectrum with respect to domain registration volume. I supported it and signed on because it's, again, as Ashley pointed out, it's the outcome of a PDP and it's an opportunity to help gain some statistics as to how it's gonna look. The alternatives to doing this we've also considered is if we don't get support for it, what does that scenario look like? And this just seemed like the greener of the pastures to really go towards. I think it'll be a good opportunity to get ICANN some very fundamental information about how a system like this would be used. I know that there are systems privately set up like Tucows TACO that deliver fantastic information about how these types of systems are actually used. And this will give ICANN some direct feedback and intelligence about what would a system look like as far as how it manifests and operates. So that was the logic behind it. For me, it was a really natural choice. And I'm hopeful that other smaller to medium-sized registrars will also take the opportunity to participate in this. Thank you.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Jeff. And I'm just hearing so much support for the model, and I really like that.

I think we'll move on to our second poll question now, which is, do you have enough information on the RDRS to decide whether to use it or not? And this question is really near and dear to me because as part of what the communications and outreach team wants to do, part of that

is providing information, helpful information. And so, if you do not have enough information on the RDRS, I would love to hear specifics. What do you want? What would be helpful? How can we be helpful? All right. So please take a moment to respond to that poll. Thank you.

Okay. We're almost ready? Five more seconds.

We are going to close the poll now and see the results, please. Oh, this is great. Okay. So we've got 95% of people said, yes, they do have enough information. 5% do not. And hopefully what we've shared today will help those people. If not, hopefully we can hear from them what else would be useful.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: [inaudible]

SARAH WYLD: Oh, thank you. I don't know if I can... Here we had 20 people voted.

Okay, would anybody like to speak to their response here or speak to this question? Catherine, please go ahead.

CATHERINE MERDINGER: Thank you. This is Catherine Merdinger for the record for Name.com. I said yes to this because much like we heard everyone else say, we've decided to participate. Don't know what it's really going to look like in practice, though I know there's a group that are working closely with ICANN. I'm just not part of it. My only concern is I'd really love to be able to play with it, which I think is the plan, right? We're gonna onboard

registrars early, give us some time to learn how it works, see how it integrates with our systems. And so I'm still unqualified yes, but that's part of what my maybe concern is; I just don't know what it, when I go in there and click. I'm in the NSp sometimes, and sometimes it's not always the most user-friendly, so I like to play with it.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Catherine. That is really good feedback, and I do think that we will have some time to get used to it, because as we've heard from ICANN, we will have registrars starting onboarding in September, but then not taking requests until later on in the year. So I think hopefully those three months will be a good sort of onboarding period. We have seen slides or mockups (it might have actually even been like a demo version of the platform) that ICANN presented, and it did look fairly straightforward. Like, you get a request, you just sort of click the little drop-downs, but definitely we do all need some time to live with it and get used to it for sure. Thank you.

I see Ashley's hand next.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

I just wanted to note that I know while I think we feel comfortable enough (at least GoDaddy feels comfortable enough) with the information we have to commit to moving forward, I'm still hearing a lot of misinformation about what this is all about. So while maybe the registrars in this room are feeling confident, I'm not sure that is universal, because I still hear people saying things about what it is when it isn't at all. So, I think there still needs to be continued outreach and

information push, which is why I think we were really glad to have this as part of our session. But I think there still needs to be a lot more to socialize.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you, Ashley.

Andee, please.

ANDEE HILL: We've already done one webinar showing both the registrar and the registry side of things. We'll definitely be doing more, and we'll make sure that not only all members know all registrars are aware of it but also you know make sure the stakeholder group is very well aware.

SARAH WYLD: Absolutely. And considering how to communicate with registrars who are not members of our stakeholder group is something that the communications team thinks about a lot right because that's a really surprisingly a large group of registrars and so we do want to make sure that everybody has enough information to make an informed decision so that we can all gather information to make an informed decision.

Jothan, please.

JOTHAN FRAKES: Thank you. One of the things that helped me with moving it forward was that it's designed so that reports can come in from email so that, you know, we can kind of integrate it into our existing ticketing systems or processes that we're using. One of the things that I think I've heard as

far as reticence goes is that, as a registrar, if you're dealing with something that has more effect on your compliance or other obligations you might have as a registrar, there's a lot of systems that you have to go out and go log into to see if there's something there. And I liken it to having maybe to be in the military and a phone you have to pick up all the time to see if somebody's calling, but it doesn't ring. And if you don't answer it, there's a problem that a lot of systems can be set up like that; that you have to constantly monitor and you had extra burden and things. And we don't want something like that. What we ended up with is something at least that e-mail ticket systems that we have in place could actually receive these reports. And really all our process is is, when or if we get any kind of requests, we're just able to go log in and give a quick summary of how that happened. So it's a pretty light lift. And that was a big key element of my decision-making process: that I don't have yet another system that I have to go and log into and dedicate portions of a day or cycles of employees or staff; that they have to have that additional obligation to constantly pick up the phone that never rings to see if there's somebody on the other line that needs something Thank you.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank You, Jothan. Yeah, I think that's a really important piece of this to recognize. And so when a request is submitted through RDRS to a participating registrar, it will show up in the NSp (the Name Supporting Portal, or whatever) and then also can be sent by e-mail. I think that's optional. So registrars can choose if we wanna get emails about it or not. And then we do need to document the outcome of the request in the RDRS, but we don't have to do it immediately every time. So we can

do it as a batch process, maybe once a week, every Friday. You just go in and clean up and you put in the outcome of all of the requests, including what happened and when.

Any other thoughts or questions on this one? Enough information to decide?

Oh, Greg, please.

GREG DIBIASE:

So I think people touched upon this, but kind of another motivating factor for my registrar is that you will continually be able to give feedback, right? That's been kind of expressed by staff and the working group. And so, on issues you encounter at your registrar, you will be able to give that feedback. And because this is a trial, that feedback can help shape the end result and the input that will go back into the policy development process generally. So at least I also view it as an opportunity to make sure that my concerns and issues are addressed and thought about and so we can make this a better system for everybody.

SARAH WYLD:

Absolutely. Thank you, Greg. And I think we do need to keep in mind it's possible that we will discover through this process that the volume of requests is such that building an SSAD is worthwhile. That is one potential outcome. And in that case, I think we can learn a lot from this process and it's important to provide that feedback to make the future system be the best it possibly can be.

Any other thoughts on this one before we move to the final poll question?

Okay, so we would really like to hear, have you made a decision yet? And I'm not asking what the decision is, but have you decided, yes, you will participate or no, you won't, or you're still thinking about it? Thank you.

We're giving it some time. Responses are still coming in.

Okay, last chance. Have you decided? Did you decide right now in this moment, were we inspiring enough to make you to say yes?

Okay, we'll end the poll now, please, Zoe. And so we have once again had 20 responses and the answers are ... So 90% of our 20 responses said yes they will participate, that's fantastic, 5% said no and 10% are still thinking about it.

ZOE BONYTHON:

[inaudible]

SARAH WYLD:

Right, right, right. Yes, thank you Zoe. That was not ... 90% of people have decided if they will use it or not. Those who have not yet decided, either no or still thinking ... Maybe our question doesn't make sense.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE:

[inaudible]

SARAH WYLD: Yeah, it doesn't. No, totally. You are absolutely right about that. Yeah, yeah. Yes, because you can answer multiple ways. So some people probably realize that “no” and “still thinking” are the same and picked both. So we thank you for that. We'd love to hear from those who are still thinking about it. What else do you need? What information would help you make your decision?

Ashley, please.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN: Sorry, it's me again. And I think I just wanted to note that one of the things that we, I wouldn't say fought for, but we worked with ICANN to make sure was an option, which was if you opt in, if you volunteer to participate in it, that you had the ability to opt out if you decided to. So we're able to do that. So I think we're hoping that would give people the of being willing to try it out. So I just want to make sure that everybody was aware that that was actually something that they could do. So I've said it, I'm done. Thank you.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you, Ashley. Yes, that is an important thing to keep in mind.

Michele?

MICHELE NEYLON: Good morning again. I'm a very hungover Michele. I think this thing with the opt in/opt out is key. I think it's something that needs to be repeated time and again. When it comes to the communication coming from ICANN, I would implore you to please use your communications team

more than your legal team in drafting any communications around this, since most of us don't speak fluent lawyer and find the communications that come from ICANN around various things impenetrable crap. And I would appreciate if it was actually written in plain language, which I could actually understand. Referring to the previous vote and everything, it's not a jab at you Andee. You know that. It's a general "ICANN's communication skills are terrible" and it has no excuse. It has an entire communications team, but the stuff that you send to us as registrars suck and it hurts my head. I distribute them to people internally who actually deal with stuff all day long and they have no idea what any of it means. I have to then spend hours explaining it to them using short, simple sentences when I could probably be better off spending my time doing something else. That's really annoying.

SARAH WYLD:

Thanks, Michele. I think Andee has some feedback there.

ANDEE HILL:

Just a little bit. Andee Hill for the record. I'd like to just make a draw line between regular communications and legal communications. A communication about RDRS is not written by legal. It will be written by my team, most likely, or the RDRS group of people that are working on it. So please understand the difference between the two. Legal notices are legal notices and are written by attorneys, and they need to continue to be that way. But this notice would not be written by our attorneys. Thanks.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you, Andee. And to supplement that, the communications and outreach team will continue to do what we can to help communicate and reach out.

ANDEE HILL: I'll also commit to running our communication, by that communication team to make sure that it makes sense to you guys. Thanks.

SARAH WYLD: I feel like we collaborate really well, and I appreciate very much your collaboration. So that'll be great. Thank you.

Okay, so do we have any further thoughts on these poll questions or the registration data request service more generally? If anyone has questions input?

Oh we have more questions? Oh my goodness. Thank you Zoe. We have more poll questions, more discussion. Ah, yes. Here are some questions to prompt discussion. What are your concerns with the RDRS? I'd like to hear about that. If you've seen the system demos or from what you've heard about it from us, is this what you expected? Is there anything that should change? And then what else can we do, perhaps by the communications team with ICANN, other people maybe, what else can be done to help you make a decision?

Alright, Owen, please go ahead.

OWEN SMIGELSKI:

Thank you, Sarah. I just wanted to kind of give a thanks to ICANN. I know we all as a community love to bitch, moan, complain and give grief and stuff like that. I was really impressed with the demo we saw, how much work, how much stuff had gone in. I thought it was very thoughtful, good design, good layout. I appreciate getting that demo and seeing it partway through and working with us and stuff like that. So thank you very much for that and I look forward to seeing where it's going. And yeah, just only good stuff to say about that. Really was impressed with the amount of work you guys had done. Thanks.

SARAH WYLD:

Yeah, I wanna echo that. It looks exactly like how it should. It does what it's supposed to. It looks like how you expect it to. So I love that.

Any other questions, thoughts? We do have some FAQs that we can go through because I wanna make sure that everybody is as educated as possible on this topic.

Okay, let's look at our FAQs then, which is just gonna take us a quick moment to switch over the slide decks.

Owen, and your hand is still up. Do you have more thoughts?

Oh, okay.

So I'm not gonna read the whole thing. Y'all can read, but this is an important one that I think comes up a lot in discussions and somebody was referring to sort of misunderstandings earlier. The RDRS requests don't somehow override the meaningful human review process. We still have that. So if a request is submitted either through the RDRS or not,

the registrar will still need to do their same work as always, to determine if there is a purpose and a legal basis before disclosing the data. If the data is not disclosed, if that decision is a no, then when the registrar goes back to document the outcome, they will need to say what happened, and I think there's some parts about why.

Anybody have thoughts on that one, questions?

Okay—yes, please, Mike.

MIKE CHATTAN:

This is Mike from Newfold Digital. Is there a dispute process if that third party does not agree with what the registrar has gone through?

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Mike. So the question, just in case it didn't hit the mic, was, is there a dispute process? So there's two pieces to that. The registrar will document what the outcome was. So if the requester says, "Hey, the registrar says they gave me the data, but I never actually got it," that's one piece of it. And that would go, I believe, to ICANN compliance, because that's the one making sure that the registrar follows the process correctly and documents the right thing in the platform. Separately, if the answer is no, and the requester says, "I think I have a valid basis," and the registrar says, "I don't think you do," that's not really something that ICANN compliance can adjudicate, because that's a legal issue. So that would go to the appropriate legal channels, which might be a data protection authority, or there might just be a back and forth interaction between the requester and the registrar.

So the other thing to keep in mind here is that the actual data disclosure does not happen in the RDRS platform. So the request comes in through RDRS, the registrar might need more information so they can contact the requester directly to get it. If the decision is yes, the disclosure should happen, that happens outside the RDRS platform. That platform does not actually hold or receive or transmit the registration data. So the requester gets the data outside the platform.

MIKE CHATTAN:

Second question on that. We have to provide, as a registrar, proof of communication to the third party and keep that for a period of time. Or will there be any requirements on that?

SARAH WYLD:

I don't believe there are requirements about that. Like, presumably ... Hmm, that's an interesting question. So we would have to have some kind of documentation to show that we did what we said we did. But in the RDRS report Sebastien, do you remember? I think no. Or ...

ROB HALL:

Hi. I think you've just said a reason why we may not want to use RDRS, and I want to be very careful about this. If we're going to open up compliance requests from ICANN because someone says we gave it to them and we say we didn't, then to his point, we do have to keep that we did send it to them or not. And if this is a voluntary system, why would I want to use a system that is going to cause compliance requests of such, for lack of a better word, trivial nature? So I want to be very

careful about what we're opening up in compliance or not, because we want to use this, but not at the cost of trivial compliance requests.

SARAH WYLD:

Absolutely, Rob. Thank you for raising that. And so I would say under the EPDP phase one requirements, we do still have an obligation to respond to these requests. So I think even if we're not using RDRS, if somebody submits a request and the registrar doesn't respond or responds in some kind of incongruous way, I do think the requester could still go to compliance. I don't think that's specific to RDRS, but that's something I want to think about more. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:

Can I jump in just to say, Sarah, you're correct? They can go to ICANN Compliance and say, "No one responded to my request for data disclosure," even if maybe you lost the email or whatever your tracking system is. But ICANN Compliance can open a case to say, "Show me you responded and what your balancing test the result of that was." So you do, you should already have to retain records demonstrating that you responded to the requester to say yes or no and "Yes, here's proof I sent them the data," I guess. But that's not related to RDRS.

ROB HALL:

Well, I agree with you. I wanna be very careful we're not putting a system in that makes that much more common and much easier. So yes, we have that obligation, but to now put a system in where someone ... ICANN, as I heard, was gonna go out and ask them did they respond and the answer could be yes or no. That's very different. Now

someone's being proactive in it as opposed to the customer saying yes or no.

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I would imagine, just because lots of people might be requesting data from us and not necessarily know who ICANN is, now they are directly working with ICANN to make the request, so you might see a spike just because now they're aware that they can complain. But that to me is kind of not necessarily ... It is, I guess, related, but it's also how the system is supposed to work.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you.

Oh, this is great. Mike, you raised this one, so you continue it.

MIKE CHATTAN: Thank you. I just have a quick follow up on the data request. So the requesters or what not are not necessarily registrants or contracted parties who have registration agreements with us. So their communication, keeping that, wouldn't fall under the ICANN requirements. And so that's why I was curious about that part. This is considered ICANN communication regardless, because they are a requesting party or what not. Would that then fall under the keeping the data for a period of time or what not?

SARAH WYLD:

So, thank you Mike. Indeed, these requesters are typically not registrants because they have their own control panel to log in and see their data, not registrars. But I think it's kind of in a weird position (the RDRS) because we're in between policies, but I do think that legally we have an obligation to document what we're doing with data. So probably we'll have that anyways.

Okay, Michaele, your hand is up, please go ahead.

MICHELE NEYLON:

Yeah, thanks. I mean, a couple of things. I suppose one of the concerns I would have is just around how others view all of this and what expectations they may end up with. And I think the FAQs and all that are very, very helpful on this. To the point about the requests and all that right now, yeah, sure, you know, you could get that anyway. Ultimately, it's up to you how you handle these requests. I mean, this thing is just going to be a way of centralizing the requests. It's still gonna be up to you as a registrar to make the decision whether or not you want to give anything over or not. And I suspect that we will probably see a lot of stupid requests that won't be complete and won't meet any threshold and people will throw their toys out of the pram and complain. But ultimately, we have to do that balancing test. We can't just willy-nilly [pan] things over.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

Can I just clarify though? Because my understanding is that if it's not complete, it will not go through. So that is one of the beauties of this system: we are going to get complete requests and they will be in a

standard format. So my understanding is that this is going to make our lives a lot easier and we'll be able to weed out these requests that aren't sufficient.

MICHELE NEYLON: Complete doesn't mean sufficient.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN: You know what I was getting at. We'll be getting complete, which is a step above what we're getting now.

MICHELE NEYLON: Yeah, but the quality in terms of formatting and the amount of information they provide being provided in a standards fashion through something like this, yes, but we still can reject this.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN: Absolutely. Absolutely. I'm just saying the positive side that you were missing is that they will be complete requests or they will not go through the system. Sorry, I didn't mean to jump the queue.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you, Ashley. Rob?

ROB HALL: So the question then becomes what happens if someone's not participating in this? What does ICANN do? Do they say, no, they're not participating? Or do they send the request? No, I get it's voluntary for

us. What happens to the person making the request? Because they think they made a valid request, and it never got to the registrar. Then they complained to ICANN saying they didn't answer.

SARAH WYLD:

So the requester, when they go in the platform, will be able to know if the registrar is participating or not. So they won't be able to submit through the RDRS if the registrar doesn't take them that way. That's a good question.

Any more thoughts on this topic?

Okay, we're gonna look at another FAQ because I've got another half hour with you guys. You can't stop me. All right, this is what we were just talking about. If I start using it, can I stop? Yes, yes you can stop. If you don't like it anymore, you can stop. I will say, people might still want to submit requests to you. I think it will be easier for us if we get requests through this platform rather than not because the requester has to create an ICANN account which means they had to just take a moment to actually verify that they really do belong to that email address. You can't just submit stupid, fake requests. And they're going to be formatted nicely. They're going to have all the fields we need filled in already. So it'll reduce some of the back-and-forth. But you can stop if you decide that it's not helpful.

Catherine?

CATHERINE MERDINGER:

I have a different question, so I'll reserve my question and go to Michele.

SARAH WYLD: We will come back to you. Thank you.

Michele, please.

MICHELE NEYLON: Thanks, Sarah. Just in terms of the stopping requests and all that, you guys have actually published data around the number of requests that you're getting. Now, I haven't read your last blog post (I'm sorry, I will flagellate myself later), but I do remember from previous outputs that the number of requests that you received as the second largest registrar in the world was still very, very, very small. Now, the number of requests that we're receiving is zero. I think the last WHOIS access request we got was probably two years ago, I think. Most of the stuff that we end up with is completely unrelated to any of this, so we're just not getting the requests at all. I suppose the question really is, is there actually this massive pent up demand for all of this data or has the world moved on?

SARAH WYLD: Michele, I think that is exactly what we are all hoping to find out. Yeah, and I pasted the link in the chat just for you.

Catherine, your turn, please.

CATHERINE MERDINGER: Oh my gosh, my mind went blank. Owen knows it.

OWEN SMIGELSKI: So the question that Catherine was going to ask (she had asked me it and I didn't know) is, if we participate in RDRS or red dress (I'll say that when I like that word), can we stop taking requests elsewhere, or are we required to continue to take requests elsewhere as well, too?

SARAH WYLD: I think you're allowed to say that requests have to be submitted through the RDRS. We have to take requests somehow. I don't think we have to take requests through multiple paths.

Reg, your hand is up. Was that an answer or a new question? Please.

REG LEVY: I cannot imagine how we can stop accepting requests, especially from law enforcement officers, through other means. So, like, I'd love it, but ...

SARAH WYLD: Thanks, Reg. That's a really good point.

[Catherine]?]

[CATHERINE MERDINGER]: Yeah, I think we have a form on our website, right? And so I was like, can I take that form down? Or otherwise link it to the RDRS? But I guess, especially given that they have to make an ICANN account, people might not want to do that. And if you send an email to whatever at name.com, we'd have to respond to it. So, I think you're right.

SARAH WYLD: Reg, please?

REG LEVY: I'm going to let Rob go and then I'll go.

SARAH WYLD: Sure. Thank you.

Rob.

ROB HALL: So, that brings up an interesting point. Can we report to the RDRS system on requests that don't go through the RDRs? So, have they built it so that when you get a request from law enforcement, we can say, hey, we got this and we answered it even though it didn't come through you? Because that would seem to be valuable statistics as well, especially if most of it right now is not in the system?

SARAH WYLD: Thanks. That's a really good question. That's not part of the system design at this time because the purpose of RDRS is to understand the volume that would go through a broader system, a more fully formed system. So if there are requests going outside the RDRS, I think the understanding is that they would also not go through the full SSAD.

That said, I do encourage all contracted parties to track how many requests they get and what the outcomes are. and if anybody wants to discuss how we do that, I would be very happy to talk about spreadsheets.

Reg, any further thoughts?

REG LEVY: Yeah, with regard to requests that come through the new Redress, I'm still also going to be sending them for the responses through our current TACO system because that is a secure means of conveying the information. So, it's going to be a blend of things anyway. I'm not really sure. I mean, it's kind of kludgy, but yeah, I think it's worth tracking non-RDRS requests as well.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you, Reg. Yeah. And as we said, the actual disclosed data will not go through the RDRS. It's just the outcome reporting is in there. So, thank you.

Michele, please.

MICHELE NEYLON: Thanks. Now, just in terms of the channeling of requests, there's no way in hell that I'm going to ask from Garda Siochana to log on to a portal in the United States to request data from us in Carlow. That's just not gonna happen. But generally speaking, they don't even use a portal. They just tend to turn up on my doorstep in large numbers. But I think just from a practical perspective, we're always gonna get requests through multiple things and sometimes some requests are bundles. I mean, they can be a request for WHOIS data plus IP data and a bunch of other things. So it's never gonna be that clear [a case]. Unless ... I mean, maybe for some of you who are just pure play registrars and don't offer

any other services, that might be a different case for you, but for us it definitely isn't.

SARAH WYLD:

Thanks, Michaela. Good feedback.

Volker.

VOLKER GRIEMANN:

To chime into what Michele said, I think the red dress is voluntary, for both for us as for reporters as well, and in most cases that we see that somebody has demand for this data, they also include other demands for takedowns or other issues that they have with the domain and how it's used. And therefore there is usually a bundle of requests that accompanies this the address is not really scoped for that kind of requests that go beyond the simple request of disclosure of registration data. It has a very narrow scope and as such it's useful, but we should not see this as the only way.

SARAH WYLD:

Thanks, Volker.

Any further thoughts here? We have another FAQ we can look at.

Oh, yes. Does it duplicate work? And we've talked about this already. You only need to process the request once. So hopefully this will streamline, this will standardize. We already get requests, some of us more than others. And this is just a different path, hopefully an improved path.

Oh yeah, this is great, okay. Who can see the data? Right, so ICANN manages the platform and will have access to the request data. So what is the request, who made the request, what's the domain name, what information is provided to support it. That gets transmitted to the registrar, and the disclosure happens outside that process. So ICANN will not see the actual registration data, right? The registration data is disclosed directly to the requester and not through the RDRS. The outcome is tracked again in the system, so ICANN will see that and that will be reported publicly. The metrics are what is reported; not specifically this domain was requested on this legal basis, and this is the outcome. No. The metrics will be how many requests, how many were approved, how many were denied, what kinds of denial reasons were there, right? So I think that will be useful, but it's important to know that the full request data will remain private between the requester and the registrar.

Does anybody have thoughts?

Oh, Brian King. I see a comment in the chat from Brian King. "Is it worth clarifying that even non-participating registrar who will receive a notification when a request is submitted?" Sorry, I should read the full question. "Is it worth clarifying that even non-participating registrars will receive a notification when a request is submitted for a domain sponsored by that registrar?" I think that's not correct. The case is that if the registrar is not participating, the request cannot be submitted.

Thank you, Sebastien. I see that nodding and I appreciate that.

So they won't receive a notification because the request cannot be submitted through the platform if they are not participating in it.

There's some thoughts around making a form. You can fill out the whole request form and then export it to send to the registrar. That's an idea, and thank you, [Yuko], for confirming the chat: no notification will be sent to non-participating registrars. Yeah, and that might be a thing to consider for the future depending on how this pilot project runs.

Did you want to say something, Sebastien, please?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS: Yeah, just from a requester point of view, the first thing that will be asked is what domain name they're looking for information on. There will be an immediate call on the standard WHOIS RDAP that will identify the sponsoring registrar and then a test saying is this registrar is playing with us or not? And if it's not there will be a message saying: "End of story. We can't process. Go and contact the registrar directly."

SARAH WYLD: Thank you so much.

Yes please.

CHING CHIAO: Thank you very much. Ching Chiao speaking as a personal capacity. Actually rolling back the question in a conversation from Michele and Volker about sending request, I just want to double confirm and maybe ask a follow-up question. So the requester can send the request into a registrar with the name sponsored by the registrar? And also the name is not actually related to the registrar? And it still gets the get the response from that particular registrar? Is that what I'm hearing?

SARAH WYLD: I think that's not quite right. Thank you for asking that. So as Sebastien told us, so first you put in what the domain name is. So you submit requests for one domain at a time. And so what is the domain? And it looks up what the registrar is and if they're participating in the system. And if so, then you can proceed with the request. So it's not that you would put in like five domains and it looks for which one is there.

CHING CHIAO: Okay. So my follow-up is not actually a question but maybe a comment from my current work, which actually related more with law enforcement agencies simply because they discover names, for example, generated by the DGA or by typosquatting names. There will be lists of names maybe from one registrar or actually multiple registrars. And then when they submit those requests, I would imagine that it would be very difficult to them to do it one by one. So that actually goes back to the questions that their work maybe will in the future, I would say, will help law I mean law enforcement folks, making their job easier if the form would allow them to submit more than one domain name at once. Thanks.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you. Yes that's certainly a thing to consider. I appreciate that.

Sebastien?

SEBASTIEN DUCOS: So this goes to the discussion that we had in the group. By the way, I'm Sebastien Ducos and even though I'm not a registrar, I happen to work

on this with Sarah on the GNSO Small Team. And this goes to the whole story of APIs. When or will we build an API for this system to go and plug into other systems and automations? And etc. And it came, I think, initially from Steve Crocker who was suggesting actually that because the interface remains simple, the document, the web page that you will get You get an alert as a reference, an alert by e-mail saying, "Hey, go and check," but that page is a simple, one-page document. It's actually not that complicated to go through some automation and pluck the information out and then put it into your systems should you want to have it, because you already have it tracked.

The other way around for those requesters is you can also imagine an automation where they would iterate through a list of domain names, and for those domain names where they can play where the registrar is responding, submit the information automatically and we're looking into ensuring that that will work.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Sebastien, and I am seeing support for a bulk or API ability in the chat. There's also a lot of discussion happening that I can't quite follow.

Reg, I see your hand, please. I was actually gonna ask if you have thoughts on bulk submissions.

REG LEVY:

Definitely thoughts on both things. With regard to API access, my understanding is that because the redress is just a pilot, it's not even contemplated. It's possible that the SSAD may have API access.

My thoughts about bulk requests are that every request is, in fact, unique. And so, I mean, as long as it's for a different domain name, then it's a different reason. Even if the reason is, quote unquote, the same, I need to see that the requester has certified that they have a need for the information with regard to that specific domain. So bulk requests can be requested, but they're not going to be treated as just like, "Oh sure, you can have access to all of them," at least by my registrar. Everybody is going to manage their own queue differently. So it's possible that some registrars might say, "Oh sure, yeah, that's not a problem," but for my registrars, each domain constitutes a separate request. I see lots of vigorous nodding.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Reg, just to clarify, an API has been contemplated, but has not been created. So we have some documentation around what an API could do and how it could help, but it is not part of the initial launch, not part of the MVP for those of us who are agile.

Any other hands or thoughts on this one? There was a bit more in chat, which I just had a hard time following because I'm talking. Is there anybody that would like to speak to their chat points?

Reg is that an old hand?

Okay, thank you.

All right. We have 15 minutes left in this session. Let's look at maybe one more FAQ, maybe two. Yeah, why? Why should I make this easier? Because it makes it easier for everyone. It makes it easier for us in the long term. I hope that we're all really committed to making data-driven

decisions. And if we do, as a community, if we do build an SSAD in the long term, It will cost a lot of money, a lot of money to build it, a lot of money to operate it ongoing. We need to know that it's worth it, right? And this is a really good way to help the Board have the information that they need to know that it's worth it. If we do gather enough information sooner than two years from now, we don't have to keep doing it. So that might also be further incentive. If you do it now, you maybe don't have to do it for as long. That's a thing to think about.

Any other thoughts. Hands, anybody?

I think we have maybe one more. We got three more. Okay, what can you do? Because you all want to be helpful. I know you do. I know you want to help us with this. You can update your other responders for requests that you may get today and to add the eventual not yet existing available URL for the RDRS. So you can sort of help funnel requesters through that platform to let them know that if they want to contact other registrars to also request data, that's a good way that a requester can reach out to everybody that is participating. The communications team is working towards that. We're gonna provide some response templates that we hope will be helpful.

Let's look at another one. Oh, yes, costs. Cost is important, right? So we think costs will be minimal. You already used the NSp, so checking it for requests, which you can also get sent by e-mail, shouldn't take too long. You already process requests when they're submitted, so that's not a huge change. And then we're gonna need to periodically report those outcomes to ICANN. I can say we work already on reporting these things. It's not that bad. It takes a little bit of thought, but it doesn't take

that much time. So it should be a pretty minimal lift, as they say, for participation. participation. If an API would really incentivize your participation, I would especially like to hear about that. Some of our registrars in the room are interested in an API, but I'm not really sure if there are any who would participate only if there's an API and not without one. So especially if that is the case, please do reach out to one of us, especially maybe me or Sebastien. We'd like to hear about that.

Mike, I see your hand up.

MIKE CHATTAN:

Thank you. Question on the periodic reporting. Can you dive in a little deeper on that one, like when and details?

SARAH WYLD:

Absolutely. I wonder if Yuko is in the room and would like to speak to that. Is that, is she, please? Yuko is the master in charge of all of the data and reporting. There are spreadsheets that I envy in their beauty. And so I'm just gonna ... A little spoiler: I think monthly is the answer, but Yuko, please.

YUKO YOKOYAMA:

Hello. My name is Yuko Yokoyama, ICANN Org. What was your question? "What was the reporting cadence"? I'm sorry. I missed it.

MIKE CHATTAN:

Yes, that exactly.

YUKO YOKOYAMA: We intend to report on the monthly basis, and the reporting criteria has been submitted to the ICANN Board for their consideration Which was June 1st from the council. So we hope to conclude on what type of reporting content we will have shortly, but it will be on the monthly basis. Thank you.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you so much, Yuko.

Any other questions on costs? Thoughts on that? Thoughts on reporting? We'll do one more FAQ.

Oh, Reg. Reg, your hand is up. Thank you.

REG LEVY: Thanks. I have another thought about bulk requests. Something that we have been tracking with TACO but not actually publishing is the number of requests that we get for domain names that are not registered to any Tucows-related registrar. It's not insignificant. And I mean, maybe statistically it is over time, but to me it doesn't seem insignificant. And so another issue that I would have with bulk requests is people sending requests for domains that are not in the same registrar. Like, how to parse that out would be confusing.

SARAH WYLD: Thank you, Reg.

Jothan? Oh sorry, Sebastien wanted to respond, then we'll come back to Jothan.

SEBASTIEN DUCOS: Just to clarify, I did not suggest that the system will have bulk requests. I suggested that if somebody had a list of domains that they wanted to check, they would have to file individual requests, and you would never see all the requests that didn't pertain to your registrar.

REG LEVY: Thank you, that's super helpful. I appreciate that clarification.

SARAH WYLD: Yeah, filtering out requests that don't apply to us seems really useful.

Jothan, please?

JOTHAN FRAKES: Yeah, my comment's not really about the bulk. My comment is about kind of the costs and price and expense or labor involved in integrating or participating in this. I know we've talked about perhaps having an API. I think we ended up with e-mail notifications that would at least make it something we don't have to go check, but it can come to us. I think the objective here is really this is a proof of concept. When we saw the first sort of operational design phase come through and give some sort of a quotation about what this whole system would cost, I think folks realized that why don't we see if this is really necessary? And we're in that phase of doing this, and it seems like we're all trying to do the best possible job we can with it in the most modest, from a resource cost, et cetera, perspective. And so on an API, And we've not been told necessarily no, but it's really something that we'd want to consider

once we start to see some evidence that maybe that's merited or it might bring in more folks to participate. But the objective here, again, for the registrars' participation, it's actually a modest lift and very light lift. And for ICANN to see them being modest with how they're resourcing it, it's also very nice to know that the monies that we're paying into ICANN are being responsibly spent. And I really appreciate that about the system. Thank you.

SARAH WYLD:

Thank you, Jothan.

Now we only have a couple of minutes left, so we're gonna start thinking about wrapping up. We do have one more FAQ. How long do we have to do this for? We touched on this. Maximum of two years for the RDRS, but if useful information is gathered, then it might stop sooner. So maybe that's an incentive, maybe that's a sad thought. But two years max, but as we said, it is voluntary. So if you do opt in and then it becomes unsustainable for some reason, you can opt back out again.

All right, those are all of our FAQs. I'm gonna share a link here in the Zoom chat. If you wanna read more and actually see most of the same slide deck, because we do do good slides, you can find that on the Registrar's Stakeholder Group website, which is right there.

And now I would like to ask for closing thoughts, especially two things. Number one, if anybody has not yet had a chance to ask their question or give their thoughts, I'd like to hear from you. And number two, has anyone changed their opinion on the RDRS on participation during the course of this session?

Anybody? Bueller? Final thoughts?

All right. Communications team. Does anybody have final thoughts about this whole session? Anything else you wanted to say that we've missed? I wanna send a big thank you to the whole communications team. You're all absolutely delightful to work with. And yeah, that's great.

All right, last chance.

All right, back to Ashley for a closing thank you.

ASHLEY HEINEMAN:

I wanna thank Sarah, because this has been amazing. And I hope it was useful, particularly to the registrars in the room, but I know we have a broader audience watching as well, so hopefully it was useful to you as well. But thank you all today and also to ICANN staff who was here to help us explain the ICANN accreditation process for registrars.

And also, if anybody's here who's interested in membership in the Registrar Stakeholder Group, please reach out. We also have some brochures on the table that, by the way, the communications team at the Registrar Stakeholder Group put together. They're nice. We also have this little card with the QR code on there that will take you to our website. Yeah, that's it. Thank you everyone. Enjoy the rest of your time here in glorious Washington, D.C. Thank you.

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