

14 October 2014

Whois Address Cross-Field Validation Initiative

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#ICANN51



Background

- Section 1.E of “Whois Accuracy Program Specification” in 2013 RAA requires registrars to:

“Validate that all postal address fields are consistent across fields (for example: street exists in city, city exists in state/province, city matches postal code) where such information is technically and commercially feasible for the applicable country or territory.”
- Section 6 of “Transition Addendum” provides:

ICANN and Registrar Working Group will identify a set of tools to complete the cross-field validation. When such tools are mutually agreed between ICANN and the Working Group, ICANN shall provide Registrar notice. Registrar shall comply within 180 days of the notice.

Value of Address Validation

- More reliable Whois data
- Reduced compliance burden in the longer term
 - Whois inaccuracy accounts for more than 80% of all compliance issues for 2013 RAA registrars
- Potential reduction in fraudulent and abusive registrations
- Better business intelligence

Key Issues

- Which country's/territory's addresses should be verified, and to what level of specificity and accuracy?
- Which address data formats can be verified (e.g., ASCII vs. internationalized Whois data)?
- Technical approach on validating data.
- Reporting validation success or error/failure.
- Allocation of costs / achieving shared benefits of scale.
- Compliance monitoring and enforcement.
- Other (potentially registrar- or jurisdiction-specific)

Next Steps

- Reinitiate the working group
- Consult with other community members such as ccTLD operators
- Agree to scope of work (with WG)
- Establish / agree to project timeline
- Identify / select validation service providers
- Identify opportunities for ICANN role in operationalization of validation requirement

Thank you

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