CRITERIA TO BE CONSIDERED

~~**Criteria to be considered**~~

Criteria are divided into absolute and relative criteria. Absolute criteria are thresholds ~~which~~that an applicant is expected to meet. Failure to do so should ~~imply disqualification. Relative criteria become relevant once absolute criteria are met and are proposed as a basis for comparison and evaluation of competing applications. Absolute criteria are listed in no particular order.~~disqualify the Applicant. Given the technical nature of the .net registry contract and that technical expertise and experience will be essential to successfully executing its functions, award of the contract should require further consideration of each bidder's technical expertise beyond the mere achievement of minimum thresholds. Accordingly, ICANN should use the absolute criteria collectively to separate the bidders into classes of technical competency. Only those bidders earning the highest class of technical ranking should be further evaluated based upon the relative criteria. Once bidders in the highest technical class are identified, their individual technical scores should no longer be considered and selection should be made only on the basis of their scores on the relative criteria. Relative criteria are listed with weighting with the highest weight at the top of the list.

Absolute ~~**criteria**~~

Criteria

Absolute criteria related to the Targeting
- ~~Dot~~ .net should remain ~~un-sponsored.~~unsponsored.
- ~~Dot~~ .net should remain ~~un-restricted.~~unchartered.

Absolute criteria related to Continuity
- ~~**Grand fathering**~~
  Grandfathering. There are a number of organisations and individuals that have made an investment in .net domain names. The cost of migrating to a new domain name is potentially significant. Existing registrants should not be penalized by changes in policy as a result of this process. Existing registrants in .net should be entitled to maintain their registrations on terms materially consistent with their existing contracts under current policy, including the right to transfer a .net domain to another party.

Absolute criteria related to Policy Compliance

- **Consensus policies**
  . In the operation of the .net domain name registry, the registry operator must comply with all consensus policies of ICANN~~, both existing~~—those that exist today (UDRP, WHOIS, Deletes, Transfers etc), and any ~~which~~that are developed via the ICANN process in the future.

- **Policy development**
  .Any future .net registry agreement must specify that policy development for .net will take place in an open bottom-up process, which enables input from the full Internet community via ICANN's processes.

- **Registrars**

  All ICANN-accredited registrars must be allowed to qualify to register names in .net. All registrars that have qualified to operate as .net registrars~~,~~ must be treated equitably by the registry operator.

Absolute criteria related to stability, security, technical and financial competence

~~●~~ The .net registry operator should meet or exceed the following specifications ~~of the current .net registry contained in the following sections of the current .net registry agreement:~~ :

- **Nameserver Functional Specifications and Patch, Update and Upgrade Policy.** Applicants should comply with appendices C.4 and C.5 of the current .net Agreement;

- **Performance specifications**. Applicants should have a track record of performance sufficient to demonstrate their ability to measure and perform against industry standard Service Level Requirements (SLRs). Because each of the registries currently have different SLRs and different measurement methodologies, registry performance should be measured against the average of all unsponsored registry SLRs rather than measuring each registry against its own SLRs. For example, the incumbent Registry Operator for .net currently has an SLR of approximately 99.4% for SRS availability, while .info has an SLR of 99.45% and .biz has an SLR of 99.95% for SRS availability (each measured differently). At first glance, the track record of a registry with a lower SLR (99.4%) may appear to be better than the track record of one with a higher SLR (99.95%) in terms of meeting its own SLRs, even though the registry operator with the higher SLR may have, in actuality, achieved a higher level of performance. Any measurement of SLRs should be made with consistent criteria. Examples of appropriate SLAs to measure include:

  - ~~appendix C.4, "Nameserver functional specifications";~~ Shared Registration System
    - SRS Availability
    - SRS Processing Time (Add, Modify, Delete)
    - SRS Processing Time (Query Domain)
    - SRS Planned Outage (Duration)
    - SRS Extended Planned Outage (Duration)

  - ~~appendix C.5, "Patch, update and upgrade policy";~~ Nameserver Performance Specs
    - Nameserver Availability
    - Nameserver Resolution Processing Time
    - Nameserver Update Frequency
    - Cross-Network Nameserver Performance

  - ~~appendix D, "Performance specifications";~~ Whois Performance Specs
    - Whois Availability
    - Whois Processing Time
    - Whois Update Frequency
    - Whois Planned Outage (Duration)
    - Whois Extended Planned Outage

- **Service-Level Agreement.** SLA measurements and credits should be commensurate with the current industry standards amongst all unsponsored gTLDs.

- **Whois Specification – Public Whois**. Requirement that the entity operating .net shall act as the authoritative Whois service for all second-level Internet domain names registered in the .net top-level domain and for all hosts registered using such names). The Whois service should offer the ability to search by "Domain Name", "Registrar" and "Nameserver."
  - ~~appendix E, "Service Level~~Similar formats to Appendix O of .net Agreement~~";~~ if "Thin Registry Model"
  - ~~appendix O*, "Whois Specification - Public Whois";~~ Similar formats to Appendix O of .org, .info or .biz Agreements if "Thick Registry Model"

- ~~o appendix P*, "~~**Whois Data Specification –~~ =~~ Independent Whois Provider**~~";~~. Registry Operator shall provide bulk access to up-to-date data concerning domain name and nameserver registrations maintained by Registry Operator in connection with the Registry TLD on a daily schedule, only for purposes of providing free public query-based access to up-to-date data concerning domain name and nameserver registrations in multiple TLDs to a party designated from time to time in writing by ICANN. The Content, Format and Process shall be as set forth in:
  - Appendix P of .net Agreement if "Thin Registry Model"
  - ~~appendix Q*, "Whois Data Specification - ICANN";~~ Appendix P of .org, .info or .biz Agreements if "Thick Registry Model"

- **Whois Data Specification – ICANN.** Registry Operator shall provide bulk access by ICANN to up-to-date data concerning domain name and nameserver registrations maintained by Registry Operator in connection with the Registry TLD on a daily schedule, only for purposes of verifying and ensuring the operational stability of Registry Services, the DNS, and the Internet. The Content, Format and Process shall be as set forth in
  - ~~appendix R, "Data Escrow Specification".~~

    ~~* reference the .org agreement if a thick registry model is proposed.~~ Similar to Appendix Q of .net Agreement if "Thin Registry Model"
  - ~~In addition~~ annex 3 ~~contains a reference to documents submitted to the sub-committee including submissions from Neulevel and Verisign Inc. Due account has been taken of the relevant parts of these while maintaining the characteristic broad approach of this report. Should implementation of these broad criteria be required beyond the specifications of the current .net agreement the GNSO leaves that to the expertise of the ICANN SESAC (Security and Stability Advisory Committee) and ICANN staff.~~ Similar to Appendix Q of .org, .info or .biz Agreements if "Thick Registry Model"

- **Data Escrow Specification**. The Data Escrow requirements should comport with the latest industry standards as reflected in Appendix R of the .org, .biz and .info unsponsored gTLD agreements.

- **Security, Stability & Scalability.** The entity chosen to operate the .net registry must:

  - ~~be~~Be able to demonstrate that they possess the capability to maintain.net registry functions in an efficient and reliable manner~~,~~ while at the same time be scalable to support future growth, including:
    - Scale sufficient to handle the existing number of names and projected growth.
    - Scale to handle existing DNS query loads including normal peaks and projected growth.

- - Scale to handle events such as DDoS attacks and traffic generated by viruses, worms and spam. RFC 2870, "Root Name Server Operational Requirements", requires excess query capacity of three times the measured peak rate for those critical name servers.
    - Demonstrated capability of restarting from complete outage to avoid prolonged outage due to initial overload.
    - Multiple geographically dispersed points of presence to handle simultaneous attacks across the network.
  - ~~demonstrate disaster recovery capability,~~ Commit to 100% accuracy of .net zone data for resolution
  - ~~show its commitment to a high quality of service for all .net users worldwide,~~ Demonstrate a diversity of DNS resolution infrastructure to prevent single points of failure
  - ~~make~~Make registration, assistance and other registry services available to ICANN, accredited registrars in different time zones and different languages.

- **Migration/Transition Plan.** If applicable, applicants should document their plan for migrating .net from the current registry operator with specific attention paid to maintaining ~~existing~~ functional capabilities existing at the time the RFP is issued, performance specifications and protocol interfaces (i.e. registry registrar protocol RRP to extensible registry protocol EPP migration) . Applicants should demonstrate that the migration will have a minimal impact on performance of the registration system and no impact on the resolution of existing .net domain names.

- **Security of Infrastructure.** Applicants should be required to demonstrate their capability to establish the following:
  - A secure environment in which the registry infrastructure is to be operated.
  - Their Failure/ Disaster Recovery Capability, including a plan and assets to support failure of any or all of the infrastructure

- **Operational Expertise.** Subject to the provision of the following data to the Applicants, Applicants should demonstrate that they have staff in place with technical skills, expertise and experience to operate the Registry in order to maintain current levels of performance, including:
  - To operate at current volume and expected growth volumes .
  - To maintain operation during periods of increased traffic or activity such as DDoS.
  - To minimize vulnerabilities in infrastructure.
  - To manage any planned outages to minimize impact to Registrars and end users.
  - To contribute to standards creation and other issues of Internet development.

- **Customer Service.** Applicants should possess:
  - Skilled staff operating 24x7 to support Registrars' hours of operation.
  - Sufficient staff to support current and expected registrar volumes.
  - International language skills.
  - Technical on-site assistance available (engineering) on 24x7 basis.

- ~~Minimum financial stability should~~**Financial Stability:** Significant investment will be required to ~~ensure the operator has the means to meet its ambitions and the likelihood of continuity.~~ establish the initial registry system to support the scale and performance levels of .net. The applicant should be required to demonstrate resources sufficient to make an investment at levels required to scale the operation initially and maintain and grow the domain base and

infrastructure. The applicant also should possess substantial cash reserves and a record of sustained growth in revenue and profitability.

Relative criteria

Relative Criteria

1. 1. Relative criteriaCriteria related to promotion of competition

- **Maximization of consumer choice**. Once an applicant has qualified by meeting baseline stability, technical and financial criteria, positive consideration should be given to ICANN's mission to improve consumer choice and competition. For the purpose of this criteria, the consumers or customers of the .net registry operator are the registrars.

    - Pricing. Price is here defined as the registry price (currently $6.00). Once an applicant has qualified by meeting the absolute criteria, preference should be given to proposals offering lower pricing of the domain name.

- **Innovation and valueValue**. It is possible that applications will offer innovation or new services, and hence effectwill affect the value proposition. An assessment based on price should be balanced with the value proposition offered.   Any proposed innovation or new services: service should be described together with an assessment of their value by the affected stakeholders (typically registrars or registrants). Once the absolute criteria are met, the entity selected should be the one that presents the greatest value to ICANN, the Registrars and Registrants.

    - should be described,

    - together with an assessment of the value of them to the effected stakeholders (typically registrants or registrars),

    - and applicants must identify their capability to offer such services based on their prior experience in this area.

- **Industry Relations.** Consideration will be given to the applicant's track record in constructively contributing to the competitive nature and smooth functioning of the Internet through participation in the ICANN policy development process and through its dealings with other industry players.

2. 2. Relative criteria relating to stability, security, technical and financial competence

- Consideration should be given to technical stability based on a plural supply basediversity of suppliers and vendors in order to reduce the impact of any one provider failure.

- Mean time to resolution for additions or changes to the .net zone file should not exceed the current time with the existing registry operator. Preference should be given to proposals offering enhanced or faster resolution.

- **Industry Standards.** In the operation of the .net domain name registry, including any proposed registry services, the registry operator must demonstrate a commitment to abide by industry best practices and standards as they affect the technical stability of the DNS.

3. **3. Relative criteria related to existing registry services**
Dot

.net currently offers registry services such as the Redemption Grace Period, and the support of internationalized domain names in accordance with the IDN Guidelines (http://www.icann.org/general/idn-guidelines-20jun03.htm, and the pending Wait List Service (WLS)). Applicants should be asked "Does the applicant wish to maintain all existing registry services existing at the time the RFP is released[1]?"

- o If **yes**, please provide specifics and demonstrate the technical and legal ability of the registry to maintain existing services.
- o If **no**, please expand on any issues relating to the withdrawal of such services.

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[1] Although it is contemplated by VeriSign to introduce the Wait List Service (WLS) in the near future, the .net registry operator should be directed to maintain the *status quo* and be prohibited from introducing any new service beginning on the date the RFP is issued.

Document comparison done by DeltaView on Tuesday, July 13, 2004 10:20:15 AM

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Document 2	file://C:/Documents and Settings/jneuman/Desktop/New Attachment A.doc
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Legend:	
Insertion	
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