

Discussion Document for Expert Working Group Beijing Session on Next Generation gTLD Data Directory Services

Background

In December, ICANN [announced](#) the creation of an Expert Working Group (EWG) on gTLD Directory Services, as a first step in fulfilling the ICANN Board's [directive](#) to help redefine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data. The work of the Expert Working Group is expected to serve as a foundation to help GNSO create a new global policy for gTLD directory services, as part of a Board requested Policy Development Process (PDP) to be commenced upon the conclusion of the Expert Working Group's activities.

Recent Activities

The EWG participated in a series of in-person and telephonic meetings. In fulfilling its mandate, the EWG is conducting a comprehensive review of issues surrounding the requirements for gTLD registration data directory services, including the following:

- Usage requirements & business needs for gTLD registration data
- Identification of permissible purposes for data collection, use, and disclosure
- Registrant classification
- Requester classification
- Identification of data elements available & required
- Data protection requirements & impacts on registration data
- Registrar local law exceptions
- Requirements for data accuracy, reliability & quality
- Processes for inaccuracy prevention & remediation
- Access elements & accountability structures to minimize abuse
- Data display considerations
- Storage considerations & performance metrics
- Security requirements

- Technical protocols
- Internationalization and localization considerations

Community Input Sought in Beijing

Beijing presents a unique opportunity for the EWG to provide an update on its progress and to hear from the ICANN community on a range of topics to inform its post-Beijing work.

For example, participants in the Beijing Session are invited to comment on questions currently under discussion within the EWG, including:

- Whether collection, storage and provision of registrant data is necessary
- Whether to incorporate different registration data requirements for domain names for commercial use versus non-commercial use
- Whether and how anonymous registrations should be accommodated
- Potential costs/benefits of a distributed versus a centralized database
- Possible safeguards to minimize abuse and protect the privacy of registrants
- Whether and how remedies for inaccurate data should differ (for example, in cases of fraudulent, criminal, or malicious conduct)
- Whether tiered access is desirable, depending upon the requestor's purpose

For More Information on the EWG

- Meeting Reports and other information regarding the EWG's activities can be found at the EWG's public wiki space at:
<https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=40175189>
- Announcement regarding the selection of the EWG:
<http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-14feb13-en.htm>