Transcription ICANN Durban Meeting

Synthesis of Whois service requirements

Saturday 13 July 2013 at 18:15 local time

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Jonathan Robinson: ...review - we're going to take half of that to do thick WHOIS tomorrow. Are we in shape to start the recording?

Man: Yes. Synthesis of WHOIS recording is now live.

Jonathan Robinson: Thank you. Over to you Berry.

Berry Cobb: Great. Thank you Jonathan and this is Berry Cobb helping with the policy staff. We're just going to provide a two-minute brief. I'm even going to hopefully try to beat the IRTP D summary that was provided to you today.

                 But this is just to quickly brief the Council on where the Working Group stands. As you may recall a year ago or so the Council had adopted a Working Group to form a - build a survey around some WHOIS requirements that were defined by Staff in a prior paper.

And basically the results of this survey are - have been completed. So basically the current status - like I said the survey was completed at the end of 2012.

What had happened prior to that is the Working Group developed a draft of the survey, posted it for public comment, received all of the feedback from that, developed a final version of the survey, released it and I believe it closed at the end of October last year.

Given some of the timing with competing efforts that were ongoing as well as the end of the year vacations and those kinds of things, the Working Group didn't really reconvene till the beginning of 2013.

But essentially what had happened when we did reconvene we decided that ICANN Staff would compile all the results of the survey and move on from there.

I think what's very important to note is that in putting together this draft of the final report, the survey itself was very lengthy and not only was it lengthy, it was very technically specific.

So it was a little bit of a challenge for many of the participants to complete the survey, and certainly certain skill sets were required to complete the survey in and of itself as I mentioned.

So we have submitted or completed a draft final report, and that report has been sent out to the Working Group to review some of the proposed recommendations within that.

The report itself - essentially it outlines the 11 technical requirements that were defined in the previous Staff report and tries to summarize and consolidate the survey results so that it's a little bit more manageable and digestible.

Even still that's 50 plus pages of text, graphics and charts that outline the summary of the results. Also included there's a - we felt it was important to try to get a profile of the participants that took the survey, so that's included in the beginning.

And as I mentioned there are a few preliminary recommendations drafted by Staff, but of course the Working Group will finalize and deliberate on any other recommendations that may need to occur.

Just one point of note. We had a total of 247 responses. Unfortunately though only 67 of those were formally submitted where the participant hit the Submit button, and so the scope of the results of the survey is just around those 67.

The remaining - remainder were too vague to try to influence any of the actual results, and so it was just better to admit those after the final analysis. Lastly - so the preliminary recommendations that, you know, I think for the most part there have been larger efforts that have overtaken what the original intent of this survey was to do.

For instance there's a couple of questions about thick WHOIS. Obviously we have a PDP on that right now - certainly the efforts with the EWG as well as the protocol efforts occurring within the WEIRDS IT - IETF group as well.

So as it stands just the preliminary recommendations are to submit the overall results to these three groups for now. As I mentioned the Working Group is going to be reviewing the overall report and see if there are any additional recommendations to be had.

But at this point in time there is no policy implications on any of these recommendations. So lastly, basically like I said the Working Group will try to reconvene sometime after Durban.

Whether we do that on the list or a formal call I will be deciding that in the near term, and then hopefully we'll be able to wrap this up at the September GNSO Council meeting. So that's all I have. Any questions?

Jonathan Robinson: The graveyard's locked Berry I'm afraid. Marika.

Marika Konings: So this is Marika. I mean, another question, the more general observation - because I think this is one of those efforts where we were speaking about this morning where, you know, the Council initiated work - a lot of work or at least created a lot of work that was conducted by Staff where towards the end of that project no one was really willing.

I think the idea was that the Working Group would actually take the survey results and write a report and review them. No one willing to step up where - and Staff took again the initiative and wrote it up and now it's out.

I don't know Berry if you got any feedback yet. I don't think I've seen anything on the list. I mean, it did go out just before the meeting so - and then in all fairness, but I think this is one of those projects where, you know, we may need to use at some point as a case study saying, "Okay how do we deal with these kind of efforts where work is initiated?"

That is important. I mean, it asks important questions. Maybe it has been overtaken by some of the other initiatives going forward, but at what point do we recognize that, you know, we maybe should just say, "Okay let's - is it still work continuing, noting that it takes a lot of Staff time then to follow up and write the report and close out these projects?"

So it's just a general point I wanted to bring up as it's part of the conversation, and I think there are a couple of efforts that we're looking at as well, you know, linking this maybe to some - another effort where we just started work on metrics and reporting, where we're starting to get volunteers on board,

whether for some of these initiatives we look for other approaches to getting the work done.

And I raised it as well in the discussion this morning, you know, because we're used to the concept of let's get a Drafting Team together, develop a charter and then the Working Group gets together and goes, you know, hand in hand, step-by-step.

Are there efforts where we can basically say, "Well, you know, let's have Staff take a stab at having a first report based on consultations they undertake before doing anything with the community, come back and have a kind of, you know, first report out for review and comments."

And that can be further taken up or thrown out if the people still feel that it's, you know, really not going in the direction that people want it to go. But I'm concerned that, you know, like this effort and I'm fearing it's - all of the metrics and reporting may be a similar effort where some volunteers sign up, but in the end all the workload falls on Staff.

Well we could've already done that in a probably more effective and efficient way from the start so...

Jonathan Robinson: So Marika you obviously - and I - and it seems to me correctly feel strongly about this from the point of view appropriate use of resources and then the kind of outcome that might be generated.

I wonder if this is given where we are in the day, given where, you know, that not all the Council is present, I wonder if this isn't best picked up as one of the wrap up meeting sessions because it's a time when we like to be fresher, possibly more responsive to doing something.

I'm just not sure, notwithstanding the fact that it's a valid concern you have and whether we're going to get a lot of traction now and make the kind of progress you'd like to see us make. So that's my suggestion I think.

Marika Konings: No and this is Marika and I absolutely agree. I just already wanted to flag it because I think this is one of those examples that maybe, you know, provides some incentive for people to start thinking on how we sometimes can do things in a different way instead of our standard let's, you know, get everyone together, try everyone every step of the way instead of maybe some other approaches in getting things done.

Jonathan Robinson: Yes Berry.

Berry Cobb: And just to piggyback on what Marika was saying I, you know, I think this was kind of a perfect storm of events at least with respect to this particular Working Group, because the new gTLD program was really getting ramped up, you know, towards the end of last quarter and certainly as the new year came in.

So that was a certain aspect from a competing aspect to the results. I think the other - or element to this is that the results themselves - the survey was so big it was really hard for all of us to digest it and get an easy, quick way, you know, takeaway answer as to, you know, how effective was the survey?

Does it show overall support for the requirements and those kinds of different things, as well as like I mentioned earlier competing with vacation time and those kinds of things with group fatigue.

So it was really a confluence of forces that happened with this regard, but most for sure - certainly as the Council does consider future efforts, you know, we need to understand or try to kind of get an initial sizing on what it's really going to take to accomplish this and understand, you know, is it really

going to be Staff-led or is it, you know, or is the community going to share the burden on the effort and those kinds of things? So thank you.

Jonathan Robinson: Thanks Berry. Any other comments or questions on this? I think it is something we - that as I said it's rightly important to raise and it's clearly something we've got to pick up on.

Okay thanks everyone. It's been - notwithstanding the fact that we cut a session out, it's been a long day and so I think we'll take a little break before we get together this evening.

I'm looking forward to relaxing a little with all of you this evening, so hopefully all or at least most of you will be there. We're going to meet at 7:15 in the lobby of the Hilton.

If you're at a different hotel Glen sent out email instructions as to how to get there. And I've been reminded Glen or Marika if there are any other housekeeping issues we should be thinking about, we're beginning at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

I think we're in pretty good shape. You probably saw the email about Thomas Rickert and the reason he isn't here. He's had a new baby daughter so - within the last couple of days so that's good news for him, bad news for us because we don't get to have him here.

But I think he's happily ensconced and I think he is participating to some extent online. Great. Thank you very much. It's been a hard, long day but I think it's been a constructive day and we've had some great conversations and great contributions, so thanks all.

Thanks ICANN staff. Thanks councilors and thanks others in the room who've contributed. Cheers.

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