

Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery PDP

Presentation of Final Report



Background



- To what extent should registrants be able to reclaim their domain names after they expire?
- Issue brought to the GNSO by ALAC
- PDP initiated in June 2009
- PEDNR WG examines five questions relating to expiration and renewal practices and policies
- WG is expected to make recommendations for best practices and / or consensus policies



Charter Questions

PEDNR WG examines five questions relating to expiration and renewal practices and policies:

1. Whether adequate opportunity exists for registrants to redeem their expired domain names;
2. Whether expiration-related provisions in typical registration agreements are clear and conspicuous enough;
3. Whether adequate notice exists to alert registrants of upcoming expirations;
4. Whether additional measures need to be implemented to indicate that once a domain name enters the Auto-Renew Grace Period, it has expired (e.g., hold status, a notice on the site with a link to information on how to renew, or other options to be determined);
5. Whether to allow the transfer of a domain name during the RGP.



Recent Developments

- Initial Report Published in May 2010 - did not include any recommendations
- WG reviewed public comments and continued deliberations
- Published proposed Final Report on 21 Feb containing 14 recommendations, in combination with opening of public comment forum
- Following review of public comments, WG has now finalized its report



In General

- The WG believes that the recommendations:
 - will provide additional guarantees to registrants;
 - will improve registrant education and comprehension;
 - are in line with current registrar practices and will have minimal impact on most registrars and other affected stakeholders.
- All recommendations have full consensus support and are considered inter-dependent



The Recommendations

General

- Define “Registered Name Holder at Expiration (RNHaE) (Rec #1)

Post Expiration Behavior and Ability to Renew

- Provide a minimum of 8 days after expiration for renewal by registrant (Rec#2)
- Website must explicitly say that registration has expired and instructions on how to redeem (Rec#3)
- RNHaE cannot be prevented from renewing as a result of WHOIS changes (Rec#4)



The Recommendations (continued)

Registrar Disclosure and Expiration Warning

- Fees charged for renewal must be posted (Rec#5)
- Clear indication of methods used to deliver pre- and post-expiration notifications (Rec#6)
- At least two notices prior to expiration at set times, one after expiration (Rec#7 & 8)
- Notifications must not solely be done by methods which require explicit action by Registrant (Rec#9)
- Best practice: Post-expiration notifications should be sent to some other contact point (Rec#10), provide notice of where notification emails will be sent from (Rec#11), provide secondary email point of contact (Rec#12)



The Recommendations (continued)



Redemption Grace Period

- All gTLDs and registrars must offer Redemption Grace Period (RGP), with the exception of sponsored gTLDs (Rec#13 & 14)
- Transfer of a domain name during the RGP should not be allowed (Rec#15)

Registrant Education & Awareness

- ICANN to develop educational materials on how to properly steward a domain name and prevent unintended loss (Rec#16)
- If web content is developed as per Rec#16, registrars to link / distribute such information (Rec#17)



The Recommendations (continued)

Monitoring & Follow up

- ICANN Compliance to provide updates on a regular basis in relation to the implementation and effectiveness of the proposed recommendations. (Rec#18)



Implementation



Working group members prepared to work with ICANN staff to ensure that implementation meets intent

- In line with PDP WT recommendations



Questions?

One World

One Internet



Further Information



- Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery Final Report -
- PEDNR WG Workspace - <https://community.icann.org/display/gnsopednr/PEDNR+WG+-+Home>



Thank You



Rec. 1: Define RNHaE

Define “Registered Name Holder at Expiration” (RNHaE) as **the entity or individual that was eligible to renew the domain name registration immediately prior to expiration.**

- Current RAA does not consider this and advice was that any right after expiration needed to be clear and explicit.
- Does not depend on Whois contents after expiration.



Rec. 2: Disruption of domain access and minimum renewal guarantee

For at least 8 consecutive days, at some point following expiration, the original DNS resolution path specified by the RNHaE, at the time of expiration, must be interrupted by the registrar and the domain must be renewable by the RNHaE until the end of that period.

- 8 days is a floating period and can start immediately after expiration or at some later time to address different business
- Registrar can still delete at any time
- Domain resolution restored if renewed.

Rec. 3: Web intercept page (if any)

If at any time after expiration when the Registered Name is still renewable by the RNHaE, the Registrar changes the DNS resolution path to effect a different landing website than the one used by the RNHaE prior to expiration, the page shown must explicitly say that the domain has expired and give instructions on how to recover the domain.

- Many registrars already do this

Rec. 4: Whois insensitivity

The RNHaE cannot be prevented from renewing a domain name registration as a result of WHOIS changes made by the Registrar that were not at the RNHaE's request. (Charter Question 1)

- Currently a change to WHOIS may, depending on the specifics of a Registrar's system, prohibit the RNHaE from renewing the Registered Name.

Rec. 5: Renewal fee disclosure

- The registration agreement must include or point to any fee(s) charged for the post-expiration renewal of a domain name. If the Registrar operates a website for registration or renewal, it should state, both at the time of registration and in a clear place on its website, any fee(s) charged for the post-expiration renewal of a domain name or the recovery of a domain name during the Redemption Grace Period.
- EDDP required similar disclosure for RGP redemption



Rec. 6: Notice delivery disclosure

The registration agreement and Registrar web site (if one is used) must clearly indicate what methods will be used to deliver pre- and post-expiration notifications, or must point to the location where such information can be found. What destination address/number will be used must also be specified, if applicable.

- Registrants should be told ahead of time how the Registrar will communicate with them.



Rec. 7: Pre-expiration notices

Registrar must notify Registered Name Holder of impending expiration no less than two times. One such notice must be sent one month or 30 days prior to expiration (± 4 days) and one must be sent one week prior to expiration (± 3 days). If more than two alert notifications are sent, the timing of two of them must be comparable to the timings specified.

- The current requirement in the RAA to send at least two notifications is vaguely worded. There is also nothing to prohibit such notifications from being sent too early or too late to be effective.



Rec. 8: Post-expiration notice

Unless the Registered Name is renewed or deleted by the Registrar, at least one notification to the RNHaE, which includes renewal instructions, must be sent after expiration.



Rec. 9: Expiration notification must use “push” mechanisms

Notifications of impending expiration must include method(s) that do not require explicit registrant action other than standard e-mail receipt in order to receive such notifications.

- Notifications must not solely be done by methods, which require explicit Registrant action to receive, the most common being the requirement to log onto the Registrar domain management system to receive notifications.



Rec. 10: Don't send notices that are impossible to deliver

Best Practice: If post-expiration notifications are normally sent to a point of contact using the domain in question, and delivery is known to have been interrupted by post-expiration actions, post-expiration notifications should be sent to some other contact point associated with the registrant if one exists. (Charter Question 4)

- The Working Group did not feel that it was practical to mandate how this should be fixed, but felt that it was important that Registrars consider the situation.

Rec. 11: Disclose where expiration messages will come from

Best Practice: The notification method explanation (see recommendation #9) should include the registrar's email address from which notification messages are sent and a suggestion that registrants save this email address as a 'safe sender' to avoid notification emails being blocked by spam filter software.

- Not failsafe since registrars may change addresses from time-to-time.

Rec. 12: Avoid addresses destined to fail

Best Practice: Registrars should advise registrants to provide a secondary email point of contact that is not associated with the domain name itself so that in case of expiration reminders can be delivered to this secondary email point of contact.

- Aim is to avoid situation discussed in Recommendation 10.

Rec. 13: Redemption Grace Period (RGP) Registry Service

With the exception of sponsored gTLDs, all gTLD Registries shall offer the Redemption Grace Period (RGP). For currently existing unsponsored gTLDs that do not currently offer the RGP, a transition period shall be allowed. All new gTLDs must offer the RGP.

- All unsponsored gTLDs Registries with the exception of .name currently offer the RGP service
- No guarantee that they will continue
- No such obligation specified in the new gTLD Applicant Guidebook.



Rec. 14: RGP offered by Registrars

If a Registrar offers registrations in a gTLD that supports the RGP, the Registrar must allow the Registered Name Holder at Expiration to redeem the Registered Name after it has entered RGP.

- Ensures that the registrant will be able to redeem a domain name if it is deleted and if the Registry offers the RGP service.



Rec. 15: No Transfer during RGP

The Working Group recommends that a transfer of a domain name during the RGP should not be allowed.

- The need is significantly reduced based on the recommendation to have the RGP mandatory for Registrars
- Transfer during RGP complex and has possible adverse effects.

Rec. 16: Develop educational materials

ICANN, in consultation with Registrars, ALAC and other interested parties, will develop educational materials about how to properly steward a domain name and how to prevent unintended loss. Such material may include registrant responsibilities and the gTLD domain life-cycle and guidelines for keeping domain name records current.

- Insufficient registrant understanding and education was identified as a significant problem and any attempt to address it will lower the number of problems experienced by registrants.
- Perhaps only issue that received immediate and universal agreement among WG participants.
- Material to be posted on ICANN-managed web site.



Rec. 17: Registrars to point to Educational material

In the event that ICANN gives reasonable notice to Registrars that ICANN has published web content as described in Recommendation 7:

- Registrars, who have a web presence, must provide a link to the ICANN content on any website it may operate for domain name registration or renewal clearly displayed to its Registered Name
- Holders at least as clearly as its links to policies or notifications required to be displayed under ICANN Consensus Policies.
- Registrars may also host similar material adapted to their specific practices and processes.
- Registrar must point to the ICANN material in a communication sent to the registrant immediately following initial registration as well as in the mandated annual WHOIS reminder.



Rec. 18: Compliance and follow-up

The Working Group recommends that ICANN Compliance be requested to provide updates to the GNSO Council on a regular basis in relation to the implementation and effectiveness of the proposed recommendations, either in the form of a report that details amongst others the number of complaints received in relation to renewal and/or post-expiration related matters or in the form of audits that assess if the policy has been implemented as intended.