

I. IMPLEMENTATION

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
WHOIS Accuracy/GAC Safeguard Advice on WHOIS Verification and Checks	<p>The new WHOIS Online Accuracy Reporting System is a key project linked to ICANN's strategic initiative to improve the overall effectiveness and accuracy of the WHOIS system. In response to the recommendations of the WHOIS Review Team, the system is designed to produce statistical reports on WHOIS accuracy rates. These reports will be made available on the WHOIS website on a periodic basis, providing visibility and transparency into whether accuracy levels are improving over time. ICANN will also rely on this system to comply with the GAC Beijing Advice regarding WHOIS verification and checks.</p>	<p>Contract implementation; WHOIS Review Team Recommendation implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Program RFP published, May 2014 • Contracts executed, Aug. 2014 • Preliminary Findings published, Oct. 2014 • Community feedback on Pilot Preliminary Findings, Oct. 2014 • Publication of Final Pilot Report, Dec. 2014 • Public Comment Forum, Dec. 2014 – Feb. 2015 • IAG to be formed to recommend process for the follow-up procedure, Jan. 2015 • Launch of Compliance Pilot on the ARS Pilot Study findings, Jan. 2015 • Initiate modifications to Accuracy Reporting System, Mar. 2015 • Launch of Accuracy Reporting System – Phase I (Syntactic validation), mid 2015 • Launch of Accuracy Reporting System – Phase II (Operational validation), late 2015 • Launch of Accuracy Reporting System – Phase III (Identity validation), TBD • IAG Process Recommendations published for public comment, TBD • IAG Process finalized & launched, TBD 	

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<p>WHOIS Conflicts with National Privacy Laws</p>	<p>Mandatory review of the effectiveness of the procedure under which registries and registrars may seek modification of their contractual WHOIS requirements in light of a conflict with national law.</p> <p>Currently, the process may only be invoked by the contracted party upon receiving notification of an investigation, litigation, regulatory proceeding or other government or civil action that might affect its compliance with the provisions of the RAA or other contractual agreement with ICANN dealing with the collection, display or distribution of personally identifiable data via WHOIS.</p>	<p>Contract implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff paper posted for public comment, May 2014 • Comment period open, May –Aug. 2014 • Analysis/proposed next steps provided to GNSO; call for volunteers to form Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) and update procedure, ICANN 51/LA, Oct. 2014 • IAG formed to recommend changes to the procedure, not the policy, Dec. 2014 • IAG submits recommendations to GNSO to ensure they are consistent with existing GNSO policy, June 2015 • Board reviews recommended changes to procedure, TBD 	

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Implementation of Thick WHOIS – Consistent Labeling and Display of WHOIS across all current thick gTLDs	Implement recommendation #1 from the Final Report of the Thick WHOIS Policy Development Process for all current thick gTLDs	Policy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Draft Implementation Plan for Consistent Labeling and Display, Jan. – Feb. 2015 • Final Implementation Plan for Consistent Labeling and Display, May 2015 • Announcement of Policy Effective Date on Consistent Labeling and Display, July 2015 • Implementation of Consistent Labeling and Display by Registries and Registrars, Aug. 2015 – Jan. 2016 • Policy Effective Date for Consistent Labeling and Display, Jan. 2016 	
Implementation of Thick WHOIS – Transition from thin to thick WHOIS for .COM, .NET and .JOBS	Implement recommendation #1 and #3 from the Final Report of the Thick WHOIS Policy Development Process for the thin WHOIS gTLDs (.COM, .NET and .JOBS)	Policy Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Draft Implementation Plan for transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS, April – May 2015 • Final Implementation Plan for the transition, July – Aug. 2015 • Implementation of the transition of .COM, .NET, .JOBS by Registries and Registrars, Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2016/Jan. 2017 • Policy Effective Date for Transition from Thin to Thick, Aug. 2016 – Jan. 2017 	

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Cross-Field Address Data Validation Requirements	The WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification of the 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.	Contract specification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrar working group was formed to ascertain the availability of technically and commercially feasible tools for cross-field validation. • The group was dormant during the rollout of the 2013 RAA but is currently being reinitiated. • Proposed validation requirements/specifications to be developed by mid-2015. Registrar Working Group to vote on technical and commercial feasibility in mid-to-late 2015. If approved, requirements become effective 180 days after ICANN announces the approval. 	
Review of RAA WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification	Terms and conditions of the WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification to be reviewed by ICANN in consultation with the Registrar Stakeholder Group on or about the first anniversary of the date that the RAA is first executed by a registrar.	Contract implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICANN is planning the approach and proposed methodology for the review • Initial discussions with the leadership of the Registrar Stakeholder Group began in December 2014 • ICANN plans to solicit community feedback beginning in January 2015 and meet with registrars in Singapore in February 2015 • Results of the review will determine 'next steps' 	

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Internationalized Registration Data (IRD)	WHOIS RT made recommendations to charter a new IRD group to look at requirements holistically and to make recommendations in this area.	Recommendations to form basis for further policy work and contract discussions; WHOIS Review Team Recommendation implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement for IRD Team, including call for applicants, July 2013 • IRD Team selected, Sept. 2013 • Preliminary Report published, June 2014 • Interim Report from the Expert Working Group on Internationalized Registration Data published, April 2014 • Interim Report posted for public comment, April – July 2014 • Report of Public Comments on Interim Report published, 2 September 2014 • Final Report publication, 1Q2015 • Board consideration following public comment, 2Q2015 	<p>GNSO PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information</p> <p>Expert Working Group on Next Generation gTLD Directory Services</p> <p>IETF WEIRDS work</p>

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WHOIS Website Improvements	The WHOIS Website is to be refined & updated	Policy implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Search Tool enhancements • WHOIS Annual Report to be published, Dec. 2014 • Updating & Refreshing WHOIS Primer and the Knowledge Center, ongoing 	

New gTLD WHOIS Implementation Clarification	Advisory - Clarifications to New gTLD Registry Agreement, Spec. 4 and the 2013 RAA WHOIS Specification	Contract Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and publish the updated Advisory by Jan. 31 • New effective date for implementation moved from mid-February to mid-April 	
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II. TECHNICAL

WEIRDS IETF Protocol development	Development of new replacement of WHOIS protocol, RFC process underway in IETF	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WEIRDS IETF Working Group formed, April 2012• WEIRDS protocol finalized, 1Q 2015• WEIRDS final protocol implemented into contracts, TBD	RDAP/Restful WHOIS
Open Source RDAP/Restful WHOIS	Develop a RESTful WHOIS open-source server for domain name registries that can be used by registries or registrars. The server will use the specifications developed in the IETF WEIRDS WG.	Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Server expected, Dec. 2014• WEIRDS IETF RFC expected to publish, 1Q 2015	Dependent on development of WEIRDS protocol

III. POLICY

WHOIS Activity	Description	Type of Activity	Timeline & Milestones	Related Activities
gTLD Directory Services Expert Working Group Report	Final Report from the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG) details recommendations for a next-generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) to replace the current WHOIS system.	Policy development; WHOIS Review Team Recommendation implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EWG formed, Dec. 2012 • Publication of Initial Report, Frequently Asked Questions, and online questionnaire, June 2013, kicking off an extensive consultation process within the ICANN community on the initial recommendations. • Final Report published and delivered for consideration by the ICANN Board at ICANN50 in London, June 2014 • Following discussions in London on the interplay between the EWG Final Report and the Board-initiated PDP requested by the Board in Nov. 2012 (which had been put on hold pending the EWG work), the Board and GNSO agreed to form a joint GNSO – Board collaboration group to develop next steps for the PDP, Oct. 2014 • Output of the Joint Board/GNSO Collaboration Group to suggest framework for conducting the Board-initiated PDP, expected Feb. 2015 • Preliminary Issue Report & Public Comment Forum, April-May 2015 • Final Issue Report & Launch of PDP, June 2015 • PDP Initial Report published for public comment, June 2016 • Final Report of PDP, Dec. 2016 • GNSO Approval of PDP Recommendations, Jan. 2017 • Board Approval of PDP Recs 2/17 	Pending GNSO PDP

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<p>Privacy/Proxy Service Provider Accreditation issues</p>	<p>Board-initiated GNSO PDP to develop policy recommendations to guide ICANN's implementation of an accreditation program for privacy and proxy service providers. This topic was identified during the 2013 RAA negotiations and recommended for community policy development.</p>	<p>Policy development; WHOIS Review Team Recommendation implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNSO launched PDP, Oct. 2013 • WG charter adopted, Oct. 2013 • PDP Final Report, estimated May 2015 • GNSO approval of PDP recommendation, estimated June 2015 • Board Approval of PDP recommendations, estimated July 2015 • Transition Period – Interim Specification on privacy/proxy services in effect until 1/1/17 to allow for privacy/proxy accreditation program to be developed and PDP to be concluded. (See Specification on Privacy & Proxy Registrations in the 2013 RAA) • Staff has begun pre-implementation preparations in consultation with the Working Group 	

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<p>GNSO PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information</p>	<p>The PDP WG is tasked with developing a policy recommendation regarding the translation and transliteration of registration contact information. Among other things, the WG was to consider whether it is desirable to translate contact information to a single common language or transliterate contact information to a single common script. They were also expected to consider the question who should decide who should bear the burden of translating contact information to a single common language or transliterating contact information to a single common script.</p> <p>The PDP includes study on the commercial feasibility of translation and transliteration systems for internationalized contact data</p>	<p>Policy development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNSO Council requested an Issue Report, Oct. 2012 • GNSO initiates PDP, June 2013 • PDP Initial Report submitted 15 Dec. 2014 • PDP Final Report, estimated May 2015 • GNSO approval of PDP recommendations, estimated July 2015 • Board Approval of PDP recommendations, estimated Sept. 2015 	<p>Expert Working Group on Internationalized Registration Data (IRD)</p>

POLICY REVIEW

WHOIS Review Team 2	The Affirmation of Commitments requires a review of ICANN's WHOIS policy and requirements every three years.	Policy review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commencement of second WHOIS Review, mid-2015.• WHOIS RT2 publishes final report, early 2016• Board takes formal action on WHOIS RT2 Final Report, mid-2016	
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