
JOHANNESBURG – At-Large AFRALO ALS Capacity Building Session 4

Thursday, June 29, 2017 – 08:00 to 09:00 JNB

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UNIDENTIFIED MALE: This is the ICANN59 At-Large AFRALO ALS Building Session 4, 29th of June, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in Ballroom 4.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: We will start in a few minutes. In two minutes, in fact. Please take your seats.

Please take your seat. We will start immediately.

Good morning, everyone. Bonjour tout le monde. This morning, we will address a very important subject which is the Next Generation Registration Directory Services. And to present this subject, we invited one of the most experts in ICANN about this subject, my friend, Chuck Gomes.

Chuck is the Chair of the working group on the Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services to replace the WHOIS, in fact. So, Chuck, you have the floor.

CHUCK GOMES: Thank you very much, Tijani. Tijani and I have had the pleasure of working on ICANN's budget for many years now. And that's been good.

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I want to start by asking a couple questions. Okay. First of all, is there anybody here who is not very familiar with WHOIS? I'd like to know. It helps me know what to talk. Okay. So, one over here that's not very familiar with WHOIS. Okay. Three. Okay, just a little. Okay. So, I probably should talk just a tad bit about that.

The working group that I chair that Tijani just mentioned is sponsored two sessions here this week. One of them, the Cross-Community session on RDS on Monday afternoon, and then yesterday morning, a face-to-face working group for our working group.

Did any of you attend either or both of those sessions? Okay. That's helpful for me to know. That's okay. You don't need to. I know that you had other important things to do but it helps me to know in terms of what to talk about.

Now, because some are new to WHOIS and nobody attended the working group or Cross-Community session this week, I'll share a little bit of information but I'd like it a lot better responding to questions. So, I'll try and give you enough information that you can ask questions and every question is welcome. Okay.

For those that aren't very familiar or maybe not at all with WHOIS, WHOIS is the system that's been used on the Internet to give domain name information about registrants for just about as long as the Internet has been there, not quite.

And so, it's a system where you can look up a domain name and it'll tell you who the registrant is, what the name servers are depending on what level of WHOIS and so forth. So, I'll just leave it at that.

And it's widely used and information about registrants is made publicly available unless the registrants use what are called privacy or proxy services or unless they put in false information. So, it's very public around the world. And certainly, if any of you that are new to WHOIS have questions on that, I can talk further about that but I'll leave it at that keeping it very simple.

WHOIS is offered by registrars, domain name registrars. How many of you have your own domain name? Okay. And so, you know what I'm talking about when I say a domain name registrar. You had to purchase that domain name from your domain name registrar.

I happen to be associated with a domain name registry. I'm with Verisign. And so, we have the .com. We manage the .com and .net Internet domain names and a couple others as well, and provide backend services for some of the new gTLDs.

So, your registrar is a customer of a registry. In the case of com and net, it would be Verisign. And, of course, there are now, what, 1000 or so registries available and about three times that in terms of numbers of registrars.

So, ICANN has been grappling with WHOIS for almost its entire history going back to 1999. And it's a very controversial subject. Again, for those that are new, why is it controversial? Because on the one hand,

there are those who would like to have access to the WHOIS information. They'd like to be able to look up who the registrant is for a domain name and what the name servers are and who the contacts are because they use it. Law enforcement uses it. Intellectual property people use it. Those managing domain name abuse use WHOIS. And it's very helpful to them. And for the most part, all of those uses are very valid and helpful.

On the other hand, how do you feel about everybody in the world being able to see your information? So, if you're the domain name registrant, your name is there, your address, your e-mail, that probably raises some concerns on your part. Everybody in the world has that. So, on the other side of the equation, there are people who are very concerned about the privacy of their information especially if it's personal information.

And so, what we've had for 16, 17 years in ICANN, we've had a bunch of working groups working on WHOIS but the progress has always been very limited because we have two extreme factions. One of them advocating for privacy rights and the other one advocating access making it available, public information. And neither one is the only game in town. And so, what we've had is this divide which has made it very difficult to make very much progress.

I don't know. It's probably about five years ago now. The ICANN Board initiated an expert working group. It wasn't a policy development body but a bunch of experts were brought together to try and provide

their expertise on this issue to see if they could come up with a framework for maybe solving this longstanding problem.

So that group, I don't know, it was probably a year and a half or two years, they worked. And they produced, in my opinion, a great report with great suggestions. They weren't policy development body so they didn't develop policy but they did provide this framework and a possible solution for bringing the diverse sides together.

They issued that report, finalized it after a lot of community input and then a framework was developed as to how that might be applied and a policy development body was established in the Generic Name Supporting Organization, the GNSO. That working group was formed. That's what I'm Chair of. Okay. We've been working about a year and a half as a working group. I won't bore you with all the details in terms of the work plan. But we are working on the recommendations from that expert working group to possibility make recommendations, ultimately, policy recommendations, to implement a new registration directory services system to replace WHOIS. Okay.

Let me stop there because I feel like I've already talked too much. Go ahead, Tijani.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you, Chuck. Before speaking about the RDS, I would like you to tell us a few words about Thick WHOIS.

CHUCK GOMES: Okay. How many of you have heard that term before, Thick WHOIS? Anybody? Or Thin WHOIS for that matter? Okay.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Two persons.

CHUCK GOMES: Come on, Seun. You have heard of it. I know that. Okay. I've had the privilege of working with Seun on several working group efforts.

So, I'm going to have to go back and give you a little bit of history here. Okay. Keep in mind, I'm with Verisign and Verisign purchase Network Solutions which goes back to the 1990s. Back then, there was only one registry for generic top-level domains. It was the Network Solutions. There was no distinction between a registry and a registrar.

Especially after we started charging for domain names, there was a lot of interest in there being some competition. The network solutions, they had network solutions that competed for the contract they had with the U.S. Government. But people wanted there to be competition.

So, what happened was competition was introduced at the registrar level. So, all of a sudden now, instead of there just being one registry that did both things, now, there were still the one registry for com, net and org at the time, but there were new entities called registrars that were introduced. So, there was one registry for com, net and org. And there were a bunch of registrars. Now, that's grown from an initial test

bed of five to what we have today which is almost 3,000 registrars. Okay.

I'm now getting to the answer to your question. Okay. At that time, Network Solutions and ultimately Verisign offered what is referred to as Thin WHOIS. We didn't show any of your contact information if you were a registrant. We didn't even have it in our database. All we had was the domain name, the name of the registrar, name servers, no personal information. We didn't have any of the customer information if you're a domain name registrant.

And then the registrars had the contact information, the customer information, all of that. They had what is called Thick WHOIS. And we as a registry had just the thin data, no personal data.

Over time, as we introduced new gTLDs, generic top-level domains, all of those – well, except for one I think – started out being what are called thick registries. They had the same thick data that they obtain from the registrars so they have the thin data and the thick data, including the personal information. All right.

And so, today, the thin registries like Verisign are tasked with becoming thick through a policy development process. We're not there yet. Our data is still thin and you'd have to go through a registrar to get the thick data.

So did I answer that well enough? Okay. Good. [More] questions. You guys are good. Please.

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGBON: Just in simple term, could you just explain to me the difference between a registry, registrar and then a registree?

CHUCK GOMES: Was the last one supposed to be registrant?

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGBON: No. Registry that ends with RY, registrar that end with AR and then a registree that end with EE.

CHUCK GOMES: Okay. So, the registry is the entity that maintains the database for all the domains for a given top-level domain. And this can be with ccTLDs as well as for gTLDs. So, .ng for example. There's a registry for .ng. They maintain the database of those names and they propagate those names. They have name servers at various locations that propagate those names around the Internet.

So, the registry is responsible for making sure the name servers have the information for your domain name, everybody's domain name for that given TLD. For .com, we propagate all the 130 million plus .com domain names into servers that we operate around the world make them operate.

Now then the registry then – and this isn't true of all top-level domains – some country codes are their own registry and registrar. But in our

case, we have a whole bunch of registrars. So, if you wanted to register a domain name, you would go to a registrar. They would gather your information. You would pay them whatever they charge. They then would give us the information so that we, as a registry, can propagate your name around the Internet. Does that make sense? Okay.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: May I add one more? Peters, the registry is related to a domain, a top-level domain. So, each top-level domain has his registry. Registry means that who owns, if you want, the domain. And the registrars are in-charge of selling the domain names under this top-level domain. Is it okay?

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGBON: The registrars pay the registry.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Registrants. The registrants, they are all of us who have a domain name. I have a domain name. I get it from the registrar. The registrar is selling me a domain name and there a top-level domain who is the propriety of the history. Is it okay?

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGBON: I quite understand. Now, the question I'm asking is if I want to register my domain name for my organization, I pay the registrar. Right? The registrar. Now, does registrar not pay the registry? The registry, RY.

CHUCK GOMES: So, the registrar would charge you as a registrant whatever their fee is. And included in that fee would be a fee that they have to pay the registry. And it's usually an annual fee although you can typically, at least for gTLDs, you can register up to ten years at a time if you want. Okay. Somebody else have a question.

ROGER BAAH: In your earlier discussion, you mentioned that some of the registrars uses proxies.

CHUCK GOMES: Get just a little bit closer to the microphone, please.

ROGER BAAH: In your earlier deliveries, you mentioned that the registrars use proxies sometimes to hide this information. I did some registrations and they were charging some additional costs to provide these services to me. What I want to ask is are these valid? And is it approved by ICANN?

CHUCK GOMES: Great question. So, for generic top-level domains – and this isn't true for country code top level domains for the most part, there are just a very few exceptions – for generic top-level domains, registries of them have what is called a registry agreement, a contract with ICANN. Okay. And any registrars that distribute those names sell them to people like

yourselves and people in your community, they also have a contract. It's called a Registrar Accreditation Agreement with ICANN. Okay. And then they will also have a contract with whatever registries they work with. And they probably work with multiple registries. They won't just carry one top-level domain usually for generics.

So, both registrars and registries have contracts with ICANN and that allows them then to be able to be propagated in the ICANN root servers and be propagated in the main root that everybody uses. Does that answer your question?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. I would ask you please – before giving you the floor, I will ask you please to stick to the topic we are treating today because those information can be given through another webinar and we will invite Chuck to give us what you are asking for. But now, let's speak about WHOIS and RDS. Okay, Abdeldjalil.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG:

I would like to speak in French please.

My name is Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong from Chad and I would like to thank you, Mr. Gomes, for your presentation. I am part of this working group. And I would like to tell ALSes that it's the very important working group for us as ALSes. Why? Because we are talking about replacing a service with a very important service for us, essential

service. We all have a domain name for our association. We do have a domain name.

All those information are public. If we buy a domain name, name, first name, last names, server, I'm going to register the expiry date. Everything is going to be public. So, for this new service we're trying to say. And also, a following question, what about our privacy? Should we have those data private or not? When you register a domain name, are the e-mail address is going to be public?

We know the issues we have with spam right now. I receive so much spam, it is an issue. I have five or six e-mail addresses. Some people say everything should be public. But as representative of the end users, we are wondering if all the information should be public or some other should be private.

And what should we do in case of issues of attacks, of cyberattacks? Some other people say the information should be at the registry level and it's only if there is an issue that the registries or registrars will divert the information.

So, there is a debate about this issue. And there's a very important document that they can send to you on the mailing list for Newcomers. It's a very interesting topic. And WHOIS is extremely important for us as ALSes. This is essential.

Thank you so much for your presentation. Thank you.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: I am sorry. Please, your name first.

ADETOKUNBO ABIOLA: That was a very good presentation but I have a problem. I have a web host. And where do hosting companies come up in all this? First, as an end user, I own operation with my websites. I contact the web host. But I want to know where the host, like a Bluehost. Where does this come in all this registrar, registry, registrant? Thank you.

CHUCK GOMES: Good question. Thank you. Let me back up just a second though and let me take this off and say that thank you for being a part of the working group. Very much appreciate that.

By the way, in that working group, we have over 190 working group members and over 170 observers so it's a big working group but thank you very much.

Okay. Web hosting, obviously, is very important for the Internet. And you need a domain name to have a web address. Right? So that's very important. That is not in the mission of ICANN though or with registries and registrars but let me qualify that.

Some registrars do provide web hosting service as an added value service in addition to selling you a domain name. Some people may provide their own web hosting service or they may go to a service provider that provides the web hosting service and they just give that service provider their domain name.

So as far as ICANN’s responsibilities, it has to do with the domain name. Okay. The web hosting part of it is an added value service and ICANN really doesn’t directly control that in any way. Did that answer your question?

Okay. So, let’s talk about this working group. Okay. Is there a question on that?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Do you have a question?

BRAM FUDZULANI: I just wanted to seek more clarification on the RDS services specifically I think in a plain nutshell language that an end user, a normal Internet user would understand, why is this an important piece of a document that is being drafted, why should they care? Thank you.

CHUCK GOMES: Great question. Thank you. As an end user, you could be impacted several ways. Okay. And I’ll just try and share a few examples. These are not exhaustive. I am not going to name them all by any means.

But let’s say as an end user, you may want to go to a website and do some business on a website for a company. And you might want to find out, is that a valid company? So, you might want to go look up the domain name in WHOIS or maybe in the future, a new system to see what you can find out about that company, see if they’re valid and so

forth because there are lots of fraudulent things going on out there. So that's an example where you might like to be able to access some WHOIS information.

But as an end user also, if you're an end user that has a domain name and you don't want to get spam, as somebody pointed out over here, or you don't want to be exposed to abuse of the domain name, you may not want that information made public. And your colleague over here from Chad pointed that out.

So, there are competing interests here. Okay. On the one hand, you would like your privacy to be expected but maybe you're not a domain name registrant but you would like to check this domain name out that the company has. So, you might like to be able to access that. That's just two examples of how you might be interested even if you're not a domain name registrant. And I'm sure others here could give more.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Thank you very much. I would like to ask you please to keep your questions until he gives more information about RDS because we didn't start yet to speak about the subject. Chuck will give more information about RDS and then I will give you the floor. Please.

CHUCK GOMES:

Okay. So how do you – how do – what if you're interested in participating in this work group? Can you? Absolutely. In a Generic

Name Supporting Organization, our working groups and the way we develop policy is through working groups. Everybody is welcome to join a working group. You can be part of the At-Large. You can be part of another stakeholder group. You can just be an individual that's interested. You're welcome. How do you do that? We have a website and the staff supporting the At-Large can give you the links to that. You can join at any time.

Now, if you join after it's already been going for a while, the only thing that's expected is that you get up to speed on what we've done. Because every time we get a new member, we can't start over and rehash things. So you will have a responsibility. But still, you're welcome.

This particular working group will go on for several years. So it's still possible for you. And you have at least one colleague... Is there anybody else that's in a working group besides our friend from Chad? Good. Thank you. I want to say thanks to each of you for doing that. We appreciate that. And I appreciate that. Okay, as Chair. Hopefully you will continue to contribute and that makes it better. So you can join at any time. Okay.

Now, there's a couple ways to join, too. You can join as a member, and as a member you'll have to submit a Statement of Interest and there's a form for that. It's pretty easy.

You will be allowed to participate in our e-mail list, participate actively in our meetings. Most of our meetings are by teleconference and most

of our work is via e-mail. We only have three times a year face-to-face meeting. And this particular working group meets weekly with just a few exceptions like we won't meet next week. We always take a week off after the ICANN meetings. But we meet weekly for 90 minutes.

Based on the location of the members of the working group, and this could change over time, but we analyze the members, and where they're located and what time zones. And what we have, we have a regular meeting time that we meet every week except for the third week of the month. Third week of the month, we change the time to make it less onerous, less undesirable for those in the Asia-Pacific area. Unfortunately, because there were smaller numbers from Asia-Pacific, one meeting a month, we change to a time that's in the middle of the night for a lot of the rest of us. So we try and rotate that. If the membership changes, and there's more people from that region, we may have more meetings a month like that.

So it's easy to participate. It can be intimidating because there's a lot of information. But we certainly encourage you to do that. And the best way to learn about policy development, whether it's about WHOIS or other subjects in ICANN is to get involved in a working group.

Now let me pause there and see if there are any questions about that, okay? Now, the working group is – let me talk just a little bit about the working group process itself. How many of you have heard the term bottom-up multistakeholder? Anybody heard that term before? A few of you, okay. You better raise your hand, Seun.

In ICANN, that's how we develop policy. And it's in contrast to a method that would be called top-down. I mean, the ICANN Board could just decide, "Hey, we'll establish the policies and you follow them." That's not the way it works in the ICANN world. The model is bottom-up multistakeholder. The multistakeholder just means all impacted stakeholders need to be involved. So that you cover all interest, not just one special group. And bottom-up means it starts from the bottom. Pretty simple, okay?

So everybody, users, end-users, registrants, businesses, non-commercial organizations, governments, everybody that's impacted by a particular policy is welcome to be a part of that process. Now, that's hard. Because, I mean, just in this room right here, I bet we have people that have totally different views with regard to WHOIS. When you consider that you all come – most of you come from different countries, different cultures, different primary languages, developing policy where we can all come to a relatively strong level of consensus, takes time. And it takes a lot of work. And it takes compromise. And that's what it's all about. Collaborating together to try to come up with policies that meet all of these needs.

Now, everybody's not going to get everything they want. That typically is impossible. But we can find constructive solutions that will maybe allow the privacy interest to have their needs met. The law enforcement interest to have their needs met. Those who are fighting domain name abuse to have their interest, those are competing interest. But that's our goal in this working group. Try to come up with some solutions that will meet all of our needs as best as possible

without compromising security, and stability, and things like that. Okay.

ALI HUSSEIN:

I have a question. My name is Ali Hussein from KICTANet, Kenya. This issue of privacy and registrars, there's a cost to it. If I look at the GoDaddy website right now, when I'm registering a domain, it gives me an option for privacy protection. Two options actually: one privacy protection and one privacy and business protection.

So if you look at both of them, one says privacy hides your personal information from public view in the WHOIS directory. Domain ownership protection prevents accidental domain expiration or malicious transfer. Certified domain seal proves to visitors that your site's ownership is valid. Business registration creates an online business card. So just at the first level on privacy.

What this basically means is that privacy has a cost. Is that correct? Is that something that we need to fight? Because that's – I'm just looking at the price. It's \$10 for privacy protection from GoDaddy, say \$10 per year. They are the one for privacy and business protection is \$18.5.

Where do we draw the line? This, I think – I don't know whether this has been addressed because not everybody can afford – I mean \$10 may look very small money but for somebody who probably earns \$10 in 1 day or a month, and he wants a domain name, and where do we draw the line?

CHUCK GOMES:

Excellent questions. Okay. I understand. Let's first of all look at how that came about. There's no policy that was established with regard to privacy and proxy services. What it was a response to market demand. Keep in mind WHOIS in registry and registrar contracts, they're required to publish this information.

And so what if you didn't want to publish? What if you did want privacy? What do you do? Registrars and other organizations responses to that demand and offered a service to allow for that. So it was in response to market demand for privacy.

The other alternative was to put false information in there. Which is bad too, because inaccurate data causes other problems, right? So it came about as market demand. Okay.

Let's then jump ahead now. We have this big working group and we're working on maybe some new policies. It's possible, we don't know yet. We're not far enough along and those in the working group know this quite well, is that it may not be as necessary to buy a privacy or proxy service if in fact, we provide what the expert working group recommends is what is called gated access. Only authenticated organizations would be able to access your data. For example, law enforcement and they would be accredited. Now this – we haven't approved this yet in the working group, so I'm jumping ahead. But the expert working group spent a lot of time working on this model. And so in that case, provided you're okay with law enforcement having

your information or something, you may not need a proxy or privacy service. Okay.

But again, we got [a ways] to go before we get there. There was just a policy development effort on privacy and proxy services, but it's probably not useful to go into that here that puts some constraints about that. But it didn't deal with price. Keep in mind especially at the registrar level and for the most part, the registry level too – ICANN doesn't get in to the pricing game especially with new gTLDs. With .com, they do because we are first and we had the control there. But ICANN doesn't deal with price, with regard...

And again, privacy proxy services aren't something that in the past have been governed by any policy. But this new policy development effort that made some specific recommendations and were approved as consensus policy will put some controls around that. But it doesn't control price.

Now that whole demand for that could continue with a new system. It could be changed. It's not for me to say whether it's right or wrong obviously. The companies that are offering this service, there's a cost to them to offer the service too. And I know you don't expect them to not cover their cost.

ALI HUSSEIN:

I think it's sort of a bit of a slippery slope, this conversation, because for example, for some of us in this room, the minute you mentioned

law enforcement, we start cringing, you know. And it's a double-edged sword.

On one hand, you want the law enforcement to be able to do their jobs. But on the other hand is the old saying that goes "The terrorist of today is the nationalist of tomorrow". And I think one of the best examples is the late Nelson Mandela, NCUR still under the terrorist watch until a few years back in the U.S.

Why I'm raising this issue is if you are an activist, and you have a website somewhere, you are using a domain. You probably don't want your government to direct, to know who owns that domain. Hence, this conversation – I know there's no easy answer. But I think I'll just to summarize this by quoting the French philosopher Voltaire who once said, "I may not like what you say, but I will protect to the death your right to say it." These are the conversations that I think that are interesting to have. We may not have the right answers or the wrong answers today. But it is something that we must start really pondering. Thank you.

CHUCK GOMES:

Thank you. And by the way, what you're illustrating even in a small way, is the complexity of what we're dealing with. It's hugely complex. That's why so little progress has been made in this area over the last 17 years.

And by the way, we're also having the conversations and people are bringing up examples like you just did. You're probably a good

member of the working group, by the way. Because those are the things we have to confront and we're trying to uncover all of these possibilities. There's not one simple little answer.

You know, as Chair, I wish it was. It would make my job a lot easier. But very good points.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Chuck. We have seven minutes left. And we have one, two, three, four questions. So Chuck, do you think that you have to continue and finish your explanation or we take questions?

CHUCK GOMES: I would rather take questions.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Okay. Let's start by you. Your name, please.

BAKARY KOUYATE: I am Bakary from Mali. What I would like to know is the way WHOIS is working now, the fact that information are not public, isn't it bad for the personal data?

CHUCK GOMES: WHOIS is – I got to take this off, sorry. WHOIS is public right now unless you're using a privacy or proxy service. Okay. You understand that?

Okay. So it is public now. Registries and registrars are required by ICANN to publish WHOIS information. Okay. That is coming into conflict more and more with some regional and national laws.

The big one right now is the European Data Protection Regulation that's been passed in Europe. And giving people a right – a personal part is a right to privacy of their own information. So it is public now. ICANN was actually confronting and it's been a hot topic at this meeting and the last meeting of ICANN as to whether or not registrars are going to be in violation of laws of their countries or even other countries by displaying that information. So that's a really tough issue that ICANN and registries and registrars are having to deal with right now.

Does that help a little bit? Okay?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Please. You want to ask question? There. Okay. Peters.

PASTOR PETERS OMORAGBON:

My question is related partly to the views of Ali. sorry, I'm Peters from Nigeria. By the way, security questions. Now, what level of control as the registry, which is ICANN, has over domains that are used by terrorists to propagate their activities? And secondly, this information that was passed around, talk in terms of privacy. You have backup to most of your online activities that are Whatsapp, activities. Now we are made to understand that for those of us, we use Google Gmail who

have the information. [What about backup] that Google has a responsibility to pass most of this information to the law enforcement. That is, whatever you must have done on social media, for as much as two, three, five years as long as they have backup, then Google is under obligation to pass this information to the law enforcement within Australia and Europe. So, [inaudible]?

CHUCK GOMES:

So again, you're illustrating the complexity of what we're dealing with. Now, one of the things that's helpful to understand, some of the things you're talking about are within ICANN's mission and some are not. There are things that ICANN has no control over. Registries and registrars are responsible to the governments that they answer to. So if their government identifies a terrorist and comes to them and they get a legal order to stop, they're more than likely going to do that. So that they're not in violation.

In some cases, and this is reality of the Internet, Internet's global. So a terrorist may be from another jurisdiction and it gets complex. Now, I think most registries and registrars probably follow legal orders from countries other than their own when they're ordered to do something. If a registry or registrar – keep in mind, in our case, we're a thin registry, right? We don't have the customer information. So if it's a terrorist, the registrar has that information we don't. That may change going forward but so it's fairly complex.

Again, ICANN's mission, if you look at ICANN's mission, it's fairly narrow in terms of their remit. And it doesn't get into the content of a website for example. That's not ICANN's domain.

So, okay, those are still very important concerns, as you know. So how do we deal with that? A lot of discussion is going on in ICANN right now about that very issue. And how do we do that? And how can registrars and registries work with the community to deal with abuse, with terrorism, whatever it may be. Because we all know there's a lot of that going on. And we don't want that either. So but do I have a really good easy solution right now? No. We're working on those kind of things. There are good efforts being done to deal with that, but we've got a long ways to go.

Now, that is not part of this working group. But what we recommend with regard to a registration data system could very well be a factor in being able to better manage that. Makes sense?

TIJANI BEN JEMAA:

Two other questions and we have only one minute so Brahim? Brahim? Do you have a question? No, okay. Olevie.

OLEVIE KOUAMI:

Olevie Kouami from [DDSA] Institute for Development from Tucows. I have 2 questions to ask to check. First I would like to know related to the RDS and WHOIS. We are working on the working group on the RDS Working Group in which I am working. We want to know how we're

going to replace the WHOIS and I would like to know if we have a date for the end of this work.

Some years ago, I was working in another working group, which was named Policy Implementation Working Group. We worked for 18 months, creating new development policies, process. And I don't know if those policies are going to be [implemented]. And as Chuck was the Chair of this working group, do you know when this work that we have finished will be implemented? Thank you.

CHUCK GOMES:

I wish I did. We've got a long ways to go. As you know, because you're in the working group, there are three phases. We're just in the beginning stages of Phase 1 and it's very complex and not easy. I wished this week we would have made more progress than we did. It's little steps because of the different views, the competing views.

As we shared, and I don't think anybody was – very many at least were not in the sessions this week. But what we've shared this week is we're hoping by the Abu Dhabi meeting in the end of October and November this year, to start developing our first initial report, which will answer the basic question of do we think a new system is needed? And then make recommendations on requirements for 5 of 11 questions.

So that's just the end of this year for starting that. And hopefully, the initial report will be produced for public comment shortly after that. If we recommend a new system, and it's supported by the GNSO Council who manages the Policy Development Process for us, and good public

comment and so forth. We incorporate the public comments. We would go on and answer the additional six questions which get into cost implications and risk and some other things. Then we would finish our requirements work to a second initial report. Could that happen in 2018? Yes, possibly. It's hard for me to predict. I wish it would go a lot faster but you can't force it if people are in disagreement. So we are not close to that happening, okay.

I do want to comment – sorry to go a little bit over but I'll try and be really brief. If there was a policy development that was approved, but like you said, if it was in the implementation work, that meant that it was already approved as a policy. Now, sometimes it takes a while to implement because for a lot of reasons we don't have time to go on here. But if it was already approved as a consensus policy, then registries and registrars have to implement it. I don't know specifically which one because there's been a lot of WHOIS related effort.

Offline, they're probably going to be an option for that because you'll continue your meeting. But we could talk about that and which one it is that we could see. But if it was approved as a consensus policy, then it should be implemented. Although there are times when situation's changed and implementation as originally intended may not be legally possible or something else anymore. So again I'd have to talk to the specific instance. But sometimes it takes a long time to implement though.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you very much, Chuck. Thank you very much. I hope that this session was useful for you. And I hope you – it was good for you as it was done. So this concludes our Capacity Building sessions. I hope you find it useful for you. We will have an evaluation session today in this very room at 12:15 with the lunch served.

This session would be dedicated to make the evaluation of what we did. So please be on time, it's very important. Because we have another part of this session that would be dedicated to the hot topics for us.

Thank you very much, Chuck. It was a... Yes? Gisella.

CHUCK GOMES: Thank you very much. You ask great questions. I appreciate it very much and very much enjoyed interacting with you.

GISELLA GRUBER: For tonight, for the AFRALO's dinner, you need to be downstairs at the Center. Enter here at 7:20. The bus is going to leave at half past 7. So 7:20 because we have a cocktail this evening. And from 6:30 to 7:20 for the cocktail and then 7:20 p.m., please be downstairs and we will leave with the bus. We will have dinner in a very nice African restaurant.

TIJANI BEN JEMAA: Thank you, Gisella. One last word –

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