AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the Draft Implementation Plan for the WHOIS Online Accuracy and Reporting System

Introduction

Alan Greenberg, ALAC member from the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and the ALAC Liaison to the GNSO, composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 17 April 2014, this Statement was posted on the At-Large Draft Implementation Plan for the WHOIS Online Accuracy and Reporting System Workspace.

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the Recommendations to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 23 April 2014, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote on the proposed Statement on 24 April 2014 and close on 01 May 2014.

On that same day, the Chair requested that the Statement, referenced AL-ALAC-ST-0414-04-00-EN, be transmitted to the Public Comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this Public Comment topic, with a note that the Statement was pending ALAC ratification.

On 02 March 2014, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 12 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions. You may review the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=3861xIHwCh2BIhxR5TvzZx2y.

Summary

1. The ALAC is very supportive of the ICANN initiative to take responsibility for measuring and ultimately ensuring WHOIS accuracy.
2. In parallel with developing the measurement methodology and tools, a plan must be developed regarding how the accuracy metrics developed be used.
3. It is important that ICANN not only monitor WHOIS accuracy and address the problems resolved, but that the community is kept informed of the results in sufficient detail

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The ALAC is very supportive of the ICANN initiative to take responsibility for measuring and ultimately, through the Contractual Compliance process, ensuring WHOIS accuracy.

The ALAC believes that in parallel with developing the measurement methodology and tools, a plan must be developed regarding how the accuracy metrics developed be used. Clearly specific failures must be addressed with the applicable registrars on a case-by-case basis, but it is also important that there be clarity on how ICANN will use the overall results, and particularly to what extent ICANN will be looking for patterns in the results, and how such anomalous patters will be addressed.

In addition, it is important that ICANN not only monitor WHOIS accuracy and address the problems resolved, but that the community is kept informed of the results in sufficient detail.