Note to reviewers: This is a working document used to draft the policy language. Please note that the section number referenced to the policy and the language may have been changed.

Note to IRT: This rationale doc is provided to document and share the conflicting IRT inputs.
Therefore, please refrain from adding comments that note disagreements.
Please limit your comments to missing or new information only.
At the bottom of this document, there is a place for other comments such as process.

Rationale Doc: Redaction For Privacy Requirement

Background

Section 3.7 of the original draft policy language includes the definition of the terms “Redact”, “Redacts”, “Redacted” and “Redaction”, which “means that in the Registration Data Directory Services, Registrar and Registry Operator MUST NOT display Personal Data and instead MUST provide text substantially similar to “REDACTED FOR PRIVACY” in the Redacted data element value.” The Final Report recommendations did not provide a definition of these terms, but provided explicit requirements of specific data elements that must be redacted in certain conditions. This definition was included to clarify the meaning of redaction from the requirements in Recommendations 10 and 11 of the Final Report, to enable a consistent approach for implementers, and to differentiate when data is redacted for privacy reasons rather than for other reasons (such as a privacy/proxy service or the information was left blank).

Furthermore, this language is repeated at the end of Section 9.1 (Minimum RDDS Publication Requirements): “For data elements where data has been Redacted subject to Section 9.3 of this Policy, the value MUST NOT display Personal Data and instead MUST provide text substantially similar to “REDACTED FOR PRIVACY”.” This second instance was included to make the requirement clear for implementers within the section to which it applies.

Inputs from IRT

Some IRT members noted that the language displayed for redacted values should clearly show the values are redacted and are not a privacy or proxy registration. For example, if a registrar redacts the value per the policy, but displays only the term “privacy”, then it would be hard to tell if it is a proxy registration. Certain IRT members also expressed that we should agree on vocabulary so that it is very clear that redacted is not a proxy or privacy registration. The address fields for a domain with privacy/proxy service should show a real address, while the address fields for a domain with redacted data will note that they are redacted as a helpful indicator.

Overall, the IRT agreed that redaction for privacy should be clear and distinct from privacy/proxy registrations. However, some IRT members have noted that adding a requirement for the specific language, “REDACTED FOR PRIVACY”, is not in the Final Report, but is in the Temporary Specification. Therefore, these IRT members suggest the requirement should state “SHOULD” rather than “MUST” to carry weight, but reflect the fact that it was not part of the Final Report’s recommendations. The resulting text would read:

> *For data elements where data has been Redacted subject to Section 9.3 of this Policy, the value MUST NOT display Personal Data and instead SHOULD provide text substantially similar to “REDACTED FOR PRIVACY”.*

Rationale for Current Policy Language/Requirement

Based on the recommendations in the Final Report, certain terms were identified that required definition in order to clearly indicate the requirements of contracted parties. Recommendations 10 and 11 identify the data elements that must be redacted and the draft policy follows these recommendations. To create a common understanding of this action, the original policy language includes the following definition:

> *“Redact”, “Redacts”, “Redacted” and “Redaction” means that in the Registration Data Directory Services, Registrar and Registry Operator MUST NOT display Personal Data and instead MUST provide text substantially similar to “REDACTED FOR PRIVACY” in the Redacted data element value.*

This definition follows the definition in the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data and provides clarity for implementers of this policy. Furthermore, it ensures redacted values in the RDDS are identified as separate from other values that may be left blank or as privacy/proxy registrations. It is important that Internet users are able to clearly identify when information is redacted for privacy, or otherwise provides contact information of the Registrant or Privacy/Proxy Provider, as users should be able to either utilize the contact information provided, or request disclosure of required data elements from the registrar as appropriate (provided they meet the requisite criteria).

Furthermore, a clear definition prevents inconsistent application of redaction, which causes confusion in the internet community. For example, following implementation of the Temporary Specification, some contracted parties provided placeholder data, which failed to clearly identify that the data was redacted as permitted by the Temporary Specification. By setting the requirement to respond with “*text substantially similar to “REDACTED FOR PRIVACY” in the Redacted data element value”,* the policy requirements enable consistent responses of redacted data for the broader Internet community.

Place for Miscellaneous comments: Process etc.

Comment 1 from Sarah Wyld: Looking at the **definition in 3.7**, I actually think this definition is flawed because it provides policy requirements rather than defining terms. In 3.7 we should only explain what 'redact' means (e.g. "information exists but is not displayed/provided") rather than say how redaction should be conducted (Registrar and Registry Operator MUST NOT display Personal Data and instead MUST provide text substantially similar to "REDACTED FOR PRIVACY" in the Redacted data element value.). Please note that this comment is specific to the definition itself and does not address whether or not we should be making this policy requirement re how redaction should be conducted elsewhere.

2.7.4.3. In an RDAP response where elements of the contact entity have been omitted for privacy considerations, the contact entity MUST include a remarks element containing a title member with a value substantially similar to "REDACTED FOR PRIVACY" and a description member with a value "Some of the data in this object has been removed" and a type member with a value "object redacted due to authorization".