Whois Service Requirements – Possible Next Steps

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Ref: Inventory of WHOIS Service Requirements Final Report - 29 July 2010
(http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois/whois-service-requirements-final-report-29jul10-en.pdf)

The above referenced report includes a lot of conclusions or assumptions. It seems to me that it would be helpful to obtain an estimate of the level of agreement for those conclusions or assumptions within the GNSO community. This might help us determine whether there is reasonable justification for possibly initiating a working group to develop a plan for considering the technical requirement recommendations in the report.

To do this I suggest that an informal survey be developed and performed. A drafting team could be formed to develop the survey as well as a plan for executing it.

In case this idea has any merit, I compiled the following statements (all from the report except the first and last ones) that could form the starting point for the survey and be responded to with these choices: Agree, Disagree, Not Sure.

I personally believe we are way past due on dealing with the Whois protocol issue, but I think we need to find out what the broader GNSO community thinks.

Whois Service Requirements Assumptions

The current Whois protocol is sufficient and no major changes are needed.

WHOIS contact information by users whose local languages cannot be represented in US-ASCII7.

The current WHOIS service is deficient in a number of ways:

- Data accuracy
- Reliability
- Accessibility
- Readability

The current WHOIS service might decrease in reliability and usefulness over time.

The current set of WHOIS tools are inadequate to provide the necessary functions to support existing and proposed WHOIS service policy requirements.

The current set of WHOIS tools is inadequate for use in an IDN environment.

A mechanism is needed to find Whois servers.

There needs to be standard Whois query structure.

A standard data structure for WHOIS query responses needs to be defined.

A set of standardized error messages and handling procedures for error conditions should be defined.

Query capabilities need to be expanded.

Whois data should be displayed both in native script and in Latin characters.

Authenticated Whois access should be possible.

Access controls would be a useful feature for Whois.

It would be helpful if Whois access was auditable.

There is community consensus on all the Whois requirements in the report.

The value of making major changes to the existing Whois services would not justify the expense and effort required to do so.