ICANN 72
VIRTUAL ANNUAL GENERAL

GNSO Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process Working Group

Roger Carney
PDP WG Chair

Agenda

1. Chair Welcome
2. About the PDP and Status Update
3. Discussion of Additional Security Measures
4. AOB

About the PDP

About the Transfer Policy

ICANN **consensus policy** governing the procedure and requirements for **registrants to transfer their domain names from one registrar to another**.

- Formerly called the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP)
- Went into effect in November 2004
- GNSO reviewed the policy once before, shortly after implementation

PDP in Brief

Mission and Scope: PDP to conduct a **holistic review of the Transfer Policy** and determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers.

- Conducted in 2 Phases under a single Charter & covering 8 topics.
- PDP began Phase 1(a) in May 2021:

  ➔ Phase 1(a) Topics: Forms of Authorization and AuthInfo Codes

- The working group has now conducted initial deliberations on each of the Phase 1(a) topics and has begun to develop “candidate recommendations” and draft responses to charter questions.
- While members and alternates are limited to representatives designated by SO/AC/SG/Cs, anyone can sign up to observe.

TPR Phase 1 - Project Status

Project Tracking & Rollup
DASHBOARD

ICANN | GNSO
Generic Names Supporting Organization

Project Name	Program	Project Sponsor
PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1	Transfers	GNSO Council

Project Information

25%
% Complete

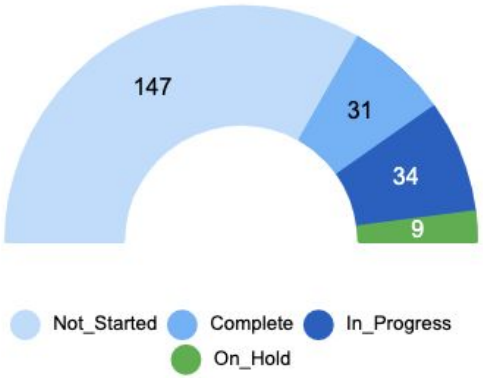
02/18/21
Actual Start

12/28/23
Planned Finish

Project Status & Health

Project Status:	On-Schedule
Project Health:	On-Target

Tasks by Status



Project Contacts

Roger Carney
Chair

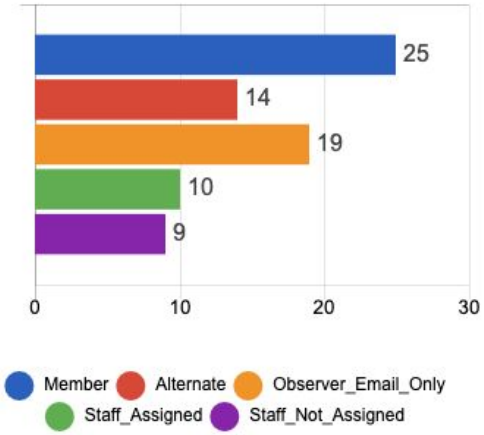
n/a
Vice_Chair

Greg DiBiase
Liaison

Emily Barabas
Staff_Lead

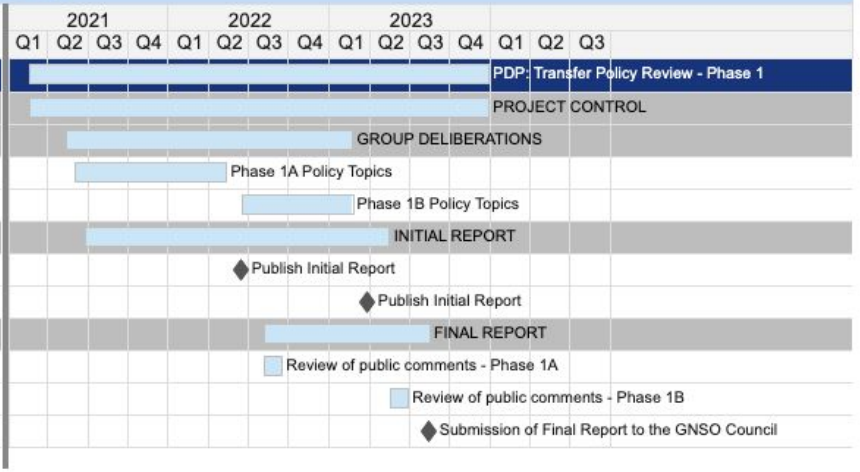
Berry Cobb
Project_Manager

Participant Summary



Summary Gantt & Key Milestones

Health	Primary Task	Current Start	Current Finish	% Complete	Status
	PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1	**02/18/21**	**12/28/23**	**25%**	**In Progress**
	PROJECT CONTROL	**02/18/21**	**12/28/23**	**35%**	**In Progress**
	GROUP DELIBERATIONS	**05/13/21**	**02/22/23**	**41%**	**In Progress**
	Phase 1A Policy Topics	06/02/21	05/11/22	36%	In Progress
	Phase 1B Policy Topics	06/15/22	02/22/23		
	INITIAL REPORT	**06/24/21**	**05/17/23**	**13%**	**In Progress**
	Publish Initial Report	06/15/22	06/15/22		
	Publish Initial Report	03/29/23	03/29/23		
	FINAL REPORT	**08/04/22**	**08/16/23**		**Not Started**
	Review of public comments - Phase 1A	08/04/22	09/14/22		
	Review of public comments - Phase 1B	05/18/23	06/28/23		
	Submission of Final Report to the GNSO Council	08/16/23	08/16/23		



Phase 1(a) Topics

AuthInfo Code Management: Inter-Registrar Transfers

What is the AuthInfo Code?

A token created by the registrar of record and provided upon request to the registrant or designated representative.*

How is it used in transfers?

Required to transfer a domain name from one registrar to another registrar and when presented authorizes the transfer.*

How is it provided?

Losing registrar may provide AuthInfo Code via control panel, or by other means within 5 calendar days (email, SMS, etc).

*This text is part of the definition that the working group plans to include in its draft recommendations.

Gaining & Losing Registrar Form of Authorization (FOA)

Gaining Registrar: The registrar to which the registrant is transferring the domain name.

Losing Registrar: The registrar from which the registrant is transferring the domain name.

Gaining Form of Authorization: A required form sent by the Gaining Registrar to the Registered Name Holder to confirm the Registered Name Holder's intent to transfer the domain name.

- Typically an email to Registered Name Holder to confirm intent by clicking a designated link. Before GDPR, the transfer could not occur without this confirmation.

Losing Form of Authorization: Losing Registrar sends the Registered Name Holder a notice to confirm Registered Name Holder's intent to transfer. Absent objection to the transfer within 5 calendar days, the Losing Registrar processes request.

FOA: Further Work Needed

- **EPDP** included the **workaround from the Temporary Specification in its recommendations**, which were **adopted by the ICANN Board**.
- Registrars identified challenges in ICANN org's position that a Gaining Registrar is required to send a Gaining FOA where the email address "is available", as there is no guarantee that the email goes directly to the registrant.
- ICANN Board passed a resolution to **defer contractual compliance enforcement of the Gaining FOA requirement** pending further work in this area.
- Contracted Party House Tech Ops Subcommittee has developed a proposal for a proposed transfer process.

Status

Potential Recommendations Under Consideration

- Eliminate requirement for the Gaining Registrar to send the Gaining FOA and obtain consent from the Registered Name Holder before it may proceed with the transfer.
- Eliminate requirement for the Losing Registrar to send the Losing FOA to the Registered Name Holder.
- New notifications from the Losing Registrar to the Registered Name Holder when key changes are made to the account, some mandatory for the Losing Registrar to send, others optional.
- Additional security for the AuthInfo Code, which the group is recommending be called the “Transfer Authorization Code” (TAC). Highlights:
  - ➔ Minimum requirements for TAC syntax/complexity, adherence to requirements confirmed by registry
  - ➔ Losing Registrar generates TAC upon request
  - ➔ TAC may only be used once
  - ➔ TAC is valid for a limited period of time (Time to Live)
  - ➔ Registry must securely store the TAC using a one-way hash that protects the TAC from disclosure