
ICANN Specific Reviews - Second Registration Directory Service Review (RDS-WHOIS2)

Recommendation 11.2 - Implementation Documentation

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RDS-WHOIS2 Final Report <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/resolutions-board-action-rds-whois2-final-recs-25feb20-en.pdf>

Board resolution on RDS-WHOIS2 Final Report <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2020-02-25-en#1.a>

- Recommendation submitted: September 2019
- Recommendation approved: February 2020
- Implementation completed: N/A

See <https://community.icann.org/display/WHO/Implementation> for more information on RDS-WHOIS 2 implementation.

RDS-WHOIS2 Recommendation 11.2

The ICANN Board should direct the ICANN organization to ensure that the common interface displays all applicable output for each gTLD domain name registration as available from contracted parties, including multiple versions when the outputs from registry and registrar differ. The common interface should be updated to address any policy or contractual changes to maintain full functionality.

Final Implementation Report

This recommendation concerns the outputs of the common interface displays. The RDS-WHOIS2 found that “registry and registrar interpretations of GDPR and the differential requirements for registries and registrars under the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, registry and registrar lookups may result in different registration data returned by RDS (WHOIS) for the same domain name, depending on where the lookup is performed.” The [Registration Data Access Protocol \(RDAP\) lookup tool](#) provides a common interface for domain name lookups which shows RDAP output from both registry and registrar sources where available. RDAP delivers registration data like WHOIS, but standardizes data access and query response formats. RDAP was designed with the anticipation of the future need to update or address any future policy or contractual changes, including, but not limited to, the GDPR.

ICANN org worked with a discussion group of generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries and registrars to create a [gTLD RDAP profile](#) in August 2018. The profile, which follows the requirements of the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data, aims to provide technical instructions to gTLD registries and registrars on how to implement an RDAP service in a consistent way.

gTLD registries and registrars were required to implement an RDAP service by 26 August 2019. ICANN org continues to work with gTLD registries and registrars to implement a service-level agreement and registry reporting requirements for RDAP.

Rationale

The [Registration Data Access Protocol \(RDAP\) lookup tool](#) provides a common interface for domain name lookups which shows RDAP output from both registry and registrar sources where available. RDAP delivers registration data like WHOIS, but standardizes data access and query response formats. RDAP was designed with the anticipation of the future need to update or address any future policy or contractual changes, including but not limited to the GDPR. ICANN org worked with registries and registrars to develop a gTLD RDAP Profile to ensure consistent display, and based on this, ICANN org believes that no further action is required to meet the requirements of the recommendation.

Timeline

Expected implementation date: N/A, as this recommendation is considered to already have been completed and no further action was required.

Final implementation date: N/A, as this recommendation is considered to already have been completed and no further action was required.

Milestones

- The Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) pilot discussion group submitted their [proposed profile](#) to ICANN org on 3 August 2018.
- ICANN [launched](#) an updated version of the lookup tool that makes use of RDAP on 29 July 2019.
- gTLD registries and registrars were required to implement an RDAP service by 26 August 2019.