

GNSO/GAC Facilitated Dialogue on Closed Generics

19 December 2022 Meeting Notes

Closed Generic (CG) Dialogue Participants discussed several Closed Generic use cases put forward in Asynchronous Work #2, with the goal of identifying CG examples (and elements thereof) for consideration in future work. Participants summarized their respective use cases and answered questions from the group, noting for each case who stands to benefit, what interests it serves, and how it would be used. This information will be captured in a table by staff and shared with Dialogue Participants as Closed Generics Use Case Table.

Participants discussed the following use case examples:

- .LOCK (Internet of things example): The applicant produces a lock that can be opened using biometric details of the user. The user's biometric information is stored in a dashboard, taking the form of a domain name which the registry controls. The product would be the lock, not the domain name. Competitors would not be prevented from providing a similar service. End users would have a trusted space to house their information without having to manage the domain name. There would also be reduced threat vectors, such as phishing or fraud, since the registry controls all levels of security and domain registration.
- .CLOCK (digital twin example): The applicant is a makerspace, where artists create handcrafted clocks. The registry provides a record/archive of each clock on a unique domain that anyone can view. The registry would control security at all levels of the domain, protecting against fraud and promoting consumer trust. The record-keeping service could be offered to third parties, but the domains would still be controlled by the registry. This benefits the makers of the clocks as well as consumers seeking legitimacy. It was noted that whether the applicant is a major or minor player in the relevant market may be worth further consideration.
- .STOCK (internal infrastructure example): The applicant is a logistics company with multiple warehouses. Domains would be assigned to each warehouse under the applicant's management to be used internally. There would be no concerns of malicious registrations. The domain would not give a competitive advantage, as it is only used as infrastructure for managing the business. The registry would receive more control over their business systems, providing themselves with more security. It was noted that it may be worth considering whether a generic term has broader implications on competition beyond its proposed use.
- .DONATION: The applicant is a nonprofit that provides vetted fundraising organizations with second-level domains with which to fundraise. These domains are controlled by the registry, which prevents fraudulent registrations and misuse. The registry would provide a secure method of making donations, and users would be able to trust that their donations are going to a legitimate organization. This benefits organizations seeking donations, consumers desiring safe donations, and smaller entities that have less capability to fundraise. It was noted that the CG Facilitated Dialogue group should be considerate of potentially harmful consequences when an applicant serves its self interest while pursuing a public interest goal.
- .DISASTER: The International Red Cross is the applicant and allocates second level names to its chapters and for particular disasters. The registry would control registration and all

levels of security, so consumers wishing to donate could trust that the domains are legitimate. The closed gTLD would serve victims of disasters and the global community while preventing fraud. The registry may decide for itself whether to provide second-level domains to other disaster relief organizations.

- **.EXCHANGE:** The World Federation of Exchanges is the applicant and allocates second level domains to its members in support of its mission to champion “effective rules for the modern, global economy and its future growth.” It acts as a membership benefit by giving members the right to use (not own) a dedicated space for their exchange. The association promotes well-functioning markets, so the public benefits from having well-run and well-regulated markets. Member publications and resources could be made available on the domains, accessible only to members through a private network that does not resolve on the public DNS.
- **.NATURE:** The applicant is a nonprofit, Nature Conservancy, representing themselves rather than the whole nature community. The domain would be used to support its mission, secure donations, and provide information about its events. It may license second level domains to its members or the public who can create their own spaces in support of the environment. Control of the domain names allows the registry to more easily police content and maintain consistency of its branding. It was noted that the Facilitated Dialogue group may wish to consider as an evaluation factor whether a generic term effectively corners the market represented by the particular term.
- **.SWISS:** There are rules for generic terms at the second level of .SWISS. Currently, a generic .swiss domain can only be allocated if it is in the public interest. Rules prevent an individual player from using a generic term for their own purposes, such as for competitive advantage. Per the established ‘naming mandate’, the applicant must demonstrate representing the whole or a significant part of the relevant community, as well as planned use of the domain that benefits the entirety of groups concerned. There are also continuous compliance checks. This benefits consumers and the public by having trusted domains in a consistent manner.
- Additional use cases were identified, however due to time constraints could not be discussed during this meeting. These use cases will be captured in the table produced by staff and will be shared with the CG Dialogue Participants for further review.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Participants to review final draft of Participant Commitments - these will be finalized on the list during the first week of January.
- Participants to review and add inputs to the Closed Generics Use Case Table.
- Participants to review and add inputs to the GPI Framework and Closed Generic TLD Table.