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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the Thick Whois Policy Development Process (PDP) Recommendations for Board Consideration

Introduction

Holly Raiche, ALAC member from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) and APRALO Chair composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists

On 13 November 2013, this Statement was posted on the [At-Large Thick Whois Policy Development Process \(PDP\) Recommendations for Board Consideration Workspace](#).

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of the ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the [ALAC-Announce Mailing list](#).

On 21 November 2013, this Statement was discussed in the [ALAC & Regional Leadership Wrap-up Meeting](#). During that meeting, the draft Statement was discussed by all present At-Large members, as well as those participating via Remote Participation.

The Chair of the ALAC then requested that a ratification vote be held on the Statement. Staff then confirmed that the vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 12 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 0 abstentions.

You may review the result independently under: <https://community.icann.org/x/ASeFAg>.

Summary

1. The ALAC strongly supports the recommendation of the Final Report on the Thick Whois Policy Development Process for all gTLD registries to use the 'Thick' Whois mode.
2. It is a position that the ALAC has supported, beginning with its response to the Preliminary Report and reflected in the [ALAC Statement on the Preliminary Issue Report on 'Thick' Whois](#) expressing 'extreme disappointment' that Verisign was not required to use a 'Thick' Whois model for .com when that [ICANN-registry agreement was up for renewal](#).
3. The ALAC would note that similar privacy issues are addressed by most existing registries and all registrars including movement of data from one jurisdiction to another.

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The ALAC strongly supports the recommendation of the Final Report on the Thick Whois Policy Development Process for all gTLD registries to use the ‘Thick’ Whois mode. It is a position that the ALAC has supported, beginning with its response to the Preliminary Report and reflected in the [ALAC Statement on the Preliminary Issue Report on ‘Thick’ Whois](#) expressing ‘extreme disappointment’ that Verisign was not required to use a ‘Thick’ Whois model for .com when that [ICANN-registry agreement was up for renewal](#).

The reasons for the ALAC support include

- Enhanced archival and restoration;
- Back up data if a registrar is experiencing significant technical difficulties or has gone out of business;
- Greater accessibility of data;
- The possibility of a registry requiring more consistent labeling and display of Whois information, which may be of particular benefit for internationalized registration data; and
- Greater accessibility of information for users.

The Final Report also requests input on transition issues, particularly privacy issues. The ALAC would note that similar privacy issues are addressed by most existing registries and all registrars including movement of data from one jurisdiction to another. ICANN has also developed a policy, ICANN’s Procedure for Handling Whois Conflicts with Privacy Law, which should assist that process.