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AL/ALAC/ST/0412/7
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: 20 Apr 2012
STATUS: Final

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement on the .com Registry Agreement Renewal

Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

Holly Raiche, At-Large member from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) and APRALO Vice-Chair, originally composed this Statement after discussion of the topic on the mailing lists.

On 14 April 2012, a first draft of the Statement was posted on the [At-Large .com Registry Agreement Renewal Workspace](#).

On 15 April 2012, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested At-Large Staff to send a Call for Comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the ALAC-Announce Mailing List.

On 20 April 2012, a second version of the Statement incorporating the comments expressed both by email and on the aforementioned workspace was drafted.

On 21 April 2012, the Chair of the ALAC requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification vote on the Statement.

On 26 April, the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 13 votes in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention. You may review the result independently under:

<https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=23726zZcsa5VxcQUQuGfCWUa>

On that same day, the Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this public comment topic.

[End of Introduction]

The original version of this document is the English text available at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

ALAC Statement on the .com Registry Agreement Renewal

The ALAC welcomes many of the changes made to the .com contract, particularly those that will enhance security and consumer trust, and has no substantive comment on the proposed changes per se. However, the ALAC expresses extreme disappointment that ICANN has not yet taken this opportunity to require .com to use a Thick WHOIS model, the model that is required for all new gTLDs.⁽¹⁾ This position is strengthened by the GNSO Council's recent decision to defer discussion on actually starting the Thick WHOIS PDP until, December 2012.

The Final Issue Report on 'Thick' WHOIS identified many benefits including enhanced security and stability, and attractive archival and restoration properties in the case of business or technical failure of registrars. That report acknowledged that privacy may be an issue with a 'thick' WHOIS but noted that it has been dealt with in other ways. The Report, now over two months old, called for a PDP on Thick WHOIS issues raised or, because only Verisign maintains 'thin' WHOIS, direct negotiations between ICANN and Verisign.

The ALAC believes that the delay of the PDP runs counter to the global public interest in having this important issue dealt with as quickly as possible. We urge ICANN and Verisign not to wait for the PDP in order to address this as an implementation matter, and to include a requirement for a Thick WHOIS in the current contract revision. This would efficiently provide all .com registrants with the benefits that ICANN has already stated to be important for any TLD.

The ALAC also takes this opportunity to recommend that there should be some legal language in the contract to add applicability of subsequent policies ratified by ICANN post contract date. This would prevent the need in the future to wait for contract renewal to harmonize contracts which are out of sync, both time-wise and contents-wise.¹

¹ As a reminder, the ALAC has confirmed its support of a Thick WHOIS model in several of its previous Statements:

- [ALAC Statement on the Preliminary Issue Report on 'Thick' Whois](#)
- [ALAC Statement on Initial WHOIS Service Requirements Report](#)