

The ALAC applauds the WHOIS Review Team for a masterful Final Report and gives its full endorsement. The report manages to avoid the distraction of the most divisive WHOIS issues and focuses on those where progress can and must be made quickly.

The ALAC has already made a number of statements related to WHOIS. [See <add links to previous ALAC Statements here>]. Our position remains consistent. WHOIS accuracy is mandatory, such information must be reasonably accessible to end users and there must be a viable means of contacting those responsible for a gTLD domain.

We reiterate our position in highlighting the most significant strategic positions advised in this Final Report:

1. WHOIS must be established as a strategic priority for ICANN. Here, the Review Team gave specific guidance to objective, here forward.
2. Articulation of a single defining WHOIS policy
3. Explicitly assign value to the finding of widespread interest/convergence of WHOIS matters in the global Internet community with their recommendation for an active and far-reaching outreach initiative.
4. Explicitly connects improved compliance with greater operational transparency and a more accountable Board by recommending a direct reporting connection between ICANN Compliance Staff and the Board
5. Declares in favour of "a clear, unambiguous and enforceable chain of contractual agreements with registries, registrars, and registrants to require the provision and maintenance of accurate WHOIS data."
6. For ICANN to embrace the utility of privacy and proxy services in the WHOIS chain and act with urgency to formalize them.

All that remains is for action to proceed. And the Review Team has helpfully recommended a timeline that we think, in balance is aggressive yet practical. We urge effective Board action on these recommendations.

The ALAC also urges the Board to take swift and effective action to address the more contentious WHOIS issues that are not addressed in this report, including the issue of WHOIS privacy.