

## Report of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services Meeting (26-27 February 2013)

**Location:** ICANN, Los Angeles, CA USA

**Attendees:**

**EWG Members:**

**In Person:** Jean-Francois Baril (Lead Facilitator), Pekka Ala-Pietilä, Lanre Ajayi, Scott Hollenbeck, Jin Jian, Susan Kawaguchi, Michele Neylon, Rod Rasmussen, Faisal Shah, Fabricio Vayra, Stephanie Perrin

**Remote:** Nora Nanayakkara, Michael Niebel, Carlton Samuels

**ICANN Participants:**

**In Person:** Steve Crocker, Chris Disspain, Alice Jansen, Denise Michel, Margie Milam, Lisa Phifer, Charla Shambley

**Remote:** Fadi Chehadé

**Topics Discussed:**

- **Objectives:** Fadi Chehadé briefly joined the meeting to welcome team members and underscore ICANN's objective for the EWG: that is, to lay the groundwork for a next-generation gTLD directory service to replace today's WHOIS system. The team unanimously agreed to question all of the fundamental elements of gTLD directory services and freely explore new paradigms, taking a revolutionary rather than incremental approach to redefine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data.
- **Team Composition and Approach:** In forming the EWG, ICANN considered over 70 highly qualified experts from across the Internet ecosystem. The 14 selected individuals all participated in this meeting, supported by ICANN board liaisons and staff. EWG members agreed to contribute to the team as individuals, drawing freely from their knowledge and experience working with registrant data and related processes and policies, bringing together diverse perspectives to focus on deriving a solution that benefits the Internet community as a whole.
- **Problem Statement and Use Cases:** The EWG consulted related GNSO and SSAC reports to consider problems experienced by users and operators of today's WHOIS system. They drilled down on gTLD registration data elements, associated data reliability and access issues, and discussed the array of current uses for WHOIS. The team examined existing and also desired use cases where directory data is needed, identifying the parties involved, interactions and roles, and goals for obtaining data. This foundational understanding is essential to ensure that any next-generation service will be capable of meeting the global Internet community's needs.

- **Key Deliverables:** The team discussed the nature and scope of deliverables to be produced by the EWG, including outputs which document the purpose and scope of next-generation gTLD directory services, a proposed model for meeting those needs, and an assessment of benefits, risks, and transition considerations. The details of these deliverables will be refined as the team continues creative discussion over the coming month.
- **Work Plan:** The EWG agreed upon a process to sustain progress towards deliverables by using team conference calls and a face-to-face meeting scheduled for March 21-22. The team left the meeting with a work plan to enable a substantive discussion with the broader ICANN community at the ICANN Beijing meeting on April 7, and potentially a draft model for a next-generation gTLD directory service soon thereafter.