

Report of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services Meeting (7-10 April 2013)

Location: Beijing, China

Attendees:

EWG Members:

In Person: Jean-Francois Baril (Lead Facilitator), Pekka Ala-Pietila, Lanre Ajayi, Scott Hollenbeck, Jin Jian, Susan Kawaguchi, Michael Niebel, Michele Neylon, Stephanie Perrin, Rod Rasmussen, Carlton Samuels, Faisal Shah, Fabricio Vayra, Steve Crocker (Board Liaison), Chris Disspain (Board Liaison)

Remote: Nora Nanayakkara

ICANN Participants:

In Person: Denise Michel, Margie Milam, Alice Jansen

Remote: Lisa Phifer

Topics Discussed:

- **Use Case Development:** Building upon LA and London agreements on requirements for collecting, storing, and providing gTLD registration data, the EWG spent its 7 April working session examining existing and potential use cases in greater detail. Each use case was reviewed to clearly identify the primary actor, their purpose and rationale for using gTLD registration data, other stakeholders involved, and the data elements needed to satisfy that purpose.

The EWG expects to complete use case development in the coming weeks, using results to drive further agreement on data, privacy, accuracy, access and storage requirements and create a blueprint for a new gTLD Directory System that would better meet those requirements without the flaws that continue to plague WHOIS.

- **Public Presentation:** Team members presented an overview of the EWG's goals and methodology on 8 April during a public session on Next Generation gTLD Directory Services. This session was also used to gather community input on requirements and foundational questions. Comments offered during this session will be used by the EWG to refine requirements and identify alternative approaches to meet them. Further inputs may be submitted at any time via input-to-ewg@icann.org.

Recordings of this public session, presentation materials, and a discussion document posted to request input on foundational questions can be found at <http://beijing46.icann.org/node/37051>

- **Information Gathering:** During its 7 April session, the EWG identified a need for information regarding WHOIS inaccuracy complaint handling and the newly-launched Trademark Clearinghouse. As questions could be answered by Staff present in Beijing, the EWG met briefly on 10 April with ICANN Contractual Compliance Staff (Maguy Serad; Owen Smigelski; Carlos Alvarez; Jacks A. Khawaja) to ask questions about WHOIS inaccuracy experiences and metrics. The EWG also received a short demonstration from Trademark Clearinghouse Staff (Frederik Gomme, Jan Corstens, Jan Jansen) to learn how that system will collect and store data.
- **Process:** Fadi Chehadé briefly joined the EWG on 7 April to meet team members, underscore goals and answer questions. During this discussion, Fadi and ICANN Staff clarified that the EWG's output will feed into the GNSO's PDP as requested by the ICANN Board. Initially, the EWG's recommendations (such as a proposed blueprint or policy considerations) will be included in the Final Issue Report to be produced by Staff as a required step under the ICANN Bylaws. The Final Issue Report can also include recommendations regarding how the GNSO PDP working group should conduct its work.

To facilitate an open dialogue as the EWG work continues, it was agreed that the EWG should reach out to the leaders of each of the SO/ACs. JF Baril agreed to conduct outreach with community leaders while in Beijing for this purpose. Because of flexibility in the PDP rules, it may also be appropriate to suggest that the PDP incorporate ongoing consultations with EWG members to understand the team's output and the rationale behind its recommendations.

- **Work Plan:** The EWG expects to continue its work through conference calls, subteam meetings, and a face-to-face meeting 20-21 May. The team hopes to have a draft blueprint for a Next Generation gTLD Directory System for discussion by the Durban ICANN meeting (14-18 July).