

Report of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services Meeting (19-21 May 2013)

Location: London, England

Attendees:

EWG Members:

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

Remote: Scott Hollenbeck, Jin Jian, Susan Kawaguchi

ICANN Participants:

In Person: Denise Michel, Margie Milam, Lisa Phifer, Alice Jansen

Topics Discussed:

- **Rough Model:** In earlier meetings, the EWG examined existing and potential purposes for collecting, storing, and providing gTLD registration data to many kinds of users. In London, the EWG applied those findings by brain-storming possible system designs and policies that could potentially address those purposes. As the EWG considered benefits and impacts associated with various alternatives, rough consensus began to emerge around recommended principles. The EWG plans to publish a first draft of these recommended principles, accompanied by a rough model for a new Registration Directory System (RDS) and associated pros/cons, for community discussion and input.
- **Users and Purposes:** In earlier meetings, the EWG developed use cases for gTLD registration data, working to identify who wants access to data, their rationale for needing access, the data elements they need and the purposes served by that data. Cases were also used to identify all stakeholders involved in collecting, storing and providing data, helping the EWG understand workflows and implications on system design and policy. In London, these cases were used to agree upon purposes that the EWG recommends be accommodated by the RDS, as well as misuses that should be deterred. The EWG will use these results to derive minimum data elements, evaluate related risks, consider privacy laws and policies and address questions such as how long to store and escrow data.
- **Data Accuracy:** To improve gTLD registration data accuracy, the EWG considered validation processes used by some ccTLDs. Nominet's Nick Wenban-Smith, Dan Kelleher, David McLoone visited the EWG on 21 May to answer questions about Nominet's Data Quality Improvement Programme. This initiative was undertaken in response to the 2010 NORC WHOIS Accuracy Study, using validation checks to identify .uk registrant/registry data flow weakness and areas

where Nominet action could improve processes and cost effectiveness. The EWG hopes to leverage lessons learned by Nominet to improve gTLD registration data accuracy.

- **EWG Objectives and Work Plan:** The EWG revisited the ICANN Board's Directive and underlying questions posed by SAC055 to ensure that all of those questions had been discussed and to pinpoint questions needing further work. The EWG expects to continue its work through conference calls, aiming to post an initial draft report by 24 June for discussion at the Durban ICANN meeting. The EWG will present a progress update and report overview at a public session in Durban on 15 July, using that session to solicit community input on initial recommendations. The EWG will apply feedback gathered in Durban to refine its report and address remaining questions. The EWG's final report will be used as focused input to GNSO policy work.