

Report of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services Meeting (13-18 July 2013)

Location: Durban, South Africa

Attendees:

EWG Members:

In Person: Jean-Francois Baril (Lead Facilitator), Lanre Ajayi, Susan Kawaguchi, Michael Niebel, Michele Neylon, Stephanie Perrin, Rod Rasmussen, Carlton Samuels, Faisal Shah, Steve Crocker (Board Liaison), Chris Disspain (Board Liaison)

Remote: Scott Hollenbeck, Jin Jian

ICANN Participants:

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

Topics Discussed:

- **Group Sessions:** The EWG was invited to brief many groups in Durban. EWG members used these sessions to encourage feedback and answer questions about the group's initial report. Slides, audio archives and/or transcripts of each session can be found at the following links:

Saturday, 13 July	GNSO	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39573
Monday, 15 July	ICANN Community	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39627
Tuesday, 16 July	RrSG	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39691
Tuesday, 16 July	CSG	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39695
Tuesday, 16 July	NPOC	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39683
Tuesday, 16 July	IPC	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39713
Wednesday, 17 July	GAC	https://durban47.icann.org/node/39767

Materials used during the EWG's public session with the ICANN Community are posted here:

- [Initial Report on Next Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services](#)
- [Discussion Document for EWG Durban Session](#)
- [Presentation: Replacing WHOIS – The Next Generation Directory Services](#)

In addition, a video overview of the EWG's initial report and details about how to comment on that report can be found on [this announcement page](#).

- **Public Comments and Questions:** Before arriving in Durban, the EWG had started to consider public comments on its initial draft, including those collected during the [EWG Webinar on 8 July](#). To help answer frequently-asked questions, the EWG spent part of its Durban working session on 14 July developing an FAQ soon to be posted on the [group's public wiki](#).

During its Durban closing session on 18 July, the EWG discussed comments and suggestions received from many groups and individuals throughout the Durban meeting. The EWG has well noted this valuable feedback, including concerns expressed about suggested model. The EWG plans to carefully consider all of these comments, along with additional comments submitted [on-line](#) by August 12, to inform its continuing work.

The EWG's recommendations required tradeoffs to derive a clean-slate approach that better addresses a broad set of users and their needs for registration data. As such, the EWG especially welcomes input on any gaps in identified users, purposes, and data, additional requirements not addressed by the proposed principles and model, and suggested alternatives that could better meet all of these stakeholder's needs for registration data.

- **Open Areas:** In addition to refining its draft recommendations, the EWG expects to devote considerable attention to open areas not fully addressed in its initial report. Several of these open areas were considered during EWG working sessions on 14, 15, and 18 July, including principles related to Privacy/Proxy Services and Secure Protected Credentials, required Data Elements, and how to assess RDS Costs and Impacts. As in earlier meetings, the EWG based these discussions on use cases, examining alternatives and pros/cons in search of a consensus path forward. The group left Durban having made further progress in these areas, but recognizing that much work remains to fully address these and other open areas.
- **Information Gathering:** To explore the tension between cross-border data flows and national jurisdiction, the EWG received an overview of building blocks developed by the Internet and Jurisdiction Project, presented by project Director Bertrand de La Chapelle. The EWG also received a short demonstration of the Centralized Zone Data Access Program, given by ICANN Registry Product Manager Wendy Profit. The EWG expects to continue consulting with subject matter experts in this fashion to further inform its work on open areas.
- **EWG Objectives and Work Plan:** The EWG concluded its time in Durban by reviewing a list of open areas and feedback-to-date. The EWG expects to continue its work through conference calls and a face-to-face meeting in Washington, DC, in late August. The EWG is aiming to publish its final report in October for discussion at the Buenos Aires ICANN meeting. The EWG's final report will be delivered to the ICANN board and used as focused input to GNSO policy work.