# SERVICE LEVEL EXPECTIONS FOR IANA ROOT ZONE MANAGEMENT Current and Post Transition.

## **Background**

The Service Level Expectation (SLE) Design Team group is comprised of 3 gTLD Registry representatives and 3 ccTLD Representatives. We have been in contact with both ICANN and also IANA staff and they have been helpful where permitted.

The Design Team was asked review the current IANA functions operations and to capture the SLA that NTIA has with ICANN/IANA. This we have done and is shown in columns 3, 4 and 5 on the table below. Then the group was asked how best to capture the current working processes, identify how the current SLA should be modified as part of the transition proposal to form the SLE (columns 6,7,8). Before identifying how to change the current work flow the group felt it was necessary to capture the current work flow and also the actual times taken by IANA to deliver real world IANA transactions using historical data (column 9). Then the group sought to record where IANA is performing well and identify any gaps and issues that it considered in need of further clarification, these carry a "?" notation.

Due to the non-disclosure requirement placed upon IANA staff by NTIA, we are able to receive answers to specific questions to IANA once NTIA have given their approval. So the intent is to discuss this document in the CWG in Istanbul, identify and collect specific questions that the community would welcome being answered and present those question all together and obtain the appropriate concession so IANA can address these questions.

In the interim period, the SLE Group conducted historical analysis based on two factors. The first was an analysis of the current Service Level Agreement that NTIA has with IANA and the second was to undertake analysis of real world transaction activity. Conducted by IANA, the source of this second data set was based on two categories. Published IANA performance Reports and transaction logs provided by ccTLD Registries interacting with the IANA.

The historical analysis was started using data from September 2013 to January 2015 which provided approximately 565 total data points – only 27 transactions took longer than 9 days and 13 took longer than 12 days. It should also be highlighted that some/much of the delay is as a result of the Registry not responding to IANA to authorise the change request – so the delay is not necessarily within IANA's control. 4 transaction took longer than 1 year and that is not necessarily a bad thing if the stability of the DNS is assured.

For efficient service delivery the following is intended to assist our discussions, identify where more work and information is needed and assist Registry operators be assured of efficient IANA service.

Marked in RED is the role that NTIA undertakes and obviously once NTIA are not involved in the IANA process, the specified NTIA process checking elements may be removed from the SLE with the respective improvements in service efficiencies.

Regarding Escalations: The Design Team endorse the concept of an IANA Customer Group specifically to monitor and also to fulfil escalation path for breach of service expectations. The role and remit of the CSC is outside of DT-A's remit, so the escalation path described in this document is redamentatry and designed to support Registry operations. We hand over to our CWG colleagues to better describe the recommended escalation path.

## Capturing the current status quo for IANA Root Zone Management

#### Introduction

Service Level Expectations (SLEs) for a registry are normally based on specific transactions sent by a client to the registry. The metric for that transaction is generally of the form of "Transaction A must complete within X period Y percent of the time measured over Z", for example, "a root zone update must complete within 72 hours 95% of the time measured on a monthly basis". These SLE metrics are based on the following current assumptions:

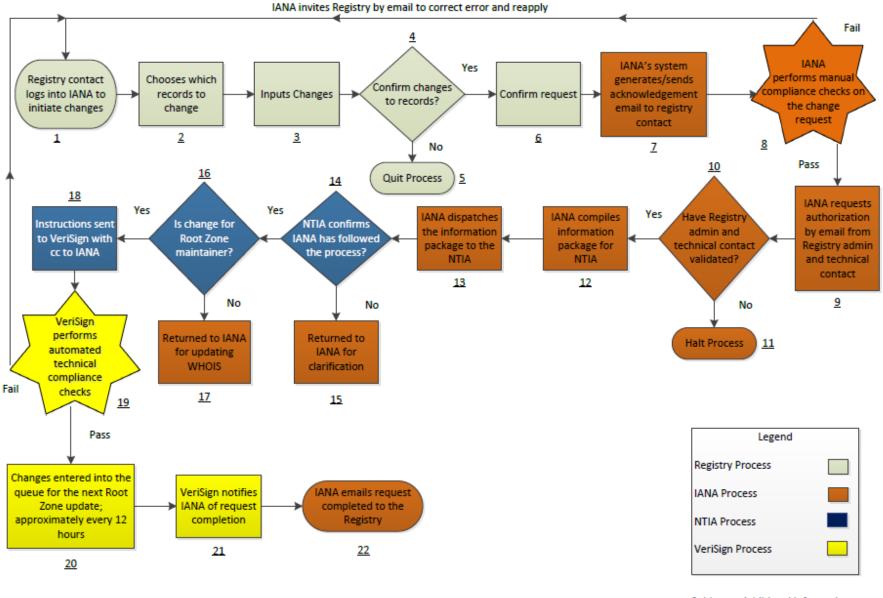
- A. There currently is a five stage process for all change requests (notification is implicit in each stage):
  - 1. Confirm the details of the change;
  - 2. Verify the change complies with documented technical standards and policies and all applicable checks pass;
  - 3. Obtain authorization to proceed with the change;
  - 4. Implement the change
  - 5. Notify the change requester of completion of the change.
- B. Root Zone Management processes are largely automated. This automation includes:
  - 1. A web based interface for submitting change requests to the IANA Function Operator (IFO). The web based interface authenticates the credentials presented by the change requester and facilitates the creation of root zone and TLD registration database updates.
- 2. Near-real time confirmation email to the initiator of the change request of its safe receipt by the IANA system.
- 3. Automated technical checks conducted by the IANA system on the change request. Once compliance with documented technical requirements is verified, an email is sent to both the admin and technical contacts at the Registry for both parties to validate the update. (Note: Some contacts are slow to respond which creates inefficiency in the validation process)

- 4. Change requests being documented in a template for NTIA review shown in red shading below (12 to 18 on the flow chart).
- 5. Simultaneous transmission of notification of verified change requests to NTIA and the change request itself to the Root Zone Maintainer (RZM) via EPP shown in red shading below (12 to 18 on the flow chart).
- 6. A member of NTIA staff reviewing the change request to confirm that the correct process has been followed and authorizing the change shown in red shading below (12 to 18 on the flow chart).
- 7. Once confirmed, notification is sent by NTIA to the RZM releasing the change request for implementation and IANA is notified shown in red below (12 to 18 on the flow chart).
- 8. Prior to implementation, the RZM repeats automated technical compliance checks on the request and once verified, implements the change within the root zone database. This database is used to generate the DNS root zone twice daily.
- 9. On completion of the process, RZM notifies IANA, who in turn notifies the Registry.
- C. Assuming the processing role previously undertaken by the NTIA no longer exists and those steps are no longer undertaken. This means that IANA communicates directly with the RZM and not through the NTIA (it is possible to remove the NTIA stages identified in RED).
- D. IANA operates 24x7 365 days a week as befits a service that has customers in every time zone.
- E. A change request that fails checks must be resubmitted rather than any changes made to the request by IANA to correct the detected failures. If the requestor is allowed to correct a request then that counts as a new request for SLE compliance purposes.

The fields in the following tables are as follows:

- Service Definition and Availability
- Credential Verification
- **Process.** The business process that IANA is requested to perform.
- Metric. The individual metric that will be measured as part of the completion of the business process.
- **Target.** The specified target for each individual change request.
- **Type.** Whether the target specified is a minimum target (compliance must be less than the target) or a maximum target (compliance must not be more than the target).
- Escalation Path
- **Breach.** The percentage limit of change requests within the specified period that fail to meet the metric, which if reached is deemed a breach in the SLE.
- Continuous Improvement
- **Period.** The period over which SLE compliance is measured.

Initially we wish to ensure the process has been correctly identified – please see the table below.



Simplified Flow Chart for Registry Changes at IANA

Subject to Additional Information – Paul Kane

# Service Definition and Availability

Availability is calculated and reported over a month.

Service Area	#	Service	Availability
Root DB (Register of TLDs)	1a	Publication of the authoritative database of TLDs	99.9%
	1b	A service for customers to make changes to their entries	99.0%
	1c	A service to accept new customers and allow them to populate a new entry	95.0%
	1d	A service to remove the entry of a departing customer	95.0%
Root Zone <sup>3</sup>	2a	A service for customers to make changes to their zone data	99.9%
	2b	A service to allow new customers to populate new zone data	95.0%
	2c	A service to remove the zone data of a departing customer	95.0%
IDN Tables	3a	Publication of the IDN tables	99.9%
	3b	A service for customers to make changes to their IDN tables	99.0%
	3c	A service for new customers to populate new IDN tables	95.0%
	3d	A service to remove the IDN tables of a departing customer	95.0%
RDAP endpoints	4a	Publication of the RDAP endpoints	100%
	4b	A service for customers to make changes to their RDAP endpoint	99.9%
	4c	A service for new customers to populate a new RDAP endpoint	95.0%
	4d	A service to remove the RDAP endpoint of a departing custome	95.0%

## **Credential Verification**

Process	Metric	Design Team A Target	Туре	Breach	Period
Two factor authentication of login	Time to receive email or SMS text of unique code for secondary verification.	<60s	max	100%	day
Issuance of new username	Time for confirmation email of forgotten username	5m	max	95%	month
or password	Time for confirmation email with link to change the password	5m	max	95%	month
	Time to implement new password within the system	5m	max	95%	month

# **Process Performance**

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	<b>Type</b> (4)	Breach (5)	Design Team A Proposal	<b>Type</b> (7)	Breach (8)	Actual Times	Notes
Changes to NS records for existing TLD	Time for confirmation requests to be sent to authorising contacts following receipt of change request	21 Days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	1	30 minutes	Max	<95% <sup>I</sup>	< 1 min	Auto response – 5 data points at less than 1 min.
	Time to complete manual technical compliance checks and dispatch validation email to Admin and Tech contacts	broken down by specific step)			2 hours	Max	<95%1		From time of the confirmation email to the time of the validation email (Based upon actual

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Туре	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach	Actual Times	Notes
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
	Time to pass change to the root zone maintainer following completion of satisfactory technical checks				4 hours	max	<95%1		performance data) 2 @37 min. 1 @ 1 day 4hr 31min
	Following receipt of validation email - Time to complete update template and dispatch to the NTIA							< 1 day (end- to-end)	Breakdown of these specific steps has not been published; however, IANA has shown that the
	Time for NTIA to confirm the process and notify the Root Zone maintainer								processes can be completed end-to-end in less than 1 day.
	Time for the RZM to undertake technical compliance checks and place in the queue for the next Root Zone generation				2 hours	max	<95% <sup>1</sup>		Current Root Zone operator has this process automated.
	Time to notify the Registry that the change request has been completed				2 hours	max	<95% <sup>1</sup>		
Changes to DS records for existing TLD	Time for confirmation requests to be sent to authorising contacts following receipt of change request	21 Days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not	Max	<80%	30 minutes	Max	<95%1	< 1 min	Based upon actual performance data
	Time to complete technical compliance checks and dispatch validation email to Admin and Tech contacts	broken down by specific step)			2 hours	Max	<95%1	< 1 hr	From time of the confirmation email to the time of the validation email (Based upon actual

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Туре	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach	Actual Times	Notes
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
	Time to pass change to the root zone maintainer following completion of satisfactory technical checks				4 hours	max	<95%1		performance data) See data points for NS records
	Following receipt of validation email - Time to complete update template and dispatch to the NTIA							< 1 day (end- to-end)	Breakdown of these specific steps has not been published; however, IANA has shown that the
	Time for NTIA to confirm the process and notify the Root Zone maintainer								processes can be completed end-to-end in less than 1 day.
	Time for the RZM to process the request and place it in the queue for the next Root Zone generation cycle				2 hours	max	<95%1		Current Root Zone operator has this process automated.
	Time to notify the registry that the request has been completed				2 hours	max	<95%1		
Change to technical authorisation contact	Time to implement change – this is a new feature.	21 Days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not broken down by specific step)	Max	<80%	30 minutes	max	<95% <sup>1</sup>	< 1 day (end- to-end)	
Updating WHOIS Records	Time for confirmation requests to be sent to authorising contacts following receipt of change request	21 Days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not	Max	<80%	2 hours	тах	<95% <sup>1</sup>	< 1 day (end- to-end)	Breakdown of these specific steps has not been published; however, IANA has shown that the

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Туре	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Туре	Breach	Actual Times	Notes
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	<b>(7</b> )	(8)	(9)	
	Time to receive from the Registry contact(s) validation of compliant update request (Validation email)	broken down by specific step)			???				processes can be completed end-to-end in less than 1 day.
	Following receipt of validation email - Time to document information package and dispatch to the NTIA (this step is not done in all cases)								
	Time for NTIA to confirm the process and notify IANA to update WHOIS (this step is not done in all cases)								
	Time for IANA to complete the change				2 hours	max	<95% <sup>1</sup>		
	Time to notify the Registry that the change request has been completed				2 hours	max	<95%1		
Change to root DB that is not a re-delegation	Time for confirmation requests to be sent to authorising contacts following receipt of change request	21 Days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not	Max	<80%	30 minutes	max	<95%1		
	Time to check that	broken down by specific			2 weeks	max	<95%		
	<ul> <li>request is not a stealth redelegation</li> <li>specified organisation exists (if changed)</li> </ul>	step)							

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Туре	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Туре	Breach	Actual Times	Notes	
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)		
	Time to implement once satisfied this is not a stealth re-delegation				4 hours	max	<95%			
Non-hostile reassignment/redelegation of a	Time for confirmation requests and notifications to be sent out to affected parties.	120 Days End-to-End (IANA's	Max	<50%	5 days	max	<75%		ly measures re-delegation lowing steps:	
ccTLD	Time to confirm re-delegation can proceed	Metric is not broken down by specific			110 days	max	<75%	Date Red	eeived Validated – Fastest time –	
	Time to implement re-delegation by changing root DB	step)			5 days	max	<75%	13 days		
	Time to receive independent confirmation that existing domain registration data has been ported to new ccTLD registry operator				7 days	max	<95%1	- 1 days	Dispatched – Fastest time Completed – Fastest time –	
	Following receipt of validation email(s) - Time to document information package and dispatch to the NTIA							·	cal End-to-End (fastest) –	
	Time for NTIA to confirm the process and notify the Root Zone maintainer							days	Fastest End-to-End – 94  See Appendix A for results	
	RZM receives and automatically checks the request for technical compliance				2 hours	max	<95%1	Trease see Appendix A for resur		
	Technical compliance checks approved by RZM and notifies NTIA and IANA				2 hours	max	<95%1			

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Туре	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Туре	Breach	Actual Times	Notes
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
	Time for NTIA to confirm the process and notify IANA to update WHOIS and RZM update Root								
	RZM places transfer data to Root Zone Generation queue				2 hours	max	<95% <sup>1</sup>		
	Time to notify both the old and new registries that the request has been completed				2 hours	max	<95%		
Hostile redelegation of a ccTLD	??								
Delegation of a new TLD	Time to request administrative and technical details for root DB and root zone	30 days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not broken down by specific step)	Max	<80%	2 days	max		IANA only measures delegation in the following steps: Date Received Request Validated – Fastest time - 0 days	
	Time to check details once provided				10 days	max	<85%	Request Dispatched – Fastest tim	

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Туре	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach	Actual Times	Notes
		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	
	Time to send root zone data for new TLD to root zone maintainer				2 days	max		I day Theoretic I day Actual I days	Completed – Fastest time – cal End-to-End (fastest) – Fastest End-to-End – 1 ee Appendix B for actual
Re-delegation of a gTLD	Time for confirmation requests and notifications to be sent out to affected parties.	30 days End- to-End (IANA's	Max	<80%	2 days	max	<85%		
	Time to confirm re-delegation can proceed	Metric is not broken down by specific			25 days	max	<85%		
	Time to implement re-delegation by changing root DB	step)			3 days	max	<85%		
Change to IDN tables	Time for confirmation requests to be sent to authorising contacts following receipt of change request	21 days End- to-End (IANA's Metric is not broken down by specific	Max	<80%	1 day	Max	<95%	< 1 day (end- to-end)	Breakdown of these specific steps has not been published; however, IANA has shown that the
Ti	Time to complete technical checks				10 days	Max	<95%		processes can be completed end-to-end in

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Type	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach	Actual Times	Notes
		(3)	<b>(4)</b>	(5)	(6)	<b>(7</b> )	(8)	<b>(9</b> )	
	Time to notify initiator following completion of authorisation process (Validation Email)	step)			2 hours	max	<95%		less than 1 day.
	Following receipt of validation email - Time to document information package and implement change								
	Time for NTIA to confirm the process and notify IANA to update IDN Tables								
	Time for IANA to complete the change				10 days	Max	<95%		
	Time to notify the Registry that the change request has been completed				2 hours	max	<95%		

# All measurement periods are monthly

It is assumed post transition from NTIA that the items in RED would be removed and the process streamlined.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Except during maintenance periods

# **Process Correctness**

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Type	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach
Changes to NS records for existing TLD	Accuracy of data as sent to RZM compared to that specified in change request	100% End-to- End	Min	<100%	100%	min	<100%
	Number of NS changes sent to RZM that have not been through all the technical checks				0%	max	>0%
	Number of NS changes sent to RZM that fail any technical check				0%	max	<100%
Changes to DS records for existing TLD	Accuracy of data as sent to RZM compared to that specified in change request	100% End-to- End	Min	<100%	100%	min	<100%
	Number of DS changes sent to RZM that have not been through all the technical checks			0%	max	>0%	
	Number of DS changes sent to RZM that fail any technical check				0%	max	<100%
Change to authorising contact	Accuracy of data as sent to RZM compared to that specified in change request	100% End-to- End	Min	<100%	100%	min	<100%
Change to root DB that is not a re-delegation	Accuracy of data as entered into root DB compared to that specified in change request	100% End-to- End	Min	<100%	100%	min	<100%
	Number of stealth re-delegations				0%	max	>0%
	Specified organisations exist				100%	min	<100%
5	Specified contact details are genuine				100%	min	<90%

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Type	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach
Non-hostile re- assignment/re- delegation of a ccTLD	Affected parties identified	100% End-to- End	Min	<100%	100%	min	<100%
	Views of the affected parties accurately recorded and represented				100%	min	<100%
	Independent confirmation received that existing domain registration data has been ported to new ccTLD registry operator				100%	min	<100%
	Accuracy of data ported to new ccTLD registry operator				100%	min	<100%
	Accuracy of data as entered into root DB compared to that specified in change request				100%	min	<100%
Hostile re- assignment/re- delegation of a ccTLD	???						
Re-delegation of a gTLD	Affected parties identified	100% End-to- End	Min	<100%	100%	min	<100%
	Views of the affected parties accurately recorded and represented				100%	min	<100%
	Independent confirmation received that existing domain registration data has been ported to new ccTLD registry operator				100%	min	<100%

Process	Metric	Current IANA Requirement	Type	Breach	Design Team A Proposal	Type	Breach
	Accuracy of data ported to new ccTLD registry operator				100%	min	<100%
	Accuracy of data as entered into root DB compared to that specified in change request				100%	min	<100%
Delegation of a new TLD	???						

## **Process Reporting – under discussion**

IANA is required to provide the following reporting mechanisms:

#### **Public:**

- 1. Dashboard. Real-time dashboard of
  - a. process volumes;
  - b. current SLE metrics;
  - c. alerts of breaches or near misses.
- 2. SLE report. The formal report detailing
  - a. performance against metrics;
  - b. notification of breaches;
  - c. explanations of any breaches.
- 3. Request database. This data is of sufficient detail to verify the metric calculations use for the SLE report. It contains details of
  - a. every request made (that is accepted as a genuine request);
  - b. what stage in the process it is;
  - c. timestamps of key points in the request lifecycle;
  - d. what policies apply in the processing of the request;
  - e. the results of the request.

## Private viewing to update the requesting TLD of progress:

1. Status tracker. Showing

- a. every request made for the TLD;
- b. the current status;
- c. timestamps of key events;d. what action, if any, the TLD is required to do to move it to the next step.

Process	Metric	Design Team A Target	Type	Breach	Period
Dashboard	Update frequency	30 mins	max	>30 mins	Month
	Correctness	100%	min	<100%	Month
	Availability	99%1	min	<99%	Month
SLE reports	Production frequency	Monthly			-
	Published on web site	<10 days after month	max	>10 days	Month
	Notification of publication (delivery to contracted parties)	<2 hours after publish	max	>2 hours	Month
	Availability	99%1	min	<99%	Month
Request database	Update frequency	Daily			-
	Correctness	100%	min	<100%	Month
	Availability	99% <sup>1</sup>	min	<99%	Month
Status tracker	Update frequency	30 mins	max	>30 mins	Month
	Correctness	100%	min	<100%	Month
	Availability	99% <sup>1</sup>	min	<99%	Month
Ad-hoc requests	Acknowledgement of receipt	1 hour	max	<100%	Month

Initial response to Urgent priority requests	2 hours	max	<90%	Month
Full response to Urgent priority requests	12 hours	max	<90%	Month
Initial response to High priority requests	8 hours	max	<95%	Month
Full response to High priority requests	48 hours	max	<95%	Month
Initial response to Normal priority requests	5 days	max	<95%	Month
Full response to Normal priority requests	15 days	max	<95%	Month

## **Escalation Path**

Level	Contact	Method	Response Time	Expectation			
1	IANA Help Desk	Email/Telephone	4 Hours (working hours)	Response/Resolution			
2	IANA General Manager	Email/Telephone	Within 24 Hours	Resolution			
3	Registry Representative on Customer Service Committee (CSC)	Email/Telephone		Log of incident and Resolution			
We hand further escalation over to the CSC/Escalation DT for their input.							

Breaches (We are struggling with penalties. If they are financial penalties how to financially qualify a breach and who pays? – Discussion by CWG members)

Priority	Definition	Remediation

Continuous Improvement (this is a placeholder – we need to ensure continuous improvements as part of SLE, so once again the guidance of the CWG is welcome).

Process	Previous SLE	New SLE

#### **Notes**

#### General:

Days are not working days but contiguous days. This reflects the 24x7 nature of IANA.

## Specific:

- <sup>1</sup> Except during maintenance periods.
- <sup>2</sup> This assumes that there is a separate SLE for the RZM that addresses the issue of security and stability of the root zone by limiting the number of zone updates that can be pushed to the root servers in a single day.
- <sup>3</sup> This is an end-to-end service that includes delivery of the changes to the RZM.

## **APPENDIX A**

#### **CHART A**

Delegation and Re-delegations for Country-Code TLDs									
TLD	Request received	Request validated	Request dispatched	Request completed		Days to Validate	Days to Dispatch	Days To complete	End- to- End
ایران**	7/8/2013	9/18/2013	10/5/2013	10/9/2013		72	17	4	93
zm	7/9/2013	7/30/2013	4/4/2014	4/4/2014		21	248	0	269
vg	10/11/2013	4/8/2014	4/9/2014	4/10/2014		179	1	1	181
gw	1/23/2014	2/25/2014	7/9/2014	7/10/2014		33	134	1	168
mk	4/10/2014	4/23/2014	10/22/2014	10/22/2014		13	182	0	195
Ð¼ĐºĐ´**	4/10/2014	4/23/2014	10/22/2014	10/22/2014		13	182	0	195
áf'áf"**	7/22/2014	8/5/2014	10/22/2014	10/24/2014		14	78	2	94

BASED UPON CHART A

Request Validated – Fastest time – 13 days

Request Dispatched – Fastest time – 1 days

<sup>\*</sup>Data acquired from IANA published matrices.

\*\* During automated data acquisition from IANA website, native language did not convert.

 $Request\ Completed-Fastest\ time-0\ days$ 

 $Theoretical\ End\mbox{-}to\mbox{-}End\ (fastest)-14\ days$ 

Actual Fastest End-to-End – 94 days

# APPENDIX B

## **CHART B**

Delegation/Re-Delegation of gTLDs								
	Average Number of Days	Minimum Number of Days	Maximum Number of Days					
Days to Validate	2.932	0	32	Includes time for gTLD to respond to validation email.				
Days to Dispatch	3.255	0	13	Time for IANA to dispatch to NTIA				
Days To complete	4.9519	0	15	Time is from Validation email to confirmation.				