

Program Review and Next Steps

Adam Peake, Patrick Jones, David Huberman and Brian Gutterman

NPOC Webinar Series #7

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Review: Transferring Domain Names and the Transfer Policy/Upcoming PDP to Review Transfer Policy

Transferring Domain Names

- As a domain name registrant, it is one of your [rights](#) to transfer your domain name to another registrar or registrant, and to have access to the necessary information from your registrar regarding the process for making a transfer should you wish to do so.
- To protect against unauthorized transfers, you must be the registrant of record or the administrative contact for the domain name in order to initiate the transfer process. Always [be sure to keep your contact information up-to-date](#) to ensure that you are able to do so.

Transfer Policy

- Consistent with ICANN's obligation to promote and encourage robust competition in the domain name space, the [Transfer Policy](#) aims to provide a straightforward procedure for domain name holders to transfer their names from one ICANN-accredited registrar to another should they wish to do so. The policy also provides standardized requirements for registrar handling of such transfer requests from domain name holders.

Transferring Domain Names

- As a domain name registrant, it is one of your [rights](#) to transfer your domain name to another registrar or registrant, and to have access to the necessary information from your registrar regarding the process for making a transfer should you wish to do so.
- ◉ There are a couple of important rules you need to know if you want to transfer your domain name:

1. **The first rule** is that you cannot transfer a domain name to a new registrar or registrant within 60 days of making a change to the registered name holder or administrative contact information. At their discretion, some registrars may provide an option for you to opt-out of this 60-day lock period. However, this rule is in place for your protection and the registrar does not have to offer this option. If your ultimate goal is to transfer the domain name, you may want to consider completing the transfer process first before changing your contact information.

Transferring Domain Names

Rule 1 Continued

1. Registrars also have the option of denying a transfer request submitted within the first 60 days of the initial registration of a domain name, or within 60 days from when you last transferred the domain name. You should read the registrar's terms and conditions carefully before you register a domain name to understand the options available to you. If you have a registered domain name, but don't know your registrar's practices, you can contact them for more information.
2. **The second rule** is that you have to be the registered name holder or administrative contact for the domain name in order to initiate a transfer request. This rule applies to both registrar and registrant transfers and is in place to prevent unauthorized transfers of your domain name. This is also the reason it's [important](#) to keep your contact information up-to-date.

Transfer Policy

You'll need something called the AuthInfo code (also called an Authorization Code, AuthInfo code, Auth-Info Code, or transfer code) **to make the transfer.** [This is a unique code](#) created by a registrar to identify the domain name holder (also known as a registrant or registered name holder) and help prevent unauthorized transfers.

Registrars provide the AuthInfo codes in one of two ways:

- ⦿ Allow you to create your own AuthInfo code through their website or customer service team, or
- ⦿ Provide the AuthInfo code within five calendar days of your request.

Transfer Policy PDP

- Upcoming chance for NPOC to participate in an important PDP WG. The GNSO Council has recently [initiated](#) a policy development process (PDP) to review the Transfer Policy.
- Transfer Policy PDP, intended to review key aspects relating to inter-registrar and inter-registrant domain name transfers like the auth code, sometimes referred to as the “keys” to a domain name, change of registrant requirements and Form of Authorization requirements, including compliance to data privacy laws.

About the PDP

- Many of the changes are necessary in response to GDPR and the temporary specification introduced in May 2018, adopted in the EPDP's recommendations
- February 2021: GNSO Council initiated a PDP to review the Transfer Policy
 - Are changes needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers?
- All GNSO Stakeholder Groups/Constituencies and ICANN Supporting Organizations/Advisory Committees may contribute members to the PDP Working Group.
- NSCG call for volunteers open now

Review by topic



ICANN

NPOC Webinar Series – Review

- Introduction to ICANN, what we do and how we do it
- How the DNS works
- Introduction to the Registrant Program
- ICANN multistakeholder model, NPOC's place and role
- Introduction to PDP, "consensus policies" and contracts

NPOC Webinar Series – Review

- Registrant Rights and Responsibilities
- Registering a domain name
- Maintaining/managing and renewing domain names
- Rights protection mechanisms, UDRP/URS
- Review of relevant consensus and other policies that impact registrants (WDRP, Transfer Policy, ERRP, etc.)
- Protecting and securing a domain names (passwords, authentication, lock)

Who is a Registrant?

- ⦿ A domain name registrant/domain name holder is an individual or entity who registers a domain name. Upon registration of a domain name, a registrant enters into a contract with a registrar. The contract describes the terms under which the registrar agrees to register and maintain the requested name.
- ⦿ After registration, registrants manage their domain name settings through their registrar. To modify a setting, a registrant submits the changes to the registrar, and the registrar sends the change to the registry.
- ⦿ As a domain name registrant, you have certain rights and responsibilities. Your rights include access to information from your registrar regarding processes for registering, managing, transferring, renewing, and restoring your domain name registration.

Registrant Rights and Responsibilities

- ⦿ Registrant Rights and Responsibilities are written into the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA); which is the contract between all ICANN accredited Registrars and ICANN.
- ⦿ As a domain name holder/registrant, you do indeed have certain [rights and responsibilities](#). Your rights include access to information from your registrar regarding processes for registering, managing, transferring, renewing, and restoring your domain name registration.

Registering a Domain Name

My domain name? Oh, you mean my website name! Why do you call it a domain name?

- ⦿ Your domain name registration is not the same as a website or a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).
- ⦿ While some people assume that the registration of a domain name automatically means you have a website, what they do not understand is that a domain name is like a street address for getting postal mail: there must still be a building or post office box at the street address for delivering letters or packages.
- ⦿ You must purchase, find, or implement services like web-hosting or email to make your Internet presence known and make your domain name functional and accessible to others.

Domain Name Management Best Practices

- ⦿ **Keep contact information associated with your domain name registration up-to-date at all times** so you receive important notifications about your domain name.
- ⦿ **Know the terms of your domain name registration.** Options and fees for renewing domain names, including expired ones, vary by registrar so be sure to read your registrar's terms of service carefully to understand the options, fees, and terms of renewing your domain name registration.
- ⦿ Remember, paying to register a domain name is not the same as "buying" it outright or permanently. **You do not "own" a domain name.** What you are doing is more like leasing the domain name from the registry operator that the domain name is associated with. Registration periods can vary depending on the registry operator.
- ⦿ You cannot buy a domain name forever. However, you can continually renew its registration (before the registration period expires) to maintain control over it. While the term "buying a domain name" is also commonly used in relation to purchasing an existing domain name registered to someone else, the purchaser is not buying the domain name, but just acquiring the rights to register it to themselves and continue to manage and re-register it in the future.

Managing/Maintaining Domain Names

- ⦿ It is very important to keep your contact information up-to-date at all times so that you receive important notifications about your domain name from your registrar.
 - Notifications are typically sent via email, and if your email is not updated, you may not receive important notifications that are designed for your protection. For example, your registrar will notify you of changes to your account and domain name registrations so that you can confirm the changes.
 - If your email information is not up-to-date, unauthorized changes could be made to your account without your knowledge.
- ⦿ When you register a domain name, you're able to use it for the period of time you registered it for, which is typically between one to ten years.
 - If you want to keep using the domain name and any of the services associated with it (like a website or email service) you need to renew the domain name registration prior to its expiration. If you don't, you risk losing your domain name.
 - ICANN does not have the authority to transfer domain names, including expired ones, back to you.

Protecting your domain name(s)

Best practices to help you prevent [hijacking or unauthorized transfer](#) of your domain name:

- ⦿ **Register with an email address that is not connected to your domain name.** When you register your domain name, you will be asked to provide contact information, including your email address. This information goes into the [WHOIS](#) record for your domain name, which might be viewed publicly. It is best to use an email address that is not associated with the domain name you are registering. For instance, if your domain name is example.com, a best practice is to use an address in WHOIS that is not user@example.com.
- ⦿ **Here's why.** if your domain name is hijacked by someone who has gained access to your account with the registrar, that person will likely alter the WHOIS information to remove you as the registered holder of the domain name. If you used an email address that is not associated with your domain name in WHOIS, you will be able to provide that email address as evidence to the registrar that you were the registered holder of the domain name before it was altered by unauthorized access to your account.

Protecting your domain name(s)

(Contd.) Best practices to help you prevent [hijacking or unauthorized transfer](#) of your domain name:

- ⦿ **Create a strong, unique password.** Protect your domain name from cybercriminals by creating a unique, strong password. Online services are compromised frequently, making user names and passwords available to criminals who may attempt to hijack your domain name using the information you provide for other accounts. Avoid this by creating a strong password that you use exclusively for your domain name account.
- ⦿ **Do not share your password.** You are responsible for the security of your domain name. You should never give anyone the login information to your online account. This includes web hosting providers or web designers as well as friends and colleagues. It is not recommended that you list website designers, hosting providers, or any other third parties as the registrant(s) of your domain name. If you choose to do so, seek legal advice as to contractual obligations that third parties should adhere to with regards to the administration of your domain.

Protecting your domain name(s)

(Contd.) Best practices to help you prevent [hijacking or unauthorized transfer](#) of your domain name:

- ⦿ **Ask your registrar to put a *transfer lock* on your domain name.** You can request that your registrar put a *transfer lock* on your domain name. Putting this lock on your domain name is not a fail-safe way to guard against unauthorized transfer or hijacking of your domain name, but it could be another layer of security. Each registrar has a different way of implementing the transfer lock. Some require two-factor authentication to remove the lock; some simply require authorization from the registrant. Check with your registrar about their policies regarding transfer lock and decide whether it is a service that's right for you.
- ⦿ **Be smart about your online behavior.** Be cautious with the links you click in emails, with the attachments you open, and with the websites you visit. These are means that criminals can use to steal your username and password.

Protecting yourself from Phishing

- Carefully review every email you receive
- Phishing emails and websites often mirror familiar visuals and language, may include the logos and branding of the organization and appear that the organization is the sender
- Be suspicious of any email or webpage from ICANN that offers domain renewals or registration services.
- ICANN org does not process domain renewals or send WHOIS data privacy notices.

Measures for additional protection

- ⦿ Use [ICANN-accredited registrars](#) to register and manage your domain name(s) and always research the reputation and service record of registrars before selecting one. If you're not entirely comfortable with a registrar after you register a domain name with them, you can and should consider transferring your domain name to a registrar you trust.
- ⦿ Use [Transport Layer Security \(TLS\)](#) HTTPS when you access your domain name registration account to prevent someone intercepting your communication with your registrar.
- ⦿ **Always be proactive!** Domain name registrants are important players in [combating DNS abuse](#). We encourage you to always be vigilant and proactive in securely and responsibly managing your domain name(s).

NPOC Webinar Series – Review

- Good domain name security management, projects, and campaigns, HTTPS
- Introduction to DNSSEC, what it protects against and how
- DNSSEC implementation, NPOC promotion of DNSSEC implementation to NGOs
- DoH (DNS-over-HTTPS) and DoT (DNS-over-TLS)
- Review and wrap-up

- ⦿ Free, online learning platform: <https://learn.icann.org>
- ⦿ Set your dashboard to your preferred language.
- ⦿ Suggested Courses for Continued Learning for NPOC:
 - 302.1 Registrant Basics: Essentials for Domain Name Holders
 - 602.1 DNS Fundamentals
 - 500.1 Policy Development Fundamentals
 - 502.1 Get to Know the GNSO
 - 701.1 Writing for Policy and Public Comment
 - 304.1 Organizational Reviews: Key Resources
 - 305.1 Specific Reviews: Key Resources

2021 ICANN DNS Symposium

- ⦿ 25-27 May 2021, +2 UTC time zone (CEST)
- ⦿ This is a virtual event
- ⦿ Theme: "DNS Ecosystem Security: We're all in this together"
- ⦿ Talks on measurements, mitigations, and progress on community work
- ⦿ Registration is free and open now!

THANK YOU!

Brenda, Maryam, David, Jonathan and NPOC