

Implementation Plan

Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information

Status of this document

This is an Implementation Plan for the 7 recommendations of the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Working Group (TTWG), prepared by ICANN staff for consideration by the Translation and Transliteration Implementation Review Team (IRT).

This is a living document that may be amended to incorporate the evolving circumstances of the project.

Project	Implement 7 recommendations from Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Final Report
Coordinating Entities	ICANN Global Domains Division (GDD) and Translation and Transliteration Implementation Review Team (IRT)
Project Lead's Department	Domain Name Services and Industry Engagement

Project Implementation Overview

Background

This implementation project is addressing GNSO recommendations presented in the [final report](#) on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Development Process (PDP). The goal of the PDP was to determine how to best facilitate the entry of contact information into domain name registration data and directory services by non-English speakers and users of non-ASCII scripts.

The recommendations from the final report are as follows:

1. It is not desirable to make transformation of contact information mandatory. Any parties requiring transformation are free to do so on an ad hoc basis outside WHOIS or any replacement system, such as the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP). If not undertaken voluntarily by registrar/registry (see Recommendation #5), the burden of transformation lies with the requesting party.
2. Whilst noting that a WHOIS replacement system should be capable of receiving input in the form

of non-ASCII script contact information, its data fields should be stored and displayed in a way that allows for easy identification of what the different data entries represent and what language(s)/script(s) have been used by the registered name holder.

3. The language(s) and script(s) supported for registrants to submit their contact information data may be chosen in accordance with gTLD- provider business models.
4. Regardless of the language(s)/script(s) used, it is assured that the data fields are consistent to standards in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), relevant Consensus Policy, Additional WHOIS Information Policy (AWIP) and any other applicable policies. Entered contact information data are validated, in accordance with the aforementioned Policies and Agreements and the language/script used must be easily identifiable.
5. If the transformation of contact information is performed, and if the WHOIS replacement system is capable of displaying more than one data set per registered name holder entry, these data should be presented as additional fields (in addition to the authoritative local script fields provided by the registrant) and that these fields be marked as transformed and their source(s) indicated
6. Any WHOIS replacement system, for example RDAP, should remain flexible so that contact information in new scripts/languages can be added and expand its linguistic/script capacity for receiving, storing and displaying contact information data.
7. These recommendations should be coordinated with other WHOIS modifications where necessary and are implemented and/or applied as soon as a WHOIS replacement system that can receive, store and display non-ASCII characters, becomes operational.

Summary Implementation Plan

From a technical standpoint, the implementation of the TTWG's recommendations may involve:

1. Adding one Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) extension to provide additional data fields for transformed contact information.¹ (**Recommendations 2 and 5**)
2. Adding Extensible Provisioning Protocols (EPP extensions) to provide for the following “tags” (**Recommendations 2 and 5**):
 1. “Transformed” tag, indicating a transformation was performed
 2. “Source of transformation” tag, indicating which entity performed the transformation
 3. “Language/script” tag, indicating which languages and scripts are present in the initial and transformed data fields in accordance with standards established in RFC 5646

¹ “Transformed” contact information refers to data that is either translated or transliterated.

These recommendations provide requirements for parties who choose to perform transformations and thus necessitate new policy language. Determinations of if and where new policy language is to be added will be the focus of discussions with the IRT, in consultation with ICANN's Legal and Compliance Departments.

As of August 2016, the IRT is currently engaged in discussions around language and script tags, which appear to be a minimum requirement to meet the standards set by the T/T Recommendations. Discussions around potential policy language will continue as a basis for “experimentation” with implementing the T/T Recommendations as they relate to the soon-to-be implemented RDAP system.

The timeline for the implementation of the T/T Recommendations has been extended into 2018 as a result of emerging complexities relating to the implementation of the Recommendations. A tentative implementation announcement is currently scheduled for August 2017—with a tentative policy effective date of 1 February 2018—pending further discussion with the IRT.

Convening the Implementation Review Team (IRT)

The Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information (T/T) IRT convened in July 2016. The IRT began work via a series of calls and a public email list, and has provided feedback regarding the implementation of the recommendations.

TIMELINE	DATE
Recruit Implementation Review Team (IRT) via email community-wide (by staff)	July 2016
Share preliminary implementation plan with IRT via email (by staff)	15 July 2016
IRT Call #1: Introduction, discuss implementation plan and potential new policy language, schedule next calls	19 July 2016
Share revised implementation plan with IRT by email (by staff)	22 July 2016

Share first draft of new consensus policy language as discussed with IRT and ICANN Legal and Compliance staff (by staff)	29 July 2016
IRT Call #2: Discuss draft new consensus policy language and technical updates to RDAP profile	2 August 2016
Share draft new consensus policy language/red-line document with IRT	12 August 2016
IRT Call #3: Discuss “WHOIS replacement system” vs “RDAP”	25 August 2016
Share draft new consensus policy language/red-line document with IRT	30 September 2016
IRT Call #4: Discuss updated new consensus policy language	6 October 2016
Share draft new consensus policy language/red-line document with IRT	20 October 2016
IRT Face to Face/Call #5 in Hyderabad, ICANN57: Discuss updated new consensus policy language with aim to publish for public comment	8 November 2016 (tentative)
Share preliminary new consensus policy language for public comment for final revisions by IRT and staff	22 November 2016
Publish new consensus policy language for public comment	5 December 2016 (public comment period ending 13 January 2017)
IRT Call #6: Discuss public comments with aim to incorporate comments as appropriate	25 January 2017

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Share revised policy language incorporating public comments as applicable with IRT	3 February 2017
IRT Call #7: Discuss revised policy language incorporating public comments	8 February 2017
Revise policy language as necessary, sharing updates with IRT via email and scheduling additional calls as required	9 February 2017 – 1 July 2017
IRT Call #8: Finalize all policy language	July 2017
Announce policy effective date of 1 February 2018	1 August 2017