Detailed Quarterly Implementation Report on WHOIS Improvements

Details on the Implementation Status of the *Board Approved[1]* WHOIS Review Team Final Report Recommendations As of 31 December 2015	*Key:u*		
	Complete	√ or	🟢
	In Progress	○ or	🔵
	In Planning	◊ or	🟣

	Topic	Summary of Implementation Activities	Milestones & Due Dates[2]
	WHOIS - Strategic Priority		
1.a 🟢	WHOIS as a strategic priority	WHOIS emphasized in Strategic Plan as part of Strategic Objective 2.1 and funded in FY16 Operating Plan and Budget; WHOIS Program supervised by Strategic Initiatives Team and implemented through a cross-departmental effort.	√ Registrars signed new 2013 RAA (2013 - 2018); List of Registrars on the 2013 RAA available here. √ New gTLD Registries now sign new registry agreements. List of registries available here. √ WHOIS Accuracy Specification of 2013 RAA to be reviewed annually √ First 2013 RAA Whois Accuracy Program Specification Review concluded in 2015
1.b 🟢	ICANN Staff incentivization	WHOIS projects identified in both WorkForce and the Halogen management system. CEO compensation based on the overall goals and objectives of the entire organization set forth in WorkForce.	
1.c 🟢	Board involvement in WHOIS improvements	Board updated, on a trimester basis on the status of WHOIS related activities and implementation.	√ ICANN Board resolution on July 28, 2015 creating a new Board working group to liaise with the GNSO on the policy development process and oversee the implementation of the remaining projects arising from the Action Plan adopted by the Board in response to the first WHOIS Review Team's recommendations. √ ICANN Board resolution on April 26, 2015 created a new Board working group to address Registration Directory Services and follow up on WHOIS RT-related implementation √ ICANN Board Response to GAC Los Angeles Communiqué –22 Jan 2015 √ ICANN Board Response to GAC London Communiqué – 3 Nov 2014
1.d 🟢	Public Status of Implementation	Public closely apprised of the implementation progress through regular updates, announcements on icann.org, blog posts, updates at ICANN meetings, and the new WHOIS website. The implementation status of WhoIs recommendations is updated quarterly and published on the wiki page for the WhoIs Review.	√ Current WHOIS policy information √ Thick WHOIS Policy Implementation work documented to ensure that the resultant implementation fulfills the intentions of the approved policy recommendations. √ Draft Thick RDDS (Whois) Consensus Policy and Implementation Notes published 24 November 2015

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[1] This Summary highlights ICANN's progress in 2014 measured against the Action Plan approved by the ICANN Board in its 8 November 2012 meeting. In some instances, the Action Plan adopts an alternative approach to implementing the recommendations from those proposed in the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report.

[2] See Annex A of the WhoIs Improvements 2014 Annual Report for previously completed Milestone and Due Dates.

| | | | √ [Final Issue Report on a Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service (RDS) to Replace WHOIS](#) published 6 October 2015
√ [Syntax Accuracy of WHOIS Data in gTLDs Presented in Accuracy Reporting System Phase I Report](#) 24 August 2015
√ Publication of the [Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Services to Replace WHOIS Preliminary Issue Report](#) 27 September 2015
√ [Framework for a PDP Working Group on the Next Generation RDS](#), [approved](#) by the Board 26 April 2015, to provide guidance to the GNSO PDP for the examination of the EWG's recommended models and principles for the next generation registration directory services to replace WHOIS.
√Completed first formal review of the [2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement's Whois Accuracy Program Specification](#) , requirements to validate and verify certain Whois data and customer account holder information with a review of its terms by ICANN and the Registrar Stakeholder Group (RrSG).
√ ICANN 54 Dublin WHOIS related sessions |

- [RySG - GEO TLDs](#)
- [Whois Review Team International Registration Data Expert WG](#)
- [Global Domains Division Update](#)
- [New gTLD Program: Reviews and Related Activities](#)
- [New gTLD Program Implementation Review: Report Discussion](#)
- [Contractual Compliance Program Updates and Q&A Session](#)
- [GNSO Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues PDP WGM](#)
- [GNSO Preliminary Issue Report - New gTLD Subsequent Procedures](#)
- [Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) Implementation](#)
- [Thick Whois Policy Implementation - IRT Meeting](#)
- [GNSO IGO-INGO Access to Curative Rights Protection Mechanisms PDP WG Meeting](#)
- [Contractual Compliance Registrar Outreach](#)

√ ICANN 53 Buenos Aires Sessions:

- [Buenos Aires Consultations with the GNSO](#)
- [WhoIs Accuracy Specification Review Discussion](#) - 24 June 2015
- [Registrars and Law Enforcement](#) – 24 June 2015
- [Registration Data Access Protocol: What's Next?](#) – 24 June 2015
- [GNSO Privacy & Proxy Accreditation Services Issues PDP WG](#) – 24 June 2015
- [Thick WhoIs Policy Implementation](#)– 24 June 2015
- [Contractual Compliance Registrar Outreach Presentation](#) – 25 June 2015
- [Next Steps for WhoIs Accuracy Reporting](#) – 24 June 2015

√ Public Comment: [GNSO Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Working Group Initial Report – Opened 5 May 2105, Closed 7 July 2015](#)

			√ Public Comment: 2013 RAA WhoIs Accuracy Program Specification Review – Opened 14 May 2015, and Closed 3 July 2015 and the Report of Public Comments 20 July 2015
			√ ICANN Singapore Sessions:
			    √ All Things WHOIS – 9 Feb 2015
			      √ GAC Meeting: WHOIS – 10 Feb 2015
			√ Status of Improvements published on new WHOIS Website
			√ Series of webinars have been completed and are planned for future updates.
			√ ICANN Blog on WHOIS: A Year in Review 15 Dec 2014
			    √ Public Comment on Initial Report from PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of contact information – 16 Dec 2014, closed 1 Feb 2015
			    √ Staff Report published - 19 Feb 2015
			√ GNSO Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information PDP Webinar – 9 Jan 2015
			2015 Blogs:
			• WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System Update - ICANN 01 Jun 2015
			• WHOIS: Continuous Improvements in the Works - ICANN 09 Jun 2015
			WEBINAR: WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System Phase I Report 12August 2015

2 🟢	**Single WHOIS Policy**	A Single Page containing links to all WHOIS related agreements and consensus policies developed.	√ Continued updates of the WHOIS Primer and the Knowledge Center: √ WHOIS ARS Phase 2 Cycle 1 Report: Syntax and Operability Accuracy published 23 December 2015 √ WhoIs ARS Phase 1 Validation Criteria - 31 May 2015 √ Registrar Stakeholder Group input on 2013 RAA WhoIs Accuracy Specification – 14 May 2015 √ ICANN Staff Input on 2013 RAA WhoIs Accuracy Specification – 14 May 2015 √ Framework for a PDP Working Group on the next Generation RDS – 26 April 2015 √ Implementation Report on WhoIs Improvements – April 2015 √ Implementation Reports on WhoIs Improvements are published quarterly.

3 🟢	**Outreach**: ICANN should ensure that WHOIS policy issues are accompanied by cross-community outreach	Requirements that link to Registrant Benefits & Responsibilities Document, written in simple language to educate registrants on obligations related to WHOIS, included in the 2013 RAA.
		
		ICANN Staff conducted global outreach to registrars to educate them on new 2013 RAA requirements.
		
		ICANN Contractual Compliance Staff conducted outreach in Asia/Pacific, highlighting WHOIS obligations in native languages.
		
		New WHOIS microsite launched:
		• Published in six languages; and
		• A one-stop-shop for those seeking information about WHOIS.
			√ ICANN Blogs:
			    WHOIS: Continuous Improvements in the Works June 2015
			    WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System Update June 2015
			√ The 2013 RAA introduced improvements to WHOIS data with stricter validation and verification requirements.
			√Contractual Compliance updates regularly provided at the ICANN meetings. The latest one was held in Dublin at ICANN 54 October 2015, Singapore at ICANN 52 – Feb 2015 and in Buenos Aires, at ICANN 53 – June 2015
			√ Completed system, FAQ, forms and Staff training to ensure 2013 RAA readiness. Please refer to this link for more details.
			√ Implementation of a Communications Plan to commence with the WHOIS Website launch
			√ Frequent updates through social media, such as twitter and Facebook in all UN languages.

4 🟢	**Contractual Compliance**: to managed in accordance with best practice principles	New Compliance complaints handling systems and procedures have been implemented. Greater visibility on WHOIS-related metrics and improvements to Compliance processes and results has been achieved. New 3 year Compliance Program on key registrar/registry obligations, including greater visibility on WHOIS-related metrics and improvements to Compliance processes and results New Registry Agreement Audit Program put in place. Compliance Staffing levels increased substantially and resources were allocated for additional headcount.	√ ICANN Contractual Compliance Performance Dashboard for December and September provide performance metrics information to the community on compliance √ Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers Contractual Compliance Update – Quarterly Report – December, Quarterly Report, September 2015 √ Contractual Compliance New Registry Agreement Compliance Monitoring Efforts √ Clarifications to the Registry Agreement and the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) regarding applicable Registration Data Directory Service (WHOIS) Specifications √ ICANN 54 Contractual Compliance participated in several sessions √ ICANN 53 Buenos Aires WhoIs Accuracy Specification Review Discussion - 24 June 2015 √ Launched a WHOIS inaccuracy quality check on already resolved inaccuracy issues to confirm ongoing compliance √ Completed updates and additions to the complaint submission forms and FAQs for the 2013 RAA √ Compliance 2014 Annual Report published – Feb 2015 √ Compliance Performance Reports now available √ Completed the plan and details for new Registry Agreement Audit program (New gTLD scope) √ Conducted 3 Audit outreach activities with registries. √ Updates to Audit page reflected new program and additional FAQ. √ Additional Compliance Department outreach activities. √ Compliance Staff levels published and updated regularly. Current Staffing covers the following languages: Arabic, English, French, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, and Uzbek. √ Compliance established in 3 regions; Los Angeles, Istanbul and Singapore.
	Data Accuracy		
5 🟢	WHOIS requirements for accurate data widely and pro-actively communicated	Staff developed a WHOIS Informational Website to: • Provide historical record of WHOIS; • Consolidate WHOIS policy documentation; • Provide mechanisms to teach people how to use WHOIS; • Provide mechanisms for people to submit complaints as they relate to WHOIS data; • Direct people to the appropriate channels to become engaged in the community on WHOIS related topics; • Educate registrants on WHOIS, their rights and responsibilities; and • Provide a Knowledge Center where key WHOIS related documents can be located.	See answers to #3. √ Usage of the WHOIS microsite has grown since its launch. This quarter there were 1,628,358 page views, and 769,788 sessions. 70.4% were from new visitors and 29.6% were returning visitors. √ ICANN 53 Buenos Aires Registrars and Law Enforcement – 24 June 2015
6 🔵	ICANN should take appropriate measures to reduce the number of WHOIS	To address this recommendation, the Board directed the CEO to: • Proactively identify potentially inaccurate gTLD data registration information in gTLD registry and registrar services, explore using automated	See answers to #7 & 11 below for information on the statistics on accuracy to be gathered in connection with the new WHOIS Search Portal.

	registrations that fall into the accuracy groups "Substantial Failure and Full Failure"	tools, and forward potentially inaccurate records to gTLD registrars for action; and • Publicly report on the resulting actions to encourage improved accuracy.	
7	Annual WHOIS accuracy reports	Staff is developing a WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System based on the methodology developed by NORC at the University of Chicago. To accomplish the requested analysis, Staff's work is focusing on: • Statistical methodology; • Access to WHOIS records; • Parser to automate contact data extraction; • Automated address verification; and • Call center to call sampled records. In 2015 Staff launched the Accuracy Reporting System to conduct bi-annual studies in collaboration with NORC. The project is being operationalized in phases, based on the stages of WHOIS Accuracy verification described in SSAC 058 (Syntax, Operational, and Identity). The studies leverage the commercial validation services customized to ICANN RRA requirements to test the syntactical and operation accuracy of the email, telephone number, and postal addresses using actual data of approximately 10,000 WHOIS records per study and produces estimates for the gTLD space as a whole as well as specific segments of interest. All records found to be inaccurate are provided to ICANN Contractual Compliance for follow up with the registrar.	√ Publication of Final Pilot Study Report – 23 Dec 2014. √ Staff Report of public comments published – 3 Apr 2015 √ Modifications to operationalize the Accuracy Reporting System –Apr – Jun 2015 √ Accuracy Reporting System - Phase I (Syntactic validation) Report Published – August 2015 √ ARS – Phase II (Syntactic + Operational) Criteria published September 2015 √ WHOIS ARS Testing Criteria - UPDATED √ Conclusion of 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement WhoIs Accuracy Program Specification Review in November 2015 √ WHOIS ARS Phase 2 Cycle 1 Report: Syntax and Operability Accuracy published 23 December 2015
8	ICANN should ensure that there is a clear, unambiguous and enforceable chain of contractual agreements	Additional enforcement provisions and sanctions applicable to registrars, registrants, and resellers with regards to WHOIS included in 2013 RAA. Enhanced WHOIS obligations included in New gTLD Registry Agreements. Renewals of existing gTLDs includes enhanced WHOIS obligations. WHOIS Accuracy specifications of the 2013 RAA reviewed annually.	See answers to #1.a above.
9	**Compliance Metrics**: Impact of the annual WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP)	The Board's Resolution addressing the WHOIS Review Team Recommendations offers an alternative approach to achieving the intended result of this Recommendation.	See answers to #5 - 7 above. In addition the following informational resources are available for WDRP compliance: √ Whois Data Reminder Policy √ WDRP FAQs For Domain Name Registrants √ Implementation of the Whois Data Reminder Policy (WDRP) √ WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP)	ICANN Learn
10	**Data Access – Privacy and Proxy Services:** ICANN should initiate processes to regulate and oversee privacy	New obligations related to Privacy/Proxy providers and commits ICANN to create a privacy/proxy accreditation program are included in the 2013 RAA. A GNSO PDP, beginning Oct 2013, has commenced to examine policy issues related to privacy/proxy services. A consensus policy, if produced out of the	√ Initial Report on the Implementation Advisory Group Review of Existing ICANN Procedure for Handling Whois Conflicts with Privacy Laws published 4 October 2015 √ Initial Report published for Public Comment- May 2015

	and proxy service providers	PDP, would become binding upon contracted parties when adopted by Board. Staff Implementation work to develop the operational aspects of the Privacy/Proxy Accreditation Program is to be conducted in parallel with GNSO PDP.	√ [Final Report on the Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Development Process](#) published 8 December 2015 o GNSO Approval of PDP Final Report- est. Jan 2016 o Board Approval of Final Report Recommendations est. Apr 2016 o Implementation Plan – TBD 2016
11 🟢	**Data Access – Common Interface:** Overhaul of the Internic Service	ICANN developed a comprehensive WHOIS Portal, the development of which occurred in two phases: • Phase 1 - Launch of [WHOIS Informational Website](#) (see description above in #5); and • Phase 2 - Launch of [WHOIS Online Search Portal](#) to offer a place where people could initiate a search of global WHOIS records.	✓ Future upgrades to include an overhaul of the Internic Service.
	Internationalized Domain Names		
12 🔵	Determine appropriate Internationalized Domain Name Registration (IRD) data requirements	The IETF WEIRDS Working Group has concluded its evaluation of technical protocols. • New Registration Directory Access Protocol (RDAP) developed; • Once adopted by the IETF, the new gTLD Registry Agreement and the New 2013 RAA will include commitments to adopt the new protocols. ICANN remains committed to this effort. A team is currently working on the IRD requirements, but is dependent upon the conclusion of the GNSO PDP on Translation and Transliteration. Final product is dependent upon the conclusion of the GNSO PDP on translation/transliteration.	√ WEIRDS finalizes new [Registration Directory Access Protocol (RDAP)](#) – Dec 2014 √WEIRDS RDAP Protocol RFCs 7480-7484 [published](#) – Mar 2015 √ Registrars sign new [2013 RAA](#) (2013 - 2018); List of Registrars on the 2013 RAA available [here](#), √ New gTLD Registries sign [new registry agreements](#). List of registries available [here](#). √ [RDAP Operational Profile for gTLD Registries and Registrars](#) published 2 December 2015 √ IRD Team analysis under way • Draft Final Report of IRD Team published for [Public Comment](#) – 9 Mar 2015 • Public Comment Summary – 5 May 2015 • [Final Report](#) of the Expert Working Group on IRD published 23 September 2015 • Board Approval of IRD recommendations – est. Feb 2016 o Implementation Plan to be developed – (TBD) 2016 See answers to #13 below.
13 🟢	Requirements for Translation/ Transliteration of internationalized registration data	Issue of Translation/Transliteration is being explored as a Policy matter within the GNSO Council. Consensus policy, if produced out of the PDP and adopted by the Board, it would become binding upon the contracted parties. This output of this PDP work is required to inform the rest of the IRD related implementation work being supervised by Staff (# 12 – 14). Conclusion of this aspect of the implementation is dependent upon the speed in which the PDP can be completed once the working group is formed.	√ [Initial Report](#) from PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of contact information published 15 Dec 2014 √ [Public Comment on Initial Report](#) from PDP Working Group on Translation and Transliteration of contact information – 16 Dec 2014, closed 1 Feb 2015 √ [Staff Report - Summary of Public Comments](#)– 19 Feb 2015 √ [Final Report on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Development Process](#) published 15 June 2015 √ [GNSO Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Policy Development Process (PDP) Recommendations for Board Consideration](#) 31 August 2015 √ Board [resolution](#) adopting the GNSO Council Recommendations Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information recommendations. 28 September 2015 - Implementation dependent on when RDAP is in place, then est. three to six months oImplementation Plan to be developed – (TBD) 2016

14	Metrics on accuracy internationalized registration data	Internationalized WHOIS Records to be proactively identified once the work referenced in #12 and #13 is complete.	Internationalized registration data (IRD) for WHOIS Records are being proactively identified in Phase I and Phase II of ARS reports Also see answers to #12 and #13.
15	Comprehensive Implementation Plan for implementing the Final WHOIS Review Team report.	ICANN Staff developed and published its proposed Action Plan, which was adopted by the ICANN Board.	
16	Publication of Annual Reports on Implementation of WHOIS RT Recommendations	ICANN published its first Annual Report one year after the Board's approval of the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report Recommendations, with subsequent ones to be published annually thereafter.	√ Publication of second Annual Report – 14 Dec 2014 √ Publication of third Annual Report – 4 Feb 2016