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*Board of Directors Affirms  
ICANN's Commitment to  
Improving WHOIS*



*Newly Appointed President &  
CEO Fadi Chehadé addressing  
Delegates at ICANN 45 in  
Toronto*



## I. Background

On 8 November 2012, the ICANN Board [approved](#) a series of improvements to the manner in which ICANN carries out its responsibilities for WHOIS (the current gTLD registration data directory service), in response to the [recommendations](#) of the WHOIS Review Team convened under the Affirmation of Commitments (AoC). The AoC states:

*9.3.1 ICANN additionally commits to enforcing its existing policy relating to WHOIS, subject to applicable laws. Such existing policy requires that ICANN implement measures to maintain timely, unrestricted and public access to accurate and complete WHOIS information, including registrant, technical, billing, and administrative contact information. One year from the effective date of this document ... ICANN will organize a review of WHOIS policy and its implementation to assess the extent to which WHOIS policy is effective and its implementation meets the legitimate needs of law enforcement and promotes consumer trust...*

This Report highlights how ICANN is fulfilling the Board's mandate in response to the recommendations of the WHOIS Review Team, and provides insight into the work ahead as ICANN executes its [Action Plan](#) for improving WHOIS.

## II. WHOIS - A Strategic Priority for ICANN

In his opening remarks at the ICANN Toronto meeting, Fadi Chehadé introduced the key areas of focus for his tenure as ICANN's new President and CEO. His "Fadi Sets the Course" speech announced to the



*Chehadé announces WHOIS as one of his key objectives*



*CEO Roundtable Events brought together key stakeholders to share perspectives on how to achieve a healthy Internet ecosystem*

world his vision for tackling ICANN’s toughest issues, including WHOIS. Undeterred by the decade’s long deadlock in the Community for how to fix it, Chehadé assured the ICANN Community that “[w]e must look at this. We must look at this with integrity, with seriousness, and address it once and for all ...”

The Toronto Meeting marked the start of a series of improvements to WHOIS that continue today. With a highly effective team of executives charged with bringing these improvements to fruition, WHOIS is being transformed to become a more useful instrument for maintaining a healthy Internet ecosystem.

### III. New Contracts Accelerate Change

In early 2013, ICANN hosted several [CEO Roundtable Events](#) and other meetings, at which Chehadé shared his views with the top executives of registries, registrars, and others, about the direction of the DNS industry. He announced that the Domain Name System — and the Industry that has grown up around it — are at an inflection point. With the introduction of new gTLDs and the vertical integration of the DNS value chain, Chehadé urged the leaders within the DNS ecosystem to be ready to meet the challenges ahead. This included the need to evolve the frameworks that govern relationships among DNS industry participants.

Registries and Registrars stepped up to the challenge and backed new obligations for inclusion in their contracts that are designed to improve the effectiveness of WHOIS.

After almost two years of intense negotiations, the negotiations between ICANN and the Registrars on a new form of the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) concluded. The Registrar Negotiating Team committed to significant new obligations to improve the effectiveness of WHOIS. The new 2013 RAA adopted by the ICANN Board on June 27<sup>th</sup> introduced the following improvements:



*The RAA Negotiation Teams after a negotiation session*



*Registrars sign the new 2013 RAA at the Opening Ceremony at ICANN 47 Durban*

<b>Accuracy</b>	Validation of Address Fields	Verification of Email or Phone numbers
<b>Performance</b>	Service Level Agreement on Access	Transition to New IETF Protocol with IDN Capabilities
<b>Standardization</b>	Standard Display Formats	New WHOIS Output Fields: Abuse Contacts, Resellers
<b>Privacy/Proxy</b>	New Standards: Disclosure, Abuse Contact, Escrow	ICANN to create Accreditation Program

The obligations under the new 2013 RAA apply to all registrars seeking to serve registries created through the New gTLD Program. Eventually, all registrars will move to the 2013 RAA.

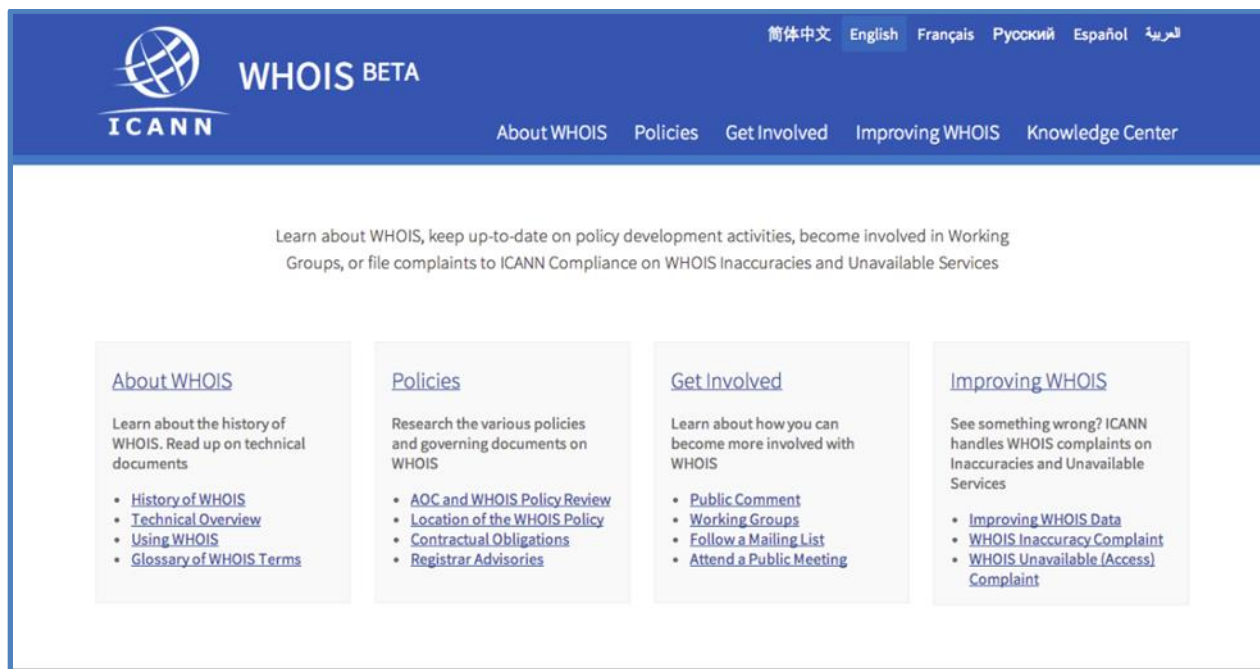
Registries similarly accepted improvements to their WHOIS obligations, as reflected in the base agreement for new gTLDs as well as renewal agreements for existing gTLDs (.info, .biz and .org).

Collectively, these contract revisions are expected to accelerate improvements in the accuracy rates and overall reliability of the WHOIS system.

## IV. Debut of the WHOIS Website- Phase I

The WHOIS Review Team emphasized the importance of conducting outreach to educate users and registrants about WHOIS, and specifically, the requirements to maintain accuracy. The Review Team also highlighted the need to consolidate all aspects of the WHOIS policy into one location, and to simplify the process for conducting WHOIS searches. To address these needs, ICANN designed and developed the new [WHOIS Website](#), which is now in its beta launch.

ICANN invites the public to peruse the [WHOIS Website Beta](#), test its features, and provide feedback on what additional content may be desirable. Published in six languages, the WHOIS website is designed to be a one-stop-shop for those seeking information about WHOIS.



## V. Future Enhancements to the WHOIS Website

Phase I of the [WHOIS Website](#) assembled all the key documents, policies and information into a single location, to simplify identification of the policies, procedures and specifications applicable to WHOIS.

Subsequent phases of the [WHOIS Website](#) in development today will include a centralized look-up tool where WHOIS searches can be conducted for all gTLDs, and periodic statistical reports on the accuracy of WHOIS. These additional features should greatly reduce the difficulties faced by those accessing WHOIS records today, and provide the ICANN Community with transparency into whether accuracy levels of WHOIS records improve over time.

## VI. Enhancing Contractual Compliance Function

The Contractual Compliance Department continues to contribute to ICANN’s overall efforts to improve WHOIS. The streamlined [processes](#) implemented over the last year, combined with the enhanced resources dedicated to this effort, have reduced the time associated with addressing and resolving WHOIS inaccuracy complaints, and have resulted in a greater collaboration with registrars.

Highlights of the Compliance Department’s activities include:

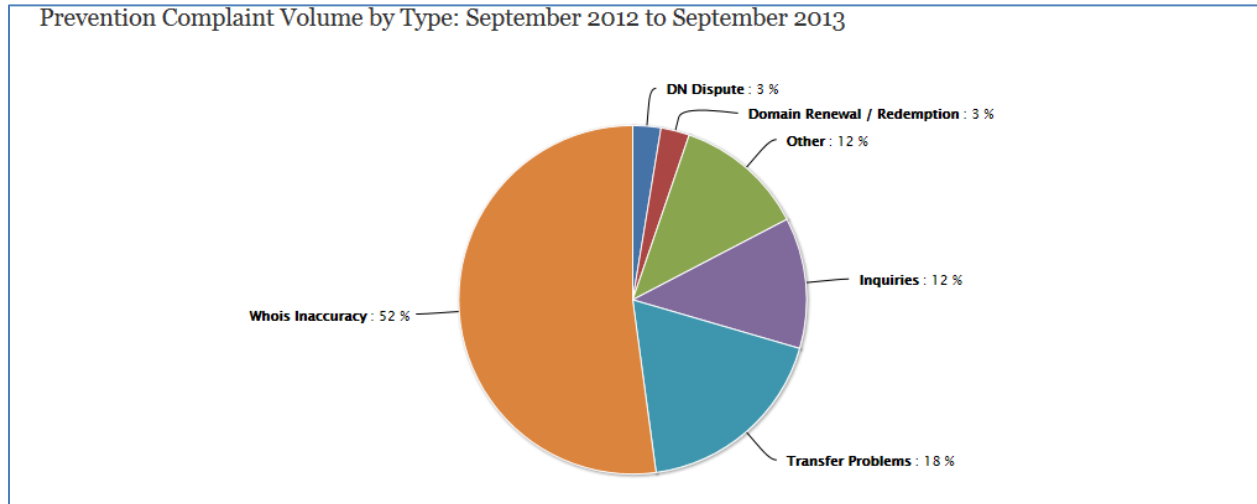
### Accomplishments

- Automation of Compliance Processes - Faster Results
  - WHOIS Inaccuracy Complaints – Less Than 25 Days from 65 Days
- Improved Processing Quality - Fact Based Decisions
  - Proof of Registrar “Reasonable Steps” Taken to Investigate a WHOIS Inaccuracy Complaint
- Improved User Experience with Guidance
  - WHOIS Inaccuracy Information and FAQs in 6 UN languages
  - Feedback Sought for Continuous Improvement
  - Pulse Survey E-Mailed at the Closure of a Complaint
- Additional features for WHOIS Inaccuracy Complaints
  - Multiple Complaints on One Form
  - Bulk Submissions
- Successful completion of Year-1 Audit Program
  - Including, Examining WHOIS Inaccuracy Responses by Registrar

More details on the activities of the Compliance Department are available in its [monthly updates](#), [annual reports](#), and [community outreach](#) presentations. Today, the ICANN Community has

greater access to reports and information than has ever been made public before, through the compliance metrics reported through <https://myicann.org/compliance>.

Here are a few examples of these reports:



[Myicann.org](https://myicann.org) also provides easy access to statistics regarding the volume of WHOIS complaints handled and the nature of enforcement actions undertaken against registrars:



## ICANN Contractual Compliance Report for September 2012 - September 2013

[Previous: Complaint Enforcement](#)

Report 5 of 9

[Next: Global Complaint Counts by TLD](#)

### Enforcement Notices by Registrar

Registrar	Notices by Status
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*GNSO Policy Work on WHOIS Continues*



*The EWG contemplates replacements to WHOIS*

## VII. Details, Milestones & Deliverables

ICANN's [Action Plan](#) includes numerous commitments to address the recommendations of the WHOIS Review Team as presented in its [Final Report](#). A cross functional team led by ICANN's Strategic Initiatives Department is working closely together to meet and exceed these commitments. The latest details on the activities surrounding this project, including implementation activities, milestones and key deliverables, are included in the chart posted in [Annex A](#).

## VIII. Call for Community Involvement

Some improvements sought by the WHOIS Review Team require collaboration and policy development from the ICANN Community, especially in the areas of internationalized registration data. ICANN's bottom-up multi-stakeholder approach to policy-making brings together affected stakeholders to develop necessary changes to WHOIS policy and implementation for these important issues.

Today, policy work targeting WHOIS reform continues through the many volunteers sharing their expertise to contribute in the following topics:

- GNSO Thick WHOIS Policy Development Process (PDP)
- GNSO PDP on Privacy and Proxy Accreditation Issues
- GNSO PDP on Translation/Transliteration of Registration Data
- Expert Group on Internationalized Registration Data

to name just a few. The policies and recommendations arising from these processes will inform ICANN's future reforms to the WHOIS system.

## IX Next Generation of Directory Services

In addition to initiating widespread reforms to WHOIS, the ICANN Board's mandate in November 2012 launched a parallel effort to help resolve the nearly decade-long deadlock within the ICANN Community on how to



replace the current WHOIS system, which the WHOIS Review Team noted is widely regarded as “broken.” The Expert Working Group’s (EWG) mandate is to reexamine and define the purpose of collecting and maintaining gTLD directory services, consider how to safeguard the data, and propose a next generation solution that will better serve the needs of the global Internet community.

On 24 June 2013, the EWG [published](#) its [Initial Report](#), [Frequently Asked Questions](#), and an [online questionnaire](#), and kicked off an extensive consultation process within the ICANN Community on its initial recommendations. When the EWG concludes its deliberations with the delivery of its Final Report, the ICANN Board will evaluate its recommendations and consider the next steps for this work. This is expected to include follow-up policy work for the GNSO.




**Annex A- Implementation Milestones Chart**

**Implementation Status of the Board Approved<sup>1</sup> WHOIS Review Team Final Report Recommendations As of 4 November 2013**

**Key:**  
**Complete**    ✓ or    ●  
**In Progress**    ○ or    ●  
**In Planning**    ◇ or    ●


	Topic	Summary of Implementation activities	Milestones & Due Dates
WHOIS - Strategic Priority			
1.a	WHOIS as a strategic priority	<p>WHOIS emphasized Strategic Plan and funded in the <a href="#">FY14 Budget</a></p> <p>New five year Strategic Plan under development to identify ICANN’s key strategic initiatives</p> <p>Expanded Compliance Team under CEO</p> <p>Strategic Initiatives Team addressing WHOIS</p> <p>WHOIS Highlighted in Toronto CEO Opening Speech</p> <p>ICANN’s Adoption of the WHOIS RT recommendations</p> <p>CEO overseeing improvements to WHOIS obligations in contracts, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adoption of new 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement includes many compliance &amp; WHOIS related enhancements</li> </ul>	<p>✓ <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> 2012-2015 <a href="#">approved</a> 6 May 2012</p> <p>✓ FY 14 Budget to be <a href="#">approved by the Board</a> by Aug 2013</p> <p>✓ New 5 Year <a href="#">Strategy Plan process</a> launched April 2013</p> <p>✓ Draft of Proposed 5 Year Strategy Plan <a href="#">posted for public comment</a> 29 Oct 2013</p> <p>◇ <a href="#">Final 5 Year Strategy Plan</a> to be approved by ICANN Board – 21 June 2014</p> <p>✓ <a href="#">Announcement</a> of Vice President of Contractual Compliance reporting to the CEO- 14 Sept 2012</p> <p>✓ Vice President of Strategic Initiatives responsible for WHOIS- 15 Nov 2012</p> <p>✓ President’s Opening Session-<a href="#">Fadi Charts the Course</a> 15 Oct 2012</p> <p>✓ <a href="#">Board resolution</a> on 8 Nov 2012 adopts <a href="#">Action Plan</a></p> <p>✓ <a href="#">Board resolution</a> adopts <a href="#">new 2013 RAA</a> - 27 June 2013</p> <p>✓ <a href="#">Implementation</a> of new RAA commenced - 27 June 2013</p> <p>✓ <a href="#">Advisory</a> published on new WHOIS Format and Fields</p> <p>✓ Transition Period – certain WHOIS obligations under the 2013 RAA, such as validation to be effective 1/1/14</p>



<sup>1</sup> This Summary highlights ICANN’s progress 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 Review Team Final Report](#).

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Adoption of New gTLD Registry Agreement requires registrars to use 2013 RAA and incorporates many WHOIS improvements</li> <li>○ 2013 RAA to be transitioned in existing registry agreements through renewals of registry agreements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Registrars sign new 2013 RAA (2013 - 2018); List of Registrars on the 2013 RAA available <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>✓ Board's New gTLD Program Committee <a href="#">adopts</a> new Registry <a href="#">Agreement</a>- 2 July 2013</li> <li>○ New gTLD Registries sign new registry agreements. List of registries available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">ICANN's renewal Agreements</a> with .ORG, .INFO and .BIZ to require its registrars to transition to 2013 RAA</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">ICANN Board approved renewals</a> of .org, .biz and .info – 22 Aug 2013</li> <li>✓ New registry agreements for .org, .biz and .info signed 22 Aug 2013</li> </ul>
1.b 	ICANN Staff incentivization	<p>Staff is incentivized through ICANN's compensation system, as WHOIS projects are identified in both At-Task and the management system</p> <p>CEO compensation is based on the overall goals and objectives of the entire organization and set forth in At-Task</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ WHOIS Related Projects in at-task published in <a href="#">myicann.org</a> in July 2013</li> <li>✓ Updates to <a href="#">projects</a> listed in myicann.org to take place periodically to provide transparency on project status</li> </ul>
1.c 	Board involvement in Whois improvements	Board receives updates with regard to WHOIS related activities and implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Compliance presented the 3-year plan at ICANN board retreat – 7 Feb 2012</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Board's financial approval of the Compliance Dept.'s audit program</a> - 3 October 2012</li> <li>✓ gTLD Whois Update during the board workshop – 1 Feb 2013</li> <li>✓ Updates on WHOIS Compliance and Expert Working Group (EWG) progress at Board workshop in Sept 2013</li> <li>○ Board Informational Paper on Status of WHOIS Implementation for Buenos Aires Meeting- Nov 2013</li> </ul>
1.d 	Public Status of Implementation	The public is kept closely apprised of implementation progress through regular updates, announcements on icann.org, blog posts, updates at ICANN meetings, and webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <a href="#">Pre-Beijing Policy Update webinar</a> – 21 March 2013</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Blog on WHOIS Implementation</a>- 27 March 2013</li> <li>✓ ICANN Beijing Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RAA and New GTLD Agreement</a> – 8 April 2013</li> <li>• <a href="#">Update on Restful WHOIS</a> – 10 April 2013</li> <li>• <a href="#">Compliance Update</a> 10 April 2013</li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Blog on publication of single WHOIS policy page</a> – 15 April 2013</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Webinar on WHOIS Implementation Update</a> – 24 April 2013</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Webinar on Proposed Final 2013 RAA</a> – 6 May 2013</li> <li>✓ WHOIS Related Projects in at-task published in <a href="#">myicann.org</a> in July 2013</li> <li>✓ <a href="#">Pre- Durban Policy Update Webinar</a> – 27 Jun3 2013</li> <li>✓ ICANN Durban Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Compliance Update</a> on 17 July 13</li> <li>• <a href="#">RAA Update</a> to the <a href="#">GNSO 13 July 13</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>✓ ICANN <a href="#">Blog Regarding Registrar Outreach on New 2013 RAA</a> events 19 Sept 2013</li> <li>○ ICANN Buenos Aires Sessions:</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improving WHOIS, an Update 21 Nov 2013</li> <li>Contractual Compliance Program Update 20 Nov 2013</li> </ul> <p>√ Status of Improvements published in new <a href="#">WHOIS Website Beta</a></p>
2	<b>Single WHOIS Policy</b>	<p>Single Page contains links to all WHOIS related agreements and consensus policies</p> <p>Update needed to incorporate new obligations in the 2013 RAA, New gTLD Registry Agreements and .info and .biz Registry Agreement renewals</p> <p>Overall “easy to read” Digest of WHOIS service</p>	<p>√ <a href="#">Single Page</a> completed April 2013</p> <p>√ <a href="#">Blog announcement</a> informed the public of its publication 15 April 2013</p> <p>○ Estimate 15 Nov 2013</p> <p>○ Estimate 30 Nov 2013 for publication in new <a href="#">WHOIS Informational Website</a></p>
3	<b>Outreach</b> -- ICANN should ensure that WHOIS policy issues are accompanied by cross-community outreach	<p>New 2013 RAA includes requirements to link to Registrant Benefits &amp; Responsibilities Document, written in simple language to educate registrants on obligations related to WHOIS</p> <p>ICANN Staff conducting global outreach to registrars to educate them on new 2013 RAA requirements</p>	<p>√ <a href="#">New Registrant Benefits &amp; Responsibilities Document</a> part of new 2013 RAA – 27 June 2013, to be made available by Registrars and Resellers to registrants and to be posted in the <a href="#">new WHOIS Informational Website</a></p> <p>√ Activities related to implementation for new WHOIS obligations under the 2013 RAA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Durban Presentation to GNSO 13 July 2013</li> <li>Advisory published on the New WHOIS Format and Fields required -31 July 2013</li> </ul> <p>√ Additional Registrar outreach activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An in-person two-day educational outreach session, geared toward registrars operational staff, held in Los Angeles on 22-23 August 2013, and steamed live, via Adobe Connect</li> <li>An in-person two-day educational outreach session, in Xiamen, China, on 26-27 August 2013. This session will be conducted in English and Chinese (via live translation)</li> <li>An in-person two-day educational outreach session held in Berlin in 23-24 September 2013</li> <li>An in-person educational one- to two-day educational outreach session, to be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, following the November 2013 ICANN meeting (at the same venue, with real time English-Spanish translation services)</li> <li>A dedicated 2013 RAA registrar support email address and ticketing system created</li> <li>Extensive updates to the formerly, 2009 RAA Registrar Training Program content to apply to 2013 RAA</li> <li>A series of webinars addressing some of the newer, and more complex, areas of the new agreement.</li> <li>A process and form for registrars to request a</li> </ul>



		<p>ICANN Contractual Compliance Staff conducting outreach in Asia Pacific, highlighting WHOIS obligations in native languages</p> <p>Communications Team planning outreach activities tied to the launch of the new WHOIS Website <i>Beta</i></p>	<p>waiver of data retention obligations due to conflicts with local privacy laws (as set forth in the Data Retention Specification)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing collaboration with a registrar working group to identify feasible tools for registrar validation of Whois data</li> <li>• Updates to the Registrar Data Escrow arrangement with Iron Mountain to take into account the new requirement to escrow the underlying customer data of Whois proxy and privacy services</li> </ul> <p>√ ICANN <a href="#">Blog Regarding Registrar Outreach on New 2013 RAA</a> events 19 Sept 2013</p> <p>√ <a href="#">Beijing Outreach to Registrars</a> from Compliance Dept. 6 April 2013</p> <p>√ North America Registrar Meeting held on 22 and 23 August 2013 in Los Angeles, USA</p> <p>√ Asia Pacific Registrar Meeting held on 26 and 27 August 2013 in Xiamen, China</p> <p>√ European Registrar Meeting held on 23 and 24 September 2013 in Berlin, Germany</p> <p>√ Updated Complaints</p> <p>√ Additional information available on other Compliance Dept. <a href="#">recent outreach activities</a></p> <p>○ Implementation of Communications Plan to commence with the WHOIS Website</p>
<p>4</p> 	<p><b>Contractual Compliance</b> -- managed in accordance with best practice principles</p>	<p>Vice President of Contractual Compliance (Maguy Serad) appointed to report directly to the CEO</p> <p>New Compliance complaint handling systems &amp; procedures implemented</p> <p>Greater visibility on WHOIS related metrics and improvements to Compliance processes and results</p>	<p>√ <a href="#">Announcement</a> of Vice President of Compliance reporting to the CEO- 14 Sept 2012</p> <p>√ Migrated internic.org <a href="#">complaints to icann.org</a> - June 2013</p> <p>√ Completed automation of <a href="#">complaints process</a> - June 2013</p> <p>√ Pilot testing bulk Complaints submission process - July 2013 thru October 2013; Completed, evaluated and will resume in production 1 November 2013.</p> <p>√ Added Pulse Survey in complaint closure email to both the contracted parties and the reporter (complainant).</p> <p>√ <a href="#">Monthly Compliance Updates</a> published on icann.org</p> <p>√ Monthly reporting of <a href="#">compliance related metrics</a> through myicann.org</p> <p>√ ICANN Durban 47 <a href="#">Session on Contractual Compliance Update</a> highlights WHOIS results</p> <p>√ Updated Complaints submission processes to address new 2013 RAA requirements – 31 Oct 2013</p>

		<p>New 3 year Compliance Program to focus on key registrar/registry obligations, including WHOIS</p> <p>Compliance Staffing levels have increased substantially and resources allocated to additional headcount</p>	<p>√ Compliance <a href="#">2012 Annual Report published</a> – 3 February 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Future <a href="#">Annual Reports</a> to be published on an annual basis</li> </ul> <p>√ Launched a three-year Audit Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Year 1 launched Sept 2012</li> <li>○ 2012 Compliance Year One Audit Report Published 25 June 2013</li> <li>○ Second Year of audit Program under way – due November 2014</li> <li>○ Three Year Audit Program to be completed by November 2015</li> </ul> <p>√ Additional Compliance Dept. <a href="#">recent outreach activities</a></p> <p>√ Current Staff counts: 18 Staff members, covering the following languages: Arabic, English, French, Hindi, Korean, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Turkish, Uzbek, German and Urdu</p> <p>√ Compliance Staff levels <a href="#">published</a> and updated regularly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For FY14, the Compliance Department has approval to add one additional head-count, and is planning through these positions to establish global presence in ICANN’s hub offices</li> </ul>
	<b>Data Accuracy</b>		
5	 <p>WHOIS requirements for accurate data widely and pro-actively communicated</p>	<p>See answers to #3 &amp; 10.</p> <p>Staff developed a <a href="#">WHOIS Informational Website</a> to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Provide historical record of WHOIS</li> <li>● Consolidate WHOIS policy documentation</li> <li>● Provide mechanisms to teach people how to use WHOIS</li> <li>● Provide mechanisms for people to submit complaints as they relate to WHOIS data</li> <li>● Direct people to the appropriate channels to become engaged in the community on WHOIS related topics</li> <li>● Educate registrants on WHOIS, their rights and responsibilities</li> <li>● Provide a Knowledge Center where key WHOIS related documents can be located</li> </ul>	<p>See answers to #3 &amp; 10.</p> <p>√ FY14 Budget request includes funds for development of WHOIS Informational Website &amp; WHOIS Search Portal</p> <p>√ Completed requirements gathering for WHOIS Informational Website – July 2013</p> <p>√ Development of WHOIS Information Website – July – Oct 2013</p> <p>√ Beta Launch for WHOIS Informational Website – (Oct 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public launch of <a href="#">WHOIS Informational Website</a> – (Nov 4 2013)</li> <li>○ Public Launch of foreign translations of <a href="#">WHOIS Information Website</a> (4 Nov 2013)</li> <li>○ Communications Plan kick-off for roll-out of <a href="#">WHOIS Informational Website</a> (Nov 2013)</li> </ul>
6	 <p>ICANN should take appropriate measures to reduce the number of WHOIS registrations that fall into the accuracy groups “Substantial Failure</p>	<p>To address this recommendation, the Board directed the CEO to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) proactively identify potentially inaccurate gTLD data registration information in gTLD registry and registrar services, explore using automated tools, and forward potentially inaccurate records to gTLD registrars for action; and</li> <li>2) publicly report on the resulting actions to encourage improved accuracy.</li> </ol>	<p>See answers to #7 &amp; 11 below for information on the statistics on accuracy to be gathered in connection with the new WHOIS Search Portal</p>

# WHOIS Improvements 2013 Annual Report



	and Full Failure"	In implementing the Board's direction, ICANN is developing online WHOIS search and data accuracy reporting functionality to be part on the new WHOIS portal, as described below in #7 & 11.	
7	Annual WHOIS accuracy reports	<p>Staff developing a WHOIS Accuracy Sampling and Reporting System using the methodology of the NORC Study</p> <p>To accomplish the requested analysis, Staff's work is focusing on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Statistical methodology</li> <li>2. Access to WHOIS records</li> <li>3. Parser to automate contact data extraction</li> <li>4. Automated address verification</li> <li>5. Call center to call all sampled records.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Completion of preliminary assessment of implementing a statistical analysis program (2013)</li> <li>√ Evaluation of costs associated with telephone validation, using businesses in the identify verification businesses (15 September 2013) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review proposals from outside vendors to conduct statistical reporting Oct/Nov 2013</li> <li>○ Select vendor &amp; contract for statistical reporting – estimated 15 Dec 3013</li> <li>○ Finalize and propose the statistical analysis and record verification and validation methodology along with estimated costs (date to be determined (TBD))</li> <li>◇ Development of systems to gather the data needed to perform the statistical analysis (date TBD)</li> <li>◇ Publish initial annual accuracy report (date TBD), and updates annually</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8	ICANN should ensure that there is a clear, unambiguous and enforceable chain of contractual agreements	<p>See answers to #1.a above.</p> <p>New 2013 RAA includes additional enforcement provisions and sanctions applicable to registrars, registrants, and resellers with regards to WHOIS.</p> <p>New gTLD Registry Agreements include enhanced WHOIS obligations</p> <p>Renewals of existing GTLDs to include enhanced WHOIS obligations</p>	See answers to #1.a above.
9	<b>Compliance Metrics:</b> Impact of the annual WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP)	<p>The Board's Resolution addressing the WHOIS Review Team Recommendations offered alternative approach to achieving the intended result of this recommendation.</p> <p>See answers to #5- 7 above</p>	See answers to #5 - 7 above.
10	<b>Data Access – Privacy and Proxy Services</b> -- ICANN should initiate processes to regulate and oversee privacy and proxy service providers	<p>Adopted 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement, includes many new obligations related to privacy/proxy providers, and commits ICANN to create a privacy/proxy accreditation program</p> <p>GNSO PDP to be commenced shortly to examine policy issues related to privacy/proxy services</p> <p>Consensus policy, if produced out of the PDP would become binding upon contracted parties, when adopted by Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ <a href="#">Board resolution</a> adopts <a href="#">new 2013 RAA</a> - 27 June 2013</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Implementation</a> of new RAA commenced- 27 June 2013</li> <li>√ Transition Period – certain WHOIS obligations, such as validation to be effective 1/1/14</li> <li>√ Transition Period – <a href="#">Interim Specification on privacy/proxy services</a> in effect until 1/1/17 to allow for privacy/proxy accreditation program to be developed and PDP to be concluded</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Staff Report on the Conclusion of the RAA negotiations</a> 16 Sept 2013</li> <li>√ GNSO PDP on Privacy/Proxy Services expected commencement Oct 2013</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Charter for PDP on Privacy/Proxy Services to be approved by GNSO 31 Oct 2013</a></li> <li>◇ PDP Initial Report estimated - ICANN Singapore Meeting (Mar 2014)</li> </ul>



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		<p>Staff Implementation work to develop the operational aspects of the Privacy/Proxy Accreditation Program to be conducted in parallel with GNSO PDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ PDP Final Report estimated - ICANN London Meeting (June 2014)</li> <li>◇ GNSO approval of PDP recommendations estimated July 2014</li> <li>◇ Board Approval of PDP recommendations estimated Aug/Sept 2014</li> <li>◇ ICANN Staff analysis of the operational aspects of the Privacy/Proxy Accreditation Program - Jan 2014</li> <li>◇ ICANN Staff Initial Recommendations on Accreditation Framework Report to be published for public comment/consultation – ICANN Singapore Meeting (Mar 2014)</li> </ul>
11	<p><b>Data Access – Common Interface.</b> Overhaul of the Internic Service.</p>	<p>WHOIS Inaccuracy complaints migrated by the Compliance Dept. and automated</p> <p>ICANN is currently working on a comprehensive WHOIS Portal, with development to occur in two phases to overhaul the Internic service:</p> <p><b>Phase 1-</b> Launch of WHOIS Informational Website (see description above in #5)</p> <p><b>Phase 2-</b> Launch of WHOIS Online Search Portal to offer a place where people could initiate a search of global WHOIS records</p> <p>Communications Plan to be coordinated with launch of each phase</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Migrated internic.org <a href="http://complaints.to.icann.org">complaints to icann.org</a> June 2013</li> <li>√ Completed automation of <a href="#">complaints process</a>- June 2013</li> <li>√ WHOIS Informational Website (Phase I) scoped July 2013</li> <li>√ Beta Launch for <a href="#">WHOIS Informational Website</a> - Oct 2013</li> <li>○ Formal Launch of <a href="#">WHOIS Informational Website</a> (Phase I) estimated 4 Nov 2013</li> <li>○ Communications Plan to be kicked off for Phase I (4 Nov 2013)</li> <li>√ Scoping of WHOIS Search Portal (Phase II) - Sept/Oct 2013</li> <li>○ Publication of Implementation Plan for WHOIS Search Portal for public comment- estimated 15 Nov 2013</li> <li>○ Beta Launch for WHOIS Search Portal (Phase II) – (Jan 2014)</li> <li>◇ Formal Launch of WHOIS Search Portal (Phase II) - (Feb 2014)</li> <li>◇ Communications Plan to be kicked off for Phase II (Feb 2014)</li> </ul>
	<b>Internationalized Domain Names</b>		
12	<p>Determine appropriate internationalized domain name registration (IRD) data requirements</p>	<p>IETF WEIRDS Working Group currently evaluating technical protocols</p> <p>Once adopted by the IETF, new gTLD Registry Agreement and New 2013 RAA include commitments to adopt new protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ WEIRDS to finalize new protocol estimated Sept 2014</li> <li>◇ WEIRDS final solution to be implemented into the contracts estimated December 2014</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Board resolution</a> adopts <a href="#">new 2013 RAA</a> - 27 June 2013</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Implementation</a> of new RAA commenced- 27 June 2013</li> <li>√ Board’s New gTLD Program Committee <a href="#">adopts new Registry Agreement</a>- 2 July 2013</li> <li>√ <a href="#">ICANN’s renewal Agreements</a> with .ORG, .INFO and .BIZ to require its registrars to transition to 2013 RAA</li> <li>√ <a href="#">ICANN Board approved renewals</a> of .org, .biz and</li> </ul>

		<p>ICANN is also in the process of tasking a team to work on the IRD requirements; the final product will be dependent upon the conclusion of the GNSO PDP on translation/transliteration described in #13 below.</p> <p>ICANN is commissioning a Study to Evaluate Available Solutions for the Submission and Display of Internationalized Contact Data</p>	<p>.info – Aug 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ New registry agreements for .org, .biz and .info signed 22 Aug 2013</li> <li>○ Registrars sign new 2013 RAA (2013 - 2018); List of Registrars on the 2013 RAA available <a href="#">here</a>,</li> <li>○ New gTLD Registries sign new registry agreements. List of registries available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul> <p>√ <a href="#">Announcement for IRD Team</a> - 8 July 2013, including a <a href="#">call for applicants</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Application process closed 16 August 2013</li> <li>√ IRD Team selected - September 2013</li> <li>○ IRD Team analysis under way</li> <li>◇ Initial Report of IRD Team estimated after the Buenos Aires Meeting</li> <li>◇ Initial Model of IRD Team estimated 12/31/13</li> <li>◇ Final Report of IRD Team estimated June 2014</li> <li>◇ Board Approval of IRD recommendations - estimated Sept 2014</li> </ul> <p>√ Terms of Reference for a Study to Evaluate Available Solutions issued – June 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Responses received &amp; contractors identified</li> <li>○ Contractor to commence work- Nov 2013</li> <li>◇ Preliminary Report - estimated 14 Mar 2014</li> <li>◇ Final Report estimated - June 2014</li> </ul>
13	Requirements for translation/transliteration of internationalized registration data	<p>Issue of Translation/Transliteration is being explored as a policy matter within the GNSO Council Consensus policy, if produced out of the PDP would become binding upon contracted parties, when adopted by Board</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ <a href="#">Preliminary GNSO Issue Report</a> published 8 January 2013</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Final GNSO Issue Report</a> published 21 March 2013</li> <li>√ GNSO <a href="#">approves the commencement of the PDP</a> on translation/transliteration of Registration Data – 13 June 2013</li> <li>○ Charter for PDP WG to be approved by GNSO estimated 31 Oct 2013 PDP Initial Report estimated June 2014</li> <li>◇ PDP Final Report estimated December 2014</li> <li>◇ GNSO approval of PDP recommendations - estimated Jan 2015</li> <li>◇ Board Approval of PDP recommendations - estimated Mar 2015</li> </ul>
14	Metrics on accuracy internationalized registration data	<p>IDN WHOIS Records to be proactively identified once the work referenced in #12 and #13 is complete</p>	<p>IDN WHOIS Records to be proactively identified once the work referenced in #12 and #13 is complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◇ Scoping of requirements once the work in #12 and #13 is concluded - estimated 2015</li> <li>◇ Resources and schedule to be developed – estimated 2015</li> </ul>
15	Comprehensive Implementation Plan for implementing the Final WHOIS Review Team	<p>ICANN Staff developed and published its proposed plan, which was adopted by the ICANN Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>√ Staff proposed Action Plan delivered in the <a href="#">briefing materials</a> submitted to the Board</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Board resolution</a> on 8 Nov 2012</li> <li>√ <a href="#">Action Plan</a> adopted 9 Nov 2012</li> </ul>

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	report		
16	Publication of Annual Reports on Implementation of WHOIS RT Recommendations	ICANN plans to publish first Annual Report one year after the Board's approval of the WHOIS Review Team Final Report recommendations	√ Publication of First Annual Report – 4 Nov 2013