Recommendations 3: Outreach

Implementation Briefing for RDS2 Review Team
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RDS/WHOIS1 Review Team's Recommendation 3: Outreach

ICANN should ensure that WHOIS policy issues are accompanied by cross-community outreach, including outreach to the communities outside of ICANN with a specific interest in the issues, and an ongoing program for consumer awareness.

ICANN Board Action

- The Board directs the CEO to have staff create an information portal with clear explanation of how to access the existing WHOIS information. The portal will also make it clear how to notify relevant parties of a data accuracy issue.

- The Board directs the CEO to have staff create and execute a communication and outreach plan that provides key stakeholders, including users, with the information they need to use, and help improve, the collection and maintenance of gTLD registration data.

ICANN Board's Rationale for Board Action

- The WHOIS information for domain names and IP registries is highly distributed. A single portal will make it easier to access WHOIS information, raise accuracy issues about WHOIS information, and allow contributions on WHOIS policies.

- In addition to supporting the use of WHOIS, communication and outreach is necessary to inform discussions of the fundamental questions raised by actions related to Recommendation 1.
Outreach Activities

whois.icann.org portal

A whois.icann.org portal was launched in 2013. The portal served as a centralized location for all WHOIS information, making it easier to learn about WHOIS, raise accuracy issues about WHOIS information and how to contribute to WHOIS policies. The portal is fully translated in the 6 UN language plus Portuguese. Specifically, the portal:

- Provides an overview of WHOIS
- Consolidates WHOIS policy documentation
- Provides mechanisms for people to submit complaints as they relate to WHOIS data
- Directs people to the appropriate channels to become engaged in the community on WHOIS-related topics
- Educates Registrants on WHOIS, their rights, and responsibilities
- Provides a knowledge center where key WHOIS-related documents can be located

A WHOIS Primer is also provided on the portal, which provides an introduction to WHOIS, its uses and requirements, dispute resolution procedures, and ongoing work to update or modify the WHOIS program.

This portal also offers a WHOIS look-up tool that allows users to find WHOIS data about any top-level and second-level domains registered on any gTLD under contract with ICANN. A link to report inaccurate data is available on the results page.

In the first six months of 2017, there were 8,211,382 page views of the portal, a 35% increase in page views over the previous six-month period. Of the 8,211,382 page views, 3,402,065 were unique views.

![Page Views and Unique Views](image_url)

WHOIS Portal Availability
Uptime for the WHOIS Portal has remained at 99.99% - for the last 30 days, 90 days and 365 days. Uptime information is available on the Accountability Indicators page, Objective 3, then goal 3.2.

Registrant education

ICANN provides registrants with educational materials to educate and inform them of their rights and responsibilities, the domain name ecosystem and how to navigate it, and the ICANN policies that impact them. One of the topics of the educational materials is information on the WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP) and the importance of keeping registration contact information up-to-date. ICANN org continues to provide and update educational materials for registrants. The materials are written for registrants and are translated in the 6 U.N. languages.

Registrar education

ICANN org offers Registrar training to all applicants and existing registrars via LEARN.ICANN.org. The ICANN Registrar Engagement team also provides one-on-one training for Registrars.

Updates on WHOIS related activities to ICANN community

ICANN org regularly provides updates to the ICANN community on the status of various WHOIS related activities at ICANN meetings. Links to these status update sessions are provided in the Useful Links section of this document.
Estimated ICANN Org Time Spent for Implementation

Content development and implementation of both the WHOIS portal and look-up tool took approximately six (6) months and 1.5 FTEs to complete.

Registrant educational activities are ongoing. There is one fully-dedicated FTE supporting the registrant program. In addition, there are work by various other departments and SMEs from across the organization in support of registrants.
Useful Links

RDS/WHOIS REVIEW TEAM 1
- WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report
- ICANN Action Plan For the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report
- Quarterly WHOIS recommendations implementations statuses updated quarterly and published on WHOIS Review Wiki page
  https://community.icann.org/display/WHO/WHOIS+Review+Implementation+Home

WHOIS PORTAL
- WHOIS Portal
  https://whois.icann.org/en
- WHOIS Knowledge Center
  https://whois.icann.org/en/knowledge-center
- WHOIS Portal Uptime Statistics
  https://www.icann.org/accountability-indicators
- Introducing the Beta Launch of the New ICANN WHOIS Lookup Tool
- Debut of the Beta Launch of the WHOIS Website - Phase 1

REGISTRANT AND REGISTRAR EDUCATION
- Registrant Page on icann.org
  https://www.icann.org/registrants
- Registrant Contact Information and the ICANN WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP)
  https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/registrant-contact-information-wdrp-2017-08-31-en
- ICANN Announcement: Informed and Active Domain Name Registrants are Essential for a Secure and Stable DNS (June 2017)
ICANN Announcement: 5 Things Every Domain Name Registrant Should Know About the ICANN WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/5-things-registrants-know-wdrp-2017-08-30-en

https://www.icann.org/news/blog/do-you-have-a-domain-name-here-s-what-you-need-to-know-part-1
https://www.icann.org/news/blog/do-you-have-a-domain-name-here-s-what-you-need-to-know-part-3
https://www.icann.org/news/blog/do-you-have-a-domain-name-here-s-what-you-need-to-know-part-4

ICANN UPDATES ON WHOIS TO THE COMMUNITY

ICANN Announcement: Whois Registrant Identification Study, Draft Report (February 2013)


ICANN Announcement: Proposed Final 2013 RAA (April 2013)


ICANN Announcement: Whois Information Status Policy (May 2013)

ICANN46: Thick Whois Policy Development Process - F2F Meeting

ICANN46: RESTful Whois

ICANN46: IDN Variant TLD Program

ICANN46: Next Generation - gTLD Directory Services

Webinar: Whois Registrant ID Study Webinar Invitation (May 2013)
- ICANN Announcement: Draft Final Report on Universal Acceptance of IDN TLDs (June 2013)  

- ICANN Announcement: Thick Whois Initial Report – GNSO Policy Development Process (June 2013)  

- ICANN Announcement: Whois Registrant Identification Study Published (June 2013)  

- Webinar: Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) Variant TLD Program Update (June 2013)  

- Webinar: TMCH & IDNs (June 2013)  

- ICANN47: Replacing WHOIS - The Next Generation Directory Services  

- ICANN47: IDN Variant TLDs Program  

- ICANN47: IDN Variant TLDs Program  

- ICANN Announcement: Registrar Implementation of the 2013 RAA’s Whois Requirements (July 2013)  

- ICANN Announcement: Expert Volunteers Needed to Define Requirements for Internationalized Registration Data and Corresponding Data Model for gTLD Registries (July 2013)  

- ICANN Announcement: ICANN Whois Privacy/Proxy Abuse Study Findings Webinar Invitation (September 2013)  

- ICANN Announcement: Study on Whois Privacy & Proxy Service Abuse (September 2013)  

- ICANN Announcement: Preliminary Issue Report on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information (January 2013)  
ICANN48: Exploring Replacements for WHOIS - The Next Generation Directory Services

ICANN48: Improving WHOIS - An Update

ICANN48: IDN Variant TLDs Program

ICANN Announcement: Thick Whois Policy Development Process (PDP) Recommendations for Board Consideration (November 2013)

ICANN Announcement: ICANN Launches WHOIS Website Beta (November 2013)

ICANN Announcement: Study on Whois Misuse (November 2013)

ICANN Announcement: 2013 RAA | Frequently Asked Questions (November 2013)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/faqs-2013-11-26-en

ICANN Announcement: Debut of the Beta Launch of the WHOIS Website – Phase I (November 2013)

https://www.icann.org/news/blog/update-on-the-work-of-the-expert-working-group

ICANN Announcement: WHOIS Resources Enhanced by New WHOIS Primer and Global Lookup Tool (January 2014)

ICANN Announcement: Whois Service Level Agreement (SLA) (January 2014)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/sla-2014-01-29-en

ICANN Announcement: IDN Announcements and Blogs Posts (February 2014)

ICANN Announcement: Help Reinvent WHOIS | Fact Finding by the EWG (February 2014)
https://www.icann.org/news/blog/help-reinvent-whois-fact-finding-by-the-ewgnformation About GNSO-Approved gTLD Whois Studies
- ICANN Announcement: The 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement – What You Need to Know (February 2014)  
- ICANN Announcement: Current Information About GNSO Approved gTLD WHOIS Studies (March 2014)  
  http://gnso.icann.org/group-activities/other/whois/studies
- ICANN Announcement: A Model for Exploring WHOIS Accuracy (March 2014)  
  https://www.icann.org/news/blog/a-model-for-exploring-whois-accuracy
- ICANN49: Exploring Replacements for WHOIS - The Next Generation Directory Services  
- ICANN49: IDN Variant TLDs Program  
- ICANN49: IDN Root Zone LGR Public Workshop - Integration & Generation Panels  
- ICANN Announcement: Expert Working Group (EWG) & Reinventing WHOIS – Read, Discuss, Get Involved! (June 2014)  
  https://www.icann.org/news/blog/expert-working-group-ewg-reinventing-whois-read-discuss-get-involved
- ICANN Announcement: EWG Recommends a Replacement for WHOIS (June 2014)  
  https://www.icann.org/news/blog/ewg-recommends-a-replacement-for-whois
- ICANN50: GAC Meeting: ICANN Overview on WHOIS  
- ICANN50: Thick Whois Consensus Policy Implementation Meeting  
- ICANN50: GAC Meeting: New gTLD Compliance & Implementation of GAC Safeguard Advice  
- ICANN50: IDN Root Zone LGR Generation Panels Workshop  
- ICANN50: IDN Variant TLDs Program

- ICANN Announcement: Additional Whois Information Policy (July 2014)
  https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/policy-awip-2014-07-02-en

- ICANN51: GAC Meeting: WHOIS

- ICANN51: All Things WHOIS - Now and in the Future

- ICANN51: Thick WHOIS Implementation (Working Session)

- ICANN51: Deploying the IETF's WHOIS Replacement

- ICANN51: IDN Program Update

- ICANN51: IDN Root Zone LGR Workshop

- ICANN51: Global Domains Division (GDD) Update

- ICANN52: Whois Clarifications

- ICANN52: Thick Whois Implementation - Meeting with IRT

- ICANN52: All Things WHOIS

- ICANN52: IDN Root Zone LGR Workshop

- ICANN52: IDN Program Update

- ICANN52: Registrars AFAV WG (Across-field Address Validation Working Group) [C]

- ICANN Announcement: WHOIS: Continuous Improvements in the Works (June 2015)
  https://www.icann.org/news/blog/whois-continuous-improvements-in-the-works
- ICANN Announcement: WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System Update (June 2015)
  https://www.icann.org/news/blog/whois-accuracyreporting-system-update

- ICANN53: Whois Accuracy Specification Review Discussion [C]

- ICANN53: Next Steps for Whois Accuracy Reporting

- ICANN53: Thick Whois Policy Implementation-Meeting with the IRT

- ICANN53: IDN Program Update

- ICANN53: IDN Root Zone LGR Workshop

- ICANN Announcement: What’s Up with WHOIS? (October 2015)
  https://www.icann.org/news/blog/what-s-up-with-whois

- ICANN54: Whois Review Team International Registration Data Expert WG
  https://meetings.icann.org/en/dublin54/schedule/sun-whois-review-ird

- ICANN54: Thick Whois Policy Implementation - IRT Meeting
  https://meetings.icann.org/en/dublin54/schedule/wed-thick-whois-irt

- ICANN54: IDN Program Update
  https://meetings.icann.org/en/dublin54/schedule/wed-idn

- ICANN54: IDN Root Zone LGR Workshop
  https://meetings.icann.org/en/dublin54/schedule/wed-lgr

- ICANN54: Global Domains Division Update
  https://meetings.icann.org/en/dublin54/schedule/mon-gdd


- ICANN Announcement: Registrar Data Escrow Program (December 2015)

- ICANN Announcement: Syntax and Operability Accuracy of WHOIS Data in gTLDs Presented in Accuracy Reporting System Phase 2 Report (December 2015)

ICANN55: Thick Whois Policy Implementation - Meeting with the IRT
https://meetings.icann.org/en/marrakech55/schedule/sun-thick-whois-irt

ICANN55: IDN Program Update
https://meetings.icann.org/en/marrakech55/schedule/wed-idn

ICANN55: IDN Root Zone LGR Workshop
https://meetings.icann.org/en/marrakech55/schedule/wed-lgr

ICANN55: Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) Implementation
https://meetings.icann.org/en/marrakech55/schedule/mon-rdap-implementation

ICANN56: Thick Whois Policy Implementation - Meeting with the IRT: Session 1 of 2

ICANN56: Thick Whois Policy Implementation - Meeting with the IRT: Session 1 of 2

ICANN56: Thick Whois Policy Implementation - Meeting with the IRT: Session 2 of 2

ICANN56: Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues
https://icann562016.sched.com/event/7FEY/privacy-and-proxy-services-accreditation-issues

ICANN Announcement: Call for Volunteers for the Registration Directory Service (formerly WHOIS) Review Team (October 2016)

ICANN57: RDS/WHOIS and Domain Abuse (via PSWG)

ICANN57: Update on WHOIS-Related Initiatives
https://icann572016.sched.com/event/8cyZ/update-on-whois-related-initiatives

ICANN57: Thick WHOIS Implementation Review Team Meeting
https://icann572016.sched.com/event/8dQY/thick-whois-implementation-review-team-meeting
ICANN57: Internationalized Domain Name Workshop on Root Zone Label Generation Rules

ICANN57: Internationalized Domain Name Program Update
https://icann572016.sched.com/event/8dPX/internationalized-domain-name-program-update

ICANN57: Internationalized Domain Name Implementation Guidelines Working Group Meeting
https://icann572016.sched.com/event/8cwK/internationalized-domain-name-implementation-guidelines-working-group-meeting

Regional Newsletters: New Report Presents Accuracy of WHOIS Data in gTLDs (January 2017)

ICANN Announcement: Registry Registration Data Directory Services Consistent Labeling and Display Policy (February 2017)

ICANN Announcement: Thick WHOIS Registration Data Directory Services Requirements to Take Effect (February 2017)

ICANN Announcement: Thick Whois Transition Policy for .COM, .NET and .JOBS (February 2017)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/thick-whois-transition-policy-2017-02-01-en

Regional Newsletters: Thick WHOIS Registration Data Directory Services Requirements to Take Effect (March 2017)

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: Thick Whois Implementation Review Team
https://icann58copenhagen2017.sched.com/event/9nnF/icann-gdd-thick-whois-implementation-review-team

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: Whois Validation Working Group [C]

ICANN58: IDN Program Update
ICANN58: ICANN GDD: IDN Implementation Guidelines WG Update

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: IDN Root Zone LGR Workshop

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: RDAP

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: Privacy and Proxy Service Provider Accreditation Program Implementation Review Team (IRT)

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: Security Framework Drafting Team (1 of 2) [C]

ICANN58: ICANN GDD: Security Framework Drafting Team (Registries only) [C]

Regional Newsletters: New Procedure Published: Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Law (May 2017)

ICANN Announcement: Thick WHOIS Transition Update (June 2017)
https://www.icann.org/news/blog/thick-whois-transition-update

ICANN Announcement: Registrant Contact Information and the ICANN WHOIS Data Reminder Policy (WDRP) (August 2017)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/registrant-contact-information-wdrp-2017-08-31-en

ICANN Announcement: Information for Privacy and Proxy Service Providers, Customers and Third-Party Requesters (August 2017)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/pp-services-2017-08-31-en

ICANN Announcement: Statement from Contractual Compliance (November 2017)

ICANN Announcement: Thick WHOIS Implementation Project Status (December 2017)
https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/thick-whois-2016-06-27-en
ICANN60: ICANN GDD: Thick WHOIS Implementation Review Team (IRT)
https://icann60abudhabi2017.sched.com/event/CbFy/icann-gdd-thick-whois-implementation-review-team-irt

ICANN60: ICANN GDD: RDAP Pilot

ICANN60: ICANN GDD: IDN Implementation Guidelines WG Update

ICANN60: ICANN GDD: IDN Cyrillic Generation Panel Meeting
https://icann60abudhabi2017.sched.com/event/CbFx/icann-gdd-idn-cyrillic-generation-panel-meeting

ICANN60: ICANN GDD: IDN Program Update
https://icann60abudhabi2017.sched.com/event/CbFk/icann-gdd-idn-program-update

ICANN60: ICANN GDD: Accredited Privacy & Proxy Program Update

ICANN60: ICANN GDD: IDN Root Zone Label Generation Rules

ICANN Announcement: RDS-WHOIS2 Review Team Submits Terms of Reference and Work Plan (February 2018)

ICANN61: IDN Implementation Guidelines Working Group Update
https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647802

ICANN61: ICANN GDD: Privacy & Proxy Implementation Review Team
https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647800

ICANN61: IDN RZ-LGR Workshop
https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647605

ICANN61: IDN Program Update
https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647604

ICANN61: ICANN GDD: Registrants - Understanding the issues facing them and helping them navigate ICANN’s policies.
https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647771
ICANN61: ICANN GDD: Registrants - Understanding the issues facing them and helping them navigate ICANN’s policies.  
https://61.schedule.icann.org/meetings/647771