

## **WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System (ARS)**

In Cycle 5, we first selected a sample of 200,000 WHOIS records from the zone files of 1,235 gTLDs (explained below in the Sample Design section). The contact information from a subsample of 12,000 records is first tested for accuracy against syntax standards (e.g., values and formats) based on requirements stipulated within the domain-applicable Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), and was then tested for accuracy against operability standards (e.g., the information can be used to establish contact).

## **Findings**

### **Ability to Establish Contact**

Phase 2 Cycle 5 findings indicate that 98 percent of records had at least one email or phone record meet all operability requirements, which implies that nearly all records contain information that can be used to establish immediate contact.

Less than two percent of records had no contact information that met either email or phone operability requirements.

### **Operability Accuracy**

The operability accuracy analysis finds that approximately 94 percent of email addresses, 67 percent of telephone numbers, and 98 percent of postal addresses were found to be operable for all three contacts (administrative, technical, and registrant). Full operability accuracy of an entire WHOIS record was approximately 63 percent for the gTLD population as a whole. The results for full operability are in line with the findings of previous cycles of Phase 2, and appear to be holding steady.

### **Syntax Accuracy**

The syntax accuracy analysis finds that approximately 99 percent of email addresses, 90 percent of telephone numbers, and 89 percent of postal addresses met all of the baseline syntax requirements of the 2009 RAA for all three contacts. Full syntax accuracy of an entire WHOIS record to the requirements of the 2009 RAA was approximately 81 percent for the gTLD population as a whole. Table Ex2 provides the accuracy breakdown by contact mode, presented as 95 percent confidence intervals.

## Key Points

40% of legacy gTlds are only required to comply with 2009 RAA which does not require Registrant email or phone number. These are indicated as Grand Fathered domain names.

Accuracy is significantly less in Europe and Africa

New gTlds, small subset of domain name registrations, registrations information has a higher level of accuracy