

At-Large Thick Whois Initial Report – GNSO Policy Development Process Workspace

Comment Close Date	Statement Name	Status	Assignee (s) and RALO(s)	Call for Comments	Call for Comments Close	Vote Announcement	Vote Open	Vote Reminder	Vote Close	Date of Submission	Staff Contact and Email	Statement Number
14.07.2013	Thick Whois Initial Report – GNSO Policy Development Process	Adopted 12Y, 0N, 0A	Alan Greenberg (NARALO)	26.06.2013	04.07.2013	n/a	18.07.2013 (ALAC Meeting in Durban)	n/a	18.07.2013	21.07.2013	Marika Konings policy-staff@icann.org	AL-ALAC-ST-0713-04-00-EN

Comment / Reply Periods (*)

Comment Open Date:
21 June 2013
Comment Close Date:
14 July 2013 - 23:59 UTC
Reply Open Date:
15 July 2013
Reply Close Date:
4 August 2013 - 23:59 UTC

Important Information Links

[Public Comment Announcement To Submit Your Comments \(Forum\)](#)
[View Comments Submitted](#)

Brief Overview

Originating Organization:
GNSO
Categories/Tags:

- Policy Processes

Purpose (Brief):

The Generic Names Supporting Organization ("GNSO") Thick Whois Policy Development Process Working Group tasked with providing the GNSO Council with a policy recommendation regarding the use of 'thick' Whois by all gTLD Registries has published its [Initial Report](#) [PDF, 1.21 MB] for public comment.

Current Status:

The Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group has published its [Initial Report](#) [PDF, 1.21 MB] and is soliciting community input on the preliminary recommendations contained in the report.

Next Steps:

Following review of the public comments received, the Working Group will continue its deliberations and finalize its report for submission to the GNSO Council.

Staff Contact:
[Marika Konings](#)
[Email Staff Contact](#)

Detailed Information

Section I: Description, Explanation, and Purpose:

The Thick Whois PDP WG was tasked to provide the GNSO Council with 'a policy recommendation regarding the use of thick Whois by all gTLD registries, both existing and future'. Following its analysis of the different issues outlined in its Charter, including: response consistency; stability; access to Whois data; impact on privacy and data protection; cost implications; synchronization / migration; authoritative; competition in registry services; existing Whois applications; data escrow, and registrar Port 43 Whois requirements (see section 5 of the Initial Report), on balance the Working Group concludes that there are more benefits than disadvantages to requiring thick Whois for all gTLD registries. As a result, the Working Group recommends that:

The provision of thick Whois services should become a requirement for all gTLD registries, both existing and future.

The WG expects numerous benefits as a result of requiring thick Whois for all gTLD registries. Nevertheless, the WG recognizes that a transition of the current thin gTLD registries would affect over 120 million domain name registrations and as such it should be carefully prepared and implemented. In section 7.2 of the Initial Report, the WG outlines a number of implementation considerations. In section 7.3 of the Initial Report the WG also provides other observations that emerged from this discussion which while not directly related to the question of thin or thick did and should receive due consideration by other bodies.

The WG would like to encourage all interested parties to submit their comments and suggestions so these can be considered as the WG continues its deliberations in view of finalizing its report and recommendations in the next phase of the policy development process.

Section II: Background:

ICANN specifies Whois service requirements for generic top-level domain (gTLD) registries through the Registry Agreement (RA) and the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA). Registries and registrars satisfy their Whois obligations using different service models. The two common models are often characterized as "thin" and "thick" Whois registries. This distinction is based on how two distinct sets of data are managed. One set of data is associated with the domain name, and a second set of data is associated with the registrant of the domain name.

- A thin registry only stores and manages the information associated with the domain name. This set includes data sufficient to identify the sponsoring registrar, status of the registration, creation and expiration dates for each registration, name server data, the last time the record was updated in its Whois data store, and the URL for the registrar's Whois service.

- With thin registries, registrars manage the second set of data associated with the registrant of the domain and provide it via their own Whois services, as required by Section 3.3 of the RAA for those domains they sponsor. COM and NET are examples of thin registries.
- Thick registries maintain and provide both sets of data (domain name and registrant) via Whois. INFO and BIZ are examples of thick registries.

The GNSO Council requested an Issue Report regarding the use of thick Whois by all gTLD Registries at its meeting on 22 September 2011. The Issue Report was expected to 'not only consider a possible requirement of thick Whois for all incumbent gTLDs in the context of IRTP, but should also consider any other positive and/or negative effects that are likely to occur outside of IRTP that would need to be taken into account when deciding whether a requirement of thick Whois for all incumbent gTLDs would be desirable or not'.

Following the delivery of the Final Issue Report, the GNSO Council initiated a Policy Development Process at its meeting of 14 March 2012.

Section III: Document and Resource Links:

[Initial Report on the Thick Whois Policy Development Process](#) [PDF, 1.21 MB]

Working Group Workspace - <https://community.icann.org/x/whgQAg>

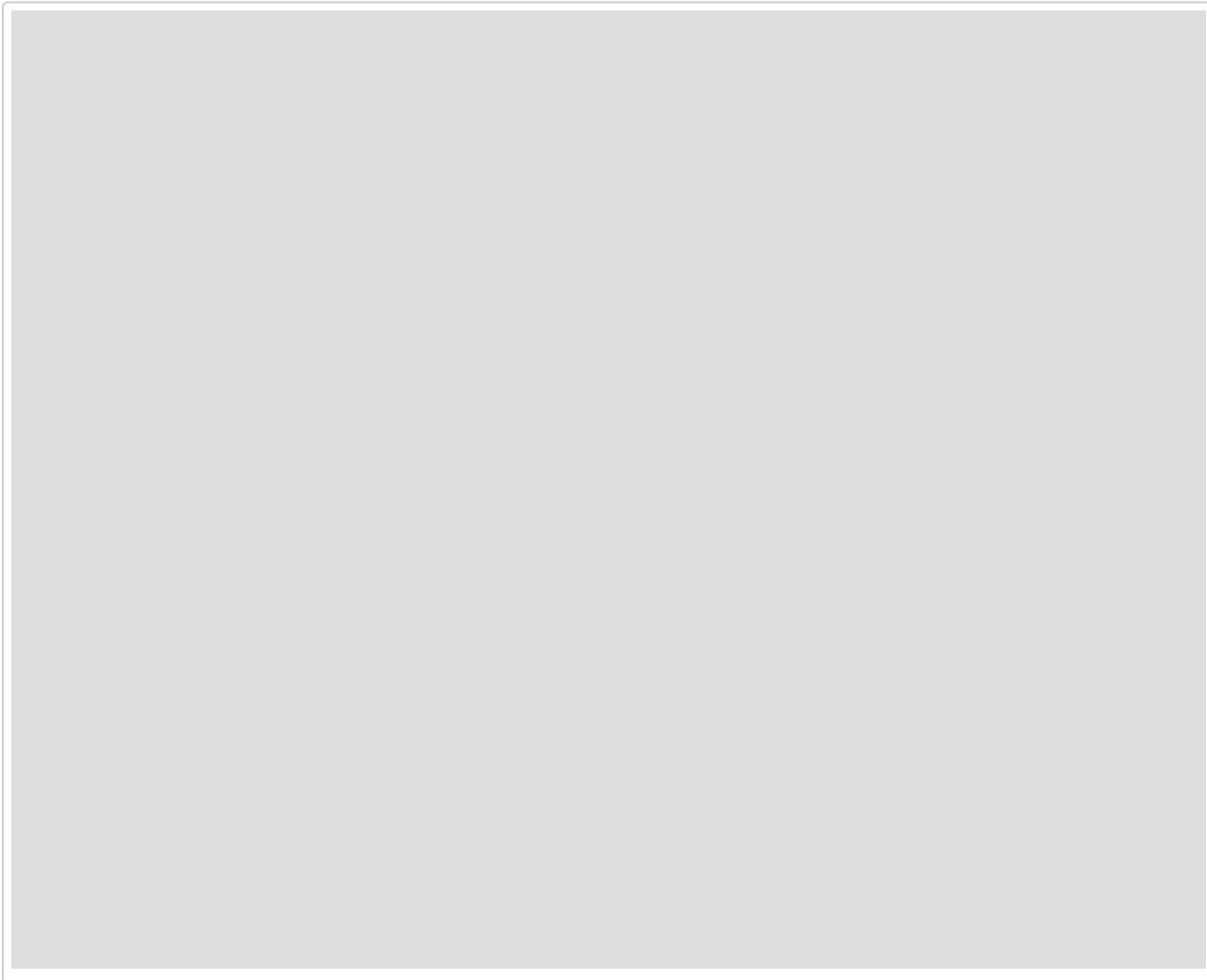
Section IV: Additional Information:

N/A

(*) Comments submitted after the posted Close Date/Time are not guaranteed to be considered in any final summary, analysis, reporting, or decision-making that takes place once this period lapses.

FINAL VERSION TO BE SUBMITTED IF RATIFIED

[Please click here to download a copy of the PDF below.](#)



FINAL DRAFT VERSION TO BE VOTED UPON BY THE ALAC

The ALAC strongly supports the recommendation to require Thick Whois for all gTLDs in line with our previous Statements and Correspondence.

FIRST DRAFT SUBMITTED

The ALAC strongly supports the recommendation to require Thick Whois for all gTLDs.