

# Who is the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG)?

13 December 2012 – Fadi Chehadé, ICANN's President and CEO, announces the creation of an Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services. This first step in fulfilling the ICANN Board's directive to help redefine the purpose and provision of gTLD registration data will provide a foundation to help the ICANN community (through the Generic Names Supporting Organization, GNSO) create a new global policy for gTLD directory services. Interested individuals are invited to indicate their interest in serving as volunteer working group members.

14 February 2013 – The composition of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG) is announced. ICANN considered over 70 highly qualified experts from across the Internet ecosystem. In selecting the EWG, each candidates' operational knowledge and experience with registrant data or directory services (or analogous systems) was considered, along with consensus-building skills, aptitude to innovate, geographic diversity, and other [published criteria](#).

After an extensive evaluation of each candidate, the following individuals were selected to participate in this critical project:

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**Pekka Ala-Pietilä** is the Co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Blyk, a mobile media company and is Chairman of the Board of Solidium (Finnish sovereign wealth fund). He additionally serves on the Boards of SAP AG (multinational software company), Pöyry Oyj (global consulting and engineering company) and Huhtamäki Oyj. He is Former President of the Nokia Corporation (1999-2005) and was President of Nokia Mobiles Phones in the nineties. He is based in Finland.

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**Lanre Ajayi** is the Managing Director of Pinet Informatics, one of the first ISPs in Nigeria. He is the Chairman of the Association of Telecommunications Companies of Nigeria (ATCON). He has served as the Vice-Chairman of the Internet Service providers Association of Nigeria (ISPAN) and Africa ISP Association (AfriSPA). He is a founding member of AfriNIC. He also has served as a member of the National Cybercrime Working Group of Nigeria. He currently serves as a GNSO Council member appointed by the NomCom and is based in Nigeria.

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**Scott Hollenbeck** is the Director of Verisign Labs where he manages a team of researchers focused on applied metadata, reputation, and web service technologies in collaboration with university partners. He is the author of the Extensible Provisioning Protocol (EPP), a standard protocol for the registration of domain names. He has been a contributor to several industry efforts related to domain names and Internet security. He is based in the US.

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**Jin Jian** is Assistant General Director and Director of CNNIC R&D center at CNNIC. His areas of expertise are: Domain Name Registration, DNS, software engineering, IPv6 and network protocols. He is based in the People's Republic of China.

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**Susan Kawaguchi** is Domain Name Manager at Facebook. She has previous experience with eBay and is a member of ICANN's Business Constituency. Domain Name management, enforcement, data collection/access/accuracy and intellectual property issues are her main fields of expertise. She served on the WHOIS Policy Review Team. She is based in the US.

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**Nora Nanayakkara** has a background in start-ups and SMEs in the digital and technology spaces, with particular experience in registry and registrar operations. She has worked with many domain name companies over the years and additionally brings several years' experience as a Non Executive Director at Nominet, the .uk domain name registry and a Trustee at Nominet Trust. She is knowledgeable in WHOIS issues and has served as an applicant review panelist in ICANN's new gTLD applicant support program. She is based in the UK.

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**Michele Neylon** is the CEO of Blacknight Internet Solutions, an Irish registrar, and sits on the Eurid Registrar Advisory Board. He is a very active member of the ICANN Community and he has served in numerous leadership roles in GNSO working groups. Examples of his activities include the APWG, RIPE and the Anti-Abuse Working Group. He is based in Ireland.

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**Michael Niebel** heads the Task Force on Internet Policy Development in the Directorate General CONNECT of the European Commission. Previously, he led the unit in charge of Internet, network and information security. In this function he was charged with the introduction of the European Top Level Domain .eu from the Commission side. He also was a member of the GAC and participated in Internet governance discussions at the global level. He is based in Belgium.

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**Rod Rasmussen** co-founded Internet Identity (IID) and serves as its President and CTO. He is widely recognized as a leading expert on cybercrime, and co-chairs the Anti-Phishing Working Group's (APWG) Internet Policy Committee. He is a member of the SSAC, is IID's FIRST (Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams) representative, and is an active participant in the Messaging, Malware, Mobile Anti-Abuse Working Group (M3AAWG). He is based in the US.

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**Carlton Samuels** is an independent international ICT4D consultant and an adjunct lecturer at the University of the West Indies. He is a Jamaican and US national. Previously, he worked as CIO & University Director of IT. His volunteer positions include being a foundation member of, and the former secretariat for, the Latin America and Caribbean Regional At-Large Advisory Organization (LACRALO). He is a Vice Chair of the ALAC and the leader of the ALAC WHOIS WG. He is based in the West Indies.

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**Faisal Shah** is the Founder and former CEO of a corporate brand protection registrar – MarkMonitor, which recently was acquired by Thomson Reuters. This serial entrepreneur has strategy, registrar operations, software development, and intellectual property as his main fields of expertise. He was born in Trinidad & Tobago, raised in Puerto Rico and Venezuela, and has extensive contacts in the Middle East. He is fluent in Spanish and English, is familiar with Urdu, and is currently based in the US.

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**Fabricio Vayra** serves as Assistant General Counsel for Time Warner Inc. He is a recognized intellectual property rights protection expert and brings extensive expertise in WHOIS data and trademark law. He is a former IRT member, a current member of the INTA Board, Vice Chair of the INTA Internet committee, and an active member of the IPC. He is based in the US.

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**Stephanie Perrin** is conducting doctoral research focused on privacy enhanced authentication technologies, and is recognized as an international expert in privacy and data protection and the social impact of technology. She has served in several positions in the Canadian Government, including in Integrity Services at Service Canada, as Director of Research and Policy in the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, and as Director of Privacy Policy at Industry Canada where she was responsible for the development of the private sector privacy legislation (PIPEDA). She has worked in the private sector and has consulted broadly on privacy issues internationally, including advising on the first privacy policy for CIRA, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority. She is based in Canada.

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Additional members may be added to the Expert Working Group to provide special areas of expertise and knowledge.

Joining these executives will be:

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**Jean-Francois Baril**, Lead Facilitator of the EWG

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**Steve Crocker**, Board Liaison to the EWG

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**Chris Disspain**, Board Liaison to the EWG

## Mandate

A Board-directed Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) policy development process (PDP) is expected to follow the work of the EWG to evaluate the policy implications of the EWG's recommendations. The EWG's objectives are to 1) define the purpose of collecting and maintaining gTLD registration data, and consider how to safeguard the data, and 2) provide a proposed model for managing gTLD directory services that addresses related data accuracy and access issues, while taking into account safeguards for protecting data. The EWG will be informed by Internet stakeholders' activities, and the extensive work of the GNSO work over the last decade. The group also will consider the WHOIS Policy Review Team [Repo](#) [rt](#) [PDF, 1.4 MB], address key questions set forth by the Security and Stability Advisory Committee ([SSAC](#) [PDF, 347 KB]), and take into consideration current and future Internet operations and services. In addition, the EWG will address concerns of the parties who provide, collect, maintain, publish or use gTLD registration data as it relates to ICANN's remit.

## Activities

Please consult the [public wiki](#) of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG).

## Links

- [Announcement](#) *Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services Launched* (14 December 2012)
- [Announcement](#) *Leader Named for Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services* (14 December 2012)
- [Announcement](#) *Composition of the Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG)* (14 February 2013)
- Expert Working Group on gTLD Directory Services (EWG) [Wiki](#) Space