

Policy Development Process (PDP) Update

'Thick' WHOIS Policy Development Process

January 2016

Upcoming dates

Implementation Review Team (IRT) meetings occur regularly for ICANN Staff to consult with experts from affected parties and discuss implementation proposals (see <https://community.icann.org/x/3b7hAg> for further details).

The IRT is expected to meet during ICANN 55 and will discuss the outcome of ongoing Public Comment periods on the [Proposed Implementation of Consensus Policy Requiring Consistent Labeling and Display of RDDS \(Whois\) Output for All gTLDs](#) and the [Registration Data Access Protocol \(RDAP\) Operational Profile for gTLD Registries and Registrars](#). Additionally, the IRT will continue its exploration of an implementation path for the transition from thin to thick of .COM, .NET and .JOBS.

Summary

ICANN specifies WHOIS service requirements through its agreements with gTLD Registries and Registrars. Registries have historically satisfied their WHOIS obligations under two different models, characterized as "thin" and "thick" WHOIS registries. In a thin registration model the Registry only collects and publishes the minimal information associated with the domain name from the Registrar (such as DNS technical information). All of the registrant's contact information is maintained by the Registrar, which publishes it via their own WHOIS services. In a thick registration model the Registry collects both sets of data (domain name and registrant) from the Registrar and in turn publishes that data via WHOIS. The Council initiated a Policy Development Process (PDP) to consider a possible requirement of "thick" WHOIS for all gTLDs. This issue is one that also affects access to WHOIS data, which is a law-enforcement-related issue. The GAC has indicated its interest in both WHOIS and law enforcement-related issues in previous GAC Communiqués. The Thick WHOIS WG finalized its report and submitted it to the GNSO Council on 21 October 2013. The GNSO Council unanimously adopted the recommendation to require Thick WHOIS for all gTLD registries at its meeting on 31 October 2013. Following the public comment forum and the notification of the GAC, the ICANN Board considered the recommendations and [adopted](#) these at its meeting on 7 February 2014.

GAC Engagement Opportunity Status



Following the adoption of the recommendations by the ICANN Board, an Implementation Review Team has been formed to work with ICANN staff on the development of the implementation plan. The proposed implementation and policy language will eventually be published for public comment.

Additional Information

Final Report: <http://gns0.icann.org/en/issues/whois/thick-final-21oct13-en.pdf>
<http://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/thick-whois.htm>

Implementation Review Team work space: <https://community.icann.org/display/TWCPI>