

GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ISSUE

‘Thick’ Whois

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 has initiated a Policy Development Process (PDP) to consider a possible requirement of “thick” Whois for all gTLDs, and has recently adopted a charter for the PDP Working Group. A call for volunteers to form the PDP WG has now been launched and the WG will commence its activities shortly. 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.

GAC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY STATUS



The WG is open to all interested parties. Additional opportunities for input will occur such as outreach from the WG to the different SO/ACs for input as well as the publication of the Initial Report for public comment.

FINAL ISSUE REPORT

<http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/final-report-thick-whois-02feb12-en.pdf>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/thick-whois.htm>