

GNSO POLICY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

ISSUE

‘Thick’ Whois Policy Development Process

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES: GNSO Council consideration of the Final Report & recommendations

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 PDP WG published its [Initial Report](#) for public comment prior to the ICANN Meeting in Durban, which recommended requiring thick Whois for all gTLD registries. Following review of the comments received, the WG has now finalized its report and has submitted it to the GNSO Council for its consideration.

GAC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY STATUS



Additional opportunities for input will occur, provided the GNSO Council adopts the recommendations, such as a public comment forum on the policy recommendations prior to Board consideration as well as an invitation to the GAC to provide input to the ICANN Board on these recommendations if it believes that there are public policy issues raised by these recommendations

FINAL REPORT

<http://gns0.icann.org/en/issues/whois/thick-final-21oct13-en.pdf>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

<https://community.icann.org/display/PDP/Home>