

White Paper: Proposal for PDPs on
DNS Abuse

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NetBeacon Institute: Five Potential PDPs to Address DNS Abuse

Why?

- NetBeacon has a unique perspective: both a part of contracted party, and dedicated to reducing DNS Abuse
- To support and advance community conversations
- To provide examples of what 'narrowly scoped' might mean

1. Associated Domain Check

Create an obligation to check associated domains and take appropriate action upon confirmation of a malicious registration.

Why:

- Meaningful impact on abusive campaigns
- Creates a tax on registrars who aren't considered with who they let access bulk registration tools

What:

- Check the customer account (if no reseller agreement in place)
- Check for other domains owned by registrant email

2. Gating APIs

Why:

Malicious domains are often registered en masse. What friction can we put in place that limits the use of enabling tools without inhibiting legitimate registrants?

What:

- How can we establish registrant reputation based on their activity, not on who they are?
- How do we incentivize registrars to implement their own friction?

3. Subdomain Abuse Contacts

Why:

Subdomains (phish.example.com) are frequently used for abuse, but suspension could impact thousands.

What:

- Registrants offering services that have subdomains used by 3rd parties must have an abuse contact, and take appropriate action for DNS Abuse
- No enforcement mechanism, but a tool for registrars to influence responsible services

4. Registrant Recourse Mechanisms

Why:

In a landscape that features abuse mitigation at scale, mistakes will inevitably be made.

What:

Ensure registrants have a path to challenge enforcement actions with registrars or registries when believed to be taken in error.

5. Botnets & DGA Coordination

Why:

- LEA & Internet Security need to approach each registry independently to address botnets and DGAs.

What:

- ICANN should operate a facility that verifies and disseminates information to disrupt this activity.
- Allows LEA to address malware, botnets and DGAs at scale

Key Takeaways

- Support narrowly scoped, issue constrained PDPs
 - No one will get everything they want
 - Progress requires focus
- Support incremental progress
 - Understand these are complicated issues with operational impacts
 - Small wins are better than no wins
- Thematically: How do we safely, reasonably, and responsibly address DNS Abuse at scale?