

Policy Development Process (PDP) Update

'Thick' WHOIS Policy Development Process

20 November 2017

Upcoming dates

The Thick WHOIS Transition for .COM, .NET and .JOBS policy implementation effective dates are 1 May 2018 for new registration and 1 February 2019 for the completion of migrating existing registration data from Thin to Thick.

For .COM and .NET, Verisign and RrSG hit an impasse when they could not agree on Registry-Registrar Agreement changes proposed by Verisign. During its meeting on 29 October 2017 the ICANN Board adopted a resolution to defer enforcement of the policy (see <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-10-29-en#2.b>). This effectively allows additional 180 days for implementation before enforcement takes effect.

Summary

ICANN specifies WHOIS service requirements through its agreements with gTLD registries and registrars. Registries have historically complied with 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 ICANN organization and the Thick Whois IRT have identified two steps for the Thick Whois Policy recommendations and agreed that their implementations could be decoupled:

- Consistent Labeling and Display of WHOIS output for all gTLDs
- Transition from Thin to Thick for .COM, .NET and .JOBS

Both policies were published on 1 February 2017 consisting of three effective dates:

- Consistent Labeling and Display of Whois output for all gTLDs by 1 August 2017
- Transition from Thin to Thick for .COM, .NET and .JOBS (for new registrations) by 1 May 2018
- Transition from Thin to Thick for .COM, .NET and .JOBS (for existing registrations) by 1 February 2019

The Consistent Labelling and Display of RDNS Output for All gTLDs policy has completed implementation with the policy effective date of 1 August 2017.

The transition from Thin to Thick for .JOBS continues as planned.

For .COM and .NET, Verisign, the registry operator, has proposed changes to its Registry-Registrar Agreement (RRA) to accept Thick WHOIS data. However, Verisign and RrSG hit an impasse when they could not agree on RRA proposed by Verisign. During its meeting on 29 October 2017 the ICANN Board adopted a resolution to defer enforcement of the policy (see <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2017-10-29-en#2.b>). This effectively allows additional 180 days for implementation before enforcement takes effect.

GAC Engagement Opportunity Status



Following the publication of the policies, the Implementation Review Team is working with the ICANN organization on the implementation of the policies.

Additional Information

- Thick Whois Transition Policy for .COM, .NET and .JOBS: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/thick-whois-transition-policy-2017-02-01-en>
- Registry Registration Data Directory Services Consistent Labeling and Display Policy: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/rdds-labeling-policy-2017-02-01-en>
- PDP Documentation: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/thick-whois.htm>
- PDP WG Final Report: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/whois/thick-final-21oct13-en.pdf>
- Thick Whois Implementation: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/thick-whois-2016-06-27-en>
- Thick Whois IRT Workspace: <https://community.icann.org/display/TWCPI>
- Public Comment period on Consistent Labeling and Display implementation proposal: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/rdds-output-2015-12-03-en>
- Public Comment period on Transition from thin to thick for .COM, .NET and .JOBS <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/proposed-implementation-gnso-thick-rdds-whois-transition-2016-10-26-en>