

**"Special Circumstances"  
Whois Proposal  
(Annex B to TF Preliminary Report )**

**ICANN São Paulo  
December 2006**

# Modeled on System in Use Since 2003 in .NL

## ■ For more information:

- <http://www.icann.org/presentations/boswinke-l-whois-workshop-24jun03.pdf>
- <http://www.sidn.nl/ace.php/p,728,2833,8964,verschillendoc-houders-uk.pdf>

# Basic Approach of .NL System

- Full Whois data publicly available for most registrants
- Suppress some Whois data of some individual registrants who demonstrate need for special treatment.

# Main Issues in Adapting .NL System to gTLD Environment

- Centralized operation of system (especially with "thin" registries)
- Costs
- Consistency and integrity of decisions on "special circumstances"

# Who Decides

- Independent third party vendor chosen by ICANN
- Variant: 5 such vendors on regional basis
- Reporting and renewal/recompetition
- Centralized decisionmaker: existing private services phased out

# Criteria for Special Circumstances Status (Modified version of .NL criteria)

- Individual registrants
- Non-commercial uses
- Demonstrated basis of concern for personal safety/security
- Identify minimum set of data to be suppressed
- Social Services agencies for vulnerable registrants
- Further criteria to be developed by vendor with GNSO/GAC

# Funding

- Drawn from Existing Volume-Sensitive Fees Paid by Registrars and/or Registries to ICANN
- No Added Costs to Registrants, Registries, Registrars

# Data Provision/Retention

- Unchanged obligations on registrant to submit full, accurate and current contact data
- All data to be held by Registrars (in thin registry setting)



# Data Display

- Registrants without special circumstances: unchanged
- Registrant with special circumstances: registrar data, for approved minimum data set

# Operational Issues

- All applications online through registrars (including at point of registration)
- Very short pendency (5 days) – display during pendency
- Vendor notifies registrar of decision
- Renewable term (one year) – reminder through WDRP

# Further Decisions

- Appeal of adverse decision by vendor
- Mechanism for accessing suppressed data based on legitimate complaint of abuse

# Questions/Comments/ Suggestions Welcomed

- E-mail: [info@onlineaccountability.net](mailto:info@onlineaccountability.net)