



ICANN Registry Request Service

Ticket ID: T0Y0M-8E8H1

Registry Name: Charleston Road Registry Inc.

gTLD: .google, .meet

Status: ICANN Review

Status Date: 2015-09-03 17:29:22

Print Date: 2015-09-03 17:29:28

Proposed Service

Name of Proposed Service:

Removal of Searchable WHOIS from .MEET Registry Agreement

Technical description of Proposed Service:

On February 6, 2015, Afilias Limited assigned Charleston Road Registry d/b/a Google Registry ("Google Registry") the rights to operate the .MEET TLD. The .MEET application and Registry Agreement originally executed between ICANN and Afilias Limited currently specifies that a searchable WHOIS Service must be offered for the .MEET TLD. We are now proposing that the requirement to operate a searchable WHOIS service be removed from Exhibit A of the .MEET Registry Agreement. We note that operating a searchable WHOIS service is not mandatory for new gTLD registries and that Google Registry will continue to comply with all other WHOIS requirements set forth in the .MEET Registry Agreement.

Consultation

Please describe with specificity your consultations with the community, experts and or others. What were the quantity, nature and content of the consultations?:

The WHOIS service that Google Registry plans to offer for the .MEET TLD will be consistent with that offered for all other Google Registry TLDs. A description of Google Registry's WHOIS service was described in the public sections of all of Google's new gTLD applications. Despite an extensive application comment period, no concerns have been raised by the ICANN community or other experts about Google Registry's decision to operate a non-searchable WHOIS service, nor have concerns or issues arisen during the contracting and delegation processes.

a. If the registry is a sponsored TLD, what were the nature and content of these consultations with the sponsored TLD community?:

The .MEET TLD is not a sponsored TLD.

b. Were consultations with gTLD registrars or the registrar constituency appropriate? Which registrars were consulted? What were the nature and content of the consultation?:



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Google Registry has not engaged in formal consultations with the Registrar Stakeholder Group, nor with the registrar community at large, as the WHOIS service that Google Registry plans to operate for .MEET is identical to that deployed for all other TLDs operated by Google Registry. The three Google Registry TLDs that have been publically launched to date (.HOW, .SOY, and .???) are currently sold through a channel consisting of 40 registrars. No registrars have raised concerns about the fact that Google Registry does not operate a searchable WHOIS service. Similarly, we do not anticipate any registrar-facing issues related to the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement. Conversely, using the same WHOIS service deployed for Google's other TLDs will create greater consistency and predictability for registrars that plan to sell Google Registry's TLDs. \r\n\r\n

c. Were consultations with other constituency groups appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

Operating a searchable WHOIS service is not a requirement for new gTLD registries. Many new gTLDs, including the Google Registry TLDs delegated to date, do not currently provide a searchable WHOIS service. No concerns have been raised by other constituency groups about the fact that Google Registry does not operate a searchable WHOIS and we do not anticipate that any new issues will arise with the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement. \r\n\r\n

d. Were consultations with end users appropriate? Which groups were consulted? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

No concerns have been raised by registrants or other internet users about the fact that Google Registry does not operate a searchable WHOIS service and we do not anticipate that any new issues will arise with the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement. \r\n\r\n

e. Who would endorse the introduction of this service? What were the nature and content of these consultations?:

The removal of searchable WHOIS will bring the .MEET Registry Agreement and the registry's policies and procedures in line with those for other Google Registry TLDs, providing consistency and predictability for customers of the TLD and users accessing Google Registry's WHOIS data. As such, we believe that the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement would be endorsed by registrars selling .MEET domain names or other domain names in Google Registry TLDs. \r\n\r\n\r\nWe also believe that this would be endorsed by .MEET registrants, as operating a non-searchable WHOIS service provides greater registrant privacy by helping to ensure that registrants' WHOIS data is only accessed and used for its intended purposes. \r\n\r\n\r\n

f. Who would object the introduction of this service? What were(or would be) the nature and content of these consultations?:



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We are not aware of any objections to the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement. \r\n\r\n

Timeline

Please describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed new registry service:

The proposed service will render the .MEET WHOIS service identical to that offered for the 42 Google Registry TLDs delegated to date. This WHOIS service has already been developed and Google Registry intends to implement the service immediately following approval by ICANN and successful completion of pre-delegation testing. Depending on the timeline for approving this RSEP request, pre-delegation testing may include testing a searchable WHOIS service intended for later removal or, alternatively, testing Google Registry's existing non-searchable WHOIS service.

Business Description

Describe how the Proposed Service will be offered:

Google Registry will operate publicly-accessible "thick" WHOIS service for the .MEET TLD. This WHOIS service will be consistent with that provided for all other Google TLDs delegated to date, and will comply with all requirements set forth in the ICANN Registry Agreement. A searchable WHOIS service will not be offered for the .MEET TLD. The .MEET WHOIS service will be accessible at <http://www.google.com/registry/whois.html> and will be identical to that currently provided for other Google Registry TLDs. \r\n\r\nFor a more comprehensive description of how the proposed service will be offered, please see questions 26, 31, and 32 of the original new gTLD applications submitted by Charleston Road Registry. By way of example, the .??? application can be found at: <https://gtldresult.icann.org/applicationstatus/applicationdetails/537>. \r\n

Describe quality assurance plan or testing of Proposed Service:

The WHOIS service that Google Registry proposes to offer for the .MEET TLD is identical to that currently provided for the 42 TLDs currently operated by Google Registry that have successfully completed Technical & Operational Evaluation during ICANN's Initial Evaluation and pre-delegation testing. Likewise, Google Registry will undergo pre-delegation testing for the .MEET TLD prior to assuming technical operation of the .MEET TLD; depending on the timeline for approving this RSEP request, this may include testing a searchable WHOIS service intended for later removal or testing Google Registry's existing non-searchable WHOIS service. \r\n

Please list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.:



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Relevant RFCs and documents include RFC 3912, the WHOIS Protocol Specification, which updates the documentation of the WHOIS protocol, and the WHOIS-related requirements set forth in the ICANN Registry Agreement, including Specification 4 and the WHOIS reporting requirements set forth in Specification 3.

Contractual Provisions

List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the Proposed Service:

The requirement to operate a searchable WHOIS service for the .MEET TLD is currently set forth in Exhibit A of the ICANN Registry Agreement, which will require amendment.

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the reporting of data to ICANN:

The removal of searchable WHOIS will not affect the provision of regular reporting to ICANN. As no searchable WHOIS service will be offered, the "searchable-whois-queries" reported will be zero in the monthly Registry Activity Functions Report.

What effect, if any, will the Proposed Service have on the Whois?:

Pending approval by ICANN a searchable WHOIS service will no longer be operated for the .MEET TLD. Google Registry will operate publicly-accessible "thick" WHOIS service for the .MEET TLD that is identical to that provided for all other Google TLDs and complies with all requirements set forth in the ICANN Registry Agreement.

Contract Amendments

Please describe or provide the necessary contractual amendments for the proposed service:

An amendment would be required to remove the requirement to operate a searchable WHOIS service from Exhibit A of the ICANN Registry Agreement. The amendment would read as follows: Exhibit A - Approved Services Section 3 Searchable Whois, is deleted in its entirety."

Benefits of Service

Describe the benefits of the Proposed Service:



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The removal of searchable WHOIS will bring the .MEET Registry Agreement and its policies and procedures in line with those for other Google Registry TLDs, providing consistency and predictability for customers of the TLD and users accessing Google Registry's WHOIS data. This includes both registrars, as direct customers, and registrants, as indirect customers. We also believe that this would be endorsed by .MEET registrants, as operating a non-searchable WHOIS interface provides greater registrant privacy by helping to ensure that registrants' WHOIS data is only accessed its intended purposes. \r\n

Competition

Do you believe your proposed new Registry Service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.:

We believe that the proposed Registry Service would have no effect on competition. A similar RSEP request was recently filed for the .SHARP TLD, which was determined by ICANN to have no significant effects on competition. \r\n

How would you define the markets in which your proposed Registry Service would compete?:

WHOIS data for the .MEET TLD will continue to be made available to users in all markets. However, we do not anticipate that the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement will have any effects on competition in any market. \r\n

What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to your proposed Registry Service?:

Google Registry uses a non-searchable WHOIS service for all of the following TLDs that it has delegated to date: ads, android, app, boo, cal, channel, chrome, dad, day, dclk, dev, docs, drive, eat, esq, fly, foo, gbiz, gle, gmail, goog, google, guge, hangout, here, how, ing, meme, mov, new, nexus, page, play, prod, prof, rsvp, soy, ?? (xn--flw351e), ??? (xn--q9jyb4c), ??? (xn--qcka1pmc), youtube, and zip. Several other backend registry service providers including Japan Registry Services Co. offer non-searchable WHOIS services. \r\n

In view of your status as a registry operator, would the introduction of your proposed Registry Service potentially impair the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?:

We anticipate that the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement would have no effect on other companies/entities' ability to compete. \r\n



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Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed Registry Service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor, and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.:

Google Inc. acts as a backend registry service provider for Google Registry and will provide all backend registry services for the .MEET TLD. Google Inc. will be solely responsible for implementing the non-searchable WHOIS service and will provide such services consistent with those provided to other TLDs delegated by Google Registry.

Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please describe the communications.:

As the provision of WHOIS information is a registry requirement, we do not believe that any third party's products or services would be directly and adversely affected by the removal of searchable WHOIS from the .MEET Registry Agreement.

Do you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of your proposed Registry Service? If so, please submit them with your application. (ICANN will keep the documents confidential).:

Following a similar request by the .SHARP TLD, ICANN issued a preliminary determination that the service did not have any significant effect on competition. This preliminary determination can be found at: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments/sharp-proposed-amendment-2015-07-30-en>. There are no other documents that discuss the possible effects of this service on competition. \n

Security and Stability

Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?:

No, the proposed service has no effect on the storage and input of registry data. \n

Please explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems:

The proposed service will have no effect on the consistency of responses by Google Registry's WHOIS service or on any other registry systems. \n

Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service, and if so, how do you intend to address those



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concerns?:

No technical concerns have been raised about the proposed service. Conversely, by bringing the .MEET WHOIS service in line with the others operated by Google Registry, we believe that the proposed service would reduce the likelihood of any technical issues arising. \r\n

Other Issues

Are there any Intellectual Property considerations raised by the Proposed Service:

No, there are no Intellectual Property considerations raised by the proposed service. \r\n

Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?:

No, the proposed service does not contain any intellectual property exclusive to Google Registry. \r\n

List Disclaimers provided to potential customers regarding the Proposed Service:

No disclaimers would be provided to potential customers regarding the proposed service. \r\n

Any other relevant information to include with this request:

There is no further information.\r\n