GNSO Public Forum

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Chair, GNSO Council

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Agenda

- **Why have new gTLDs**
- **Current status of new gTLD work**
- **WHOIS current status and next steps**

Global trends

- **Widespread access to convenient travel and communications technologies**
- **Natural persons no longer necessarily associate themselves with countries, but with international communities of interest**
  - **Multiple citizenship, language skills**
- **Companies, organizations now global – operate across many borders**

Background

- **Initial ICANN working group on new gTLDs started in June, 1999**

- **Arguments for and against new gTLDs have been fairly consistent since 1999 working group C report**

Background

- **For:**
  - Increase choice, diversity, competition, creativity, innovation
  - Provide opportunity for global communities to have their own domain name hierarchy
- **Against:**
  - Unnecessary – register at second level in the existing hierarchy
  - Requirement for "defensive registrations" to protect "brand"

Background

- **1999:**
  - Agreed to introduce new gTLDs
  - Begin with a testbed with six to ten TLDs
- **2000:**
  - First round – e.g .biz, .info, .museum, .coop
- **2004:**
  - Limited second round – e.g .travel, .cat, .asia

Approaches

- **Create a structured taxonomy**
  - – **finance, manufacturing, etc**
  - – **PC users, MAC users, other users**
  - – **fish eaters, meat eaters, and those that don't eat**
- **Allow communities to identify the strings that are most useful for their users**

Why new gTLDs

- **Support the functional, geographic, and cultural diversity of the Internet by allowing globally distributed *communities* the opportunity to have their own hierarchy of names starting at the top level**

- **Not all communities identify themselves with countries or by the original broad com/net/org categories**

New gTLD committee

- **Accepted outcomes of 1999 work taking into account experience with introducing new gTLDs so far**

- **Focussed on lessons learnt and creating a process for introducing new gTLDs**

- **ICANN mission and core values used to guide the work**

Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs)

- **The committee supports the introduction of IDNs when technical testing completed**
- **Treated the same as any other new gTLD in the process**
- **IDNs do make implementation more complex**
- **GNSO IDN working group established to examine IDN issues further**

Next Steps

- **Seeking to finalize recommendations by May 2007 and produce the final "Final Report"**

- **Submit "Board Report" to the Board by early June 2007**

- **Available for the Board to consider at its meeting in Puerto Rico, 29 June 07**

WHOIS requirements

- **The contact information must be adequate to facilitate timely resolution of any problems that arise in connection with the Registered Name**
- **Take reasonable precautions to protect Personal Data from loss, misuse, unauthorized access or disclosure, alteration, or destruction**

WHOIS

- **Final report of the WHOIS TF recently published and sent to GNSO council**
- **Recommendations with a narrow majority in the task force**
- **3 of 6 GNSO constituencies in favour**

WHOIS working group

- **WHOIS task force has concluded and we thank them for their work**
- **To create a GNSO working group of affected stakeholders:**
  - including GNSO constituency members, law enforcement and community participants
  - 120 days
  - that will work to examine the issues raised with respect to the policy recommendations of the task force and make recommendations to the Council concerning how those policies may be improved to address these issues

WHOIS working group tasks

- **define the roles, responsibilities, and requirements of the operational point of contact, and what happens if they are not fulfilled.**

- **how legitimate interests will access registration data no longer published via Whois,**

- **whether a distinction should be made between the registration contact information published based on the nature of registered name holder (for example, legal vs. natural persons) or its use of the domain name.**