



August 8, 2018

Honorable David J. Redl
Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and Administrator,
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Letter of 16 April 2018 regarding Port 43 access and modifications to DNS Resource Records

Dear David:

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 2018¹ requesting that ICANN look into two issues related to ICANN accredited registrars. The first issue refers to actions taken by GoDaddy to rate limit Port 43 access and to mask the information in certain WHOIS fields; the second concerns the current configuration of the DNS marketplace in which only ICANN accredited registrars can modify domain name resource records directly with registries on behalf of their registered name holders.

Regarding the first issue, ICANN Contractual Compliance's approach to complaints regarding rate limiting access to registrars' registration data directory services has been to work with registrars to ensure that users are given access to perform a reasonable number of legitimate queries of these services. This approach has resolved the majority of complaints received to date.

As to claims that GoDaddy rate limited Port 43 access and masked the information in certain WHOIS fields, ICANN launched a full review on this matter. The registrar has been forthcoming about its activities, responded to ICANN's inquiries and attempted to reach out to users directly. ICANN also reviewed these issues taking into account the recent and ongoing changes to WHOIS and registration data directory services implemented to comply with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR") and ICANN's corresponding Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data ("Temporary Specification")², which became effective on May 25, 2018. Additional information regarding ICANN's enforcement of the Temporary Specification is at <https://www.icann.org/news/blog/enforcing-the-temporary-specification>.

¹ The letter has been posted to the ICANN Correspondence page (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/correspondence>) with direct link at <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/redl-to-chalaby-16apr18-en.pdf>

² ICANN's Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data can be found at <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/gtld-registration-data-temp-spec-17may18-en.pdf>

Based on our review and testing (including outside of ICANN's network), GoDaddy is not currently masking WHOIS data or otherwise limiting access to its WHOIS services. Consequently, the complaints related to GoDaddy's masking of certain WHOIS fields, rate limiting, and whitelisting of IP addresses have been addressed and closed.

Your letter also requests ICANN to explore whether, on behalf of domain name registrants, third-party service providers should be permitted to make modifications to DNS resource records directly with registries. Currently, only the registrant's accredited registrar can make these modifications pursuant to their agreements with registrants and corresponding registry. We will consult with the community on the security, policy and implementation aspects of allowing third parties to make these modifications and we would be happy to keep you informed of our progress.

Thank you again for raising your concerns. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Regards,



Jamie Hedlund
Senior Vice President, Contractual Compliance and Consumer Safeguards
Managing Director, Washington, DC Office