

Eric Brunner-Williams

I have interests in the WHOIS area I'd like to make plain.

I worked at SRI from 1986 to 1989, and WHOIS existed so that those of us in the US DOD community could send email to or call via AutoVON each other. At IETF-51 I co-chaired the WHOIS-FIX BoF to explore if, and if so, how, WHOIS could be fixed.

Later I wrote several notes with the goal of killing off WHOIS so that something useful could take its place. Two are:

<http://www.imc.org/ietf-whois/mail-archive/msg00218.html>

<http://www.imc.org/ietf-whois/mail-archive/msg00235.html>

Later, Leslie Daigle, then employed by Verisign, wrote a draft that was published as rfc3912, which did nothing to improve the situation beyond retiring rfc954 as a document, leaving WHOIS unchanged. The important corporate goal was advancing Verisign's Cross Registry Internet Service Protocol (CRISP), a reworking of Verisign's circa 2001 proprietary Universal WHOIS (UWHO), a NAPTR pointer hack.

We have a fundamental problem. Two very powerful actors, trademarks portfolio managers alert to dilution risk in the .com and equivalent name spaces, and law enforcement agencies alert to criminal risk, also in the .com and equivalent name spaces, have not been able to agree that WHOIS is the wrong tool and that risk exists uniformly in all domain names, those registered on the 15th of March 1985 and those registered on the 15th of September 2010. A third powerful actor has both an interest in there being no barrier other than fee paid to itself for access to its name spaces, and an interest in the control over its competitors' access to their name spaces.

All we have as an alternative policy advocacy interest is the union of registrars and registries that are not pursuing the parasitic markets for SEO eyeballs and the ad revenue they bring, and the registrants who want to use a domain name for purposes other than cybersquatting, trademark infringement, PPC revenue, and SPAM and malware exploits.

There are reasons why, after a decade, the WHOIS situation is no less absurd and stupid than it was in 2001. My interest is in making certain that the Accountability and Transparency Review Team that deals with the WHOIS subject matter faithfully records the actual issues. Plenty of things less than useful have been tried already.

I have interests in the SSR area I'd like to make plain also.

I became concerned during the FastFlux Hosting PDP that the SSAC function, that is, the staff consisting of Dave Piscitello and Greg Rattray had convinced themselves that the "security" mission had made them independent actors, and they then proceed to blunder about badly, becoming sock puppets for the dumbest persons to ever sit on the GNSO Council, Mike Rodenbaugh and Philip Sheppard.

FastFlux is a serious problem, and the roots of it lie in the August

2004 marketing ploy by UltraDNS, copied a few months later by Verisign. It is an exploit of incoherence in the DNS, and there are many sources of for-profit exploits of incoherence in the DNS that should cause us great caution.

Transforming ICANN's security hires from resources who are available to all Stakeholders/Constituencies into resources for one or a few Stakeholders/Constituencies poses two wicked important issues.

First, is "security and stability" a shared concern, or is it the private concerns of individual industry interest groups? If so, then the BC should be paying for their private resource and the registries, registrars, registrants and everyone else should give up on "S&S" or fund their own visions of "S&S".

Second, if "security and stability" is not pursuing the retail cops and robbers and terrorists games, the security theater that has become pervasive in the US, if there really are assets worth protecting that are innate to "security and stability", then who the fuck is minding the store?

Signing the root was necessary, I've seen cache poisoning demonstrated at IETF-72 in under three (3) seconds. But it has brittle consequences and it is far from a panacea for all the risk that is latent, and the risk that is manifested, in the tremendously rickety naming and routing infrastructure.

When ICANN posted the Draft Terms of Reference for the SSAC Review I replied to the subsequent RFP with a bid. My interest is in making certain that the Accountability and Transparency Review Team that deals with the SSR subject matter does something useful. Plenty of things less than useful have been tried here as well.

End of actual interest statement. Begin of formal interest statement.

- Current vocation, employer and position

Coordinator, .nai project since 1 September, previously CTO at CORE.

- Type of work performed in 1 above and declaration of relationships with entities holding a Financial (or declarable) Interest in ICANN

Activities relating to the development of a registry capability, relationship development with registrars and key registrants.

Consulting to contracted parties and applicants.

- Identity any financial ownership or senior management/leadership interest in registries, registrars or other firms that are interested parties in ICANN policy or any entity with which ICANN has a transaction, contract, or other arrangement.

None, though it is reasonable to assume that USA Webhost (IANA 439) is operated as if I had a senior management/leadership responsibility, though in fact this is a pro-bono relationship.

- Identity any type of commercial interest in ICANN policy development outcomes. Do you represent other parties in any PDP or other ICANN related processes?

None.

- Geographic Region associated with the nationality of volunteer (Africa, North America, Latin America/Caribbean, Asia/Australia/Pacific and Europe)

North America.

- Stakeholder Group(s) AC's or SO's in which I volunteer or currently participate within ICANN

I'm an observer of the RySG, and the RrSG.

I volunteer or currently participate in the following:

o the Vertical Integration PDP Working Group o the GNSO Council Operations Work Team o the Joint SO/AC WG on New gTLD Applicant Support o the Temporary Drafting Group - Legal

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