

Board Working Group on Registration Data Directory Services (BWG-RDS)

Draft Charter and Suggested Membership

Purpose: As described in the [Board's 25 May 2015 Resolution](#), the purpose of the **Board Working Group on Registration Directory Services (BWG-RDS)** is: (1) liaising with the GNSO as it conducts the Board-directed GNSO policy development process to examine the EWG's recommended model for the next generation registration directory services, and (2) to oversee the implementation of the remaining projects arising from the AoC WHOIS Review Team (WRT) recommendations [Action Plan](#), and provide oversight and guidance related to the activities of the WRT-2 when convened.

Deliverables:

The BWG-RDS will meet regularly to:

- (1) Review the status of the remaining items under the [Action Plan](#) and provide guidance to Staff as it completes the implementation of the outstanding recommendations;
- (2) Review the status of the GNSO PDP on the next generation registration directory services and provide guidance to the GNSO as appropriate to ensure the successful conclusion of the PDP;
- (3) Review any issues related to WHOIS or Registration Data Directory Services that may be referred to it by the Board or the BGC.

Timeline:

As the AoC calls for recurring reviews of ICANN's WHOIS program every three years, this Board Working Group is expected to be convened now and run at least until the later of: (1) the date that the recommendations from the WRT-2 have been fully implemented, or (2) the date that the next generation registration data services have been fully implemented, following the conclusion of the GNSO PDP.

Proposed Chair: [Chris Disspain]

Proposed Chair & Membership: It is recommended that [Chris Disspain] chair the group, to take advantage of his deep knowledge of the EWG work and experience with WHOIS in the ccTLD space (among other reasons). The membership of the BWG-RDS is proposed to include up to nine Board members, consisting of: [Steve Crocker, Bruce Tonkin, Erika Mann, Rinalia Abdul Rahim, Markus Kummer, Cherine Chalaby, Fadi Chehadé].

Background/Purpose:

In its [Final Report](#), the WHOIS Review Team recommended that:

To support WHOIS as a strategic priority, the ICANN board should create a committee that includes the CEO. The committee should be responsible for advancing the strategic priorities required to ensure the following:

- *Implementation of this report's recommendations;*

- *Fulfillment of data accuracy objectives over time;*
- *Follow up on relevant reports (e.g. NORC data accuracy study);*
- *Reporting on progress on all aspects of WHOIS (policy development, compliance, and advances in the protocol / liaison with SSAC and IETF);*
- *Monitoring effectiveness of senior staff performance and the extent to which the ICANN Compliance function is effective in delivering WHOIS outcomes, and taking appropriate action to remedy any gaps (see Recommendation 4 for more discussion of compliance).*

Following submission of the [WHOIS Policy Review Team's Final Report](#), the ICANN Board passed a resolution on [8 November, 2012](#), that introduced a “parallel path” approach to respond to the WHOIS Review Team. One path focused on implementing the recommendations to improve today’s WHOIS, based upon the current policy framework, as detailed in the [Action Plan](#) adopted by the Board.

The second path called for the creation of an Expert Working Group, to help resolve the nearly decade-long deadlock within the ICANN community on how to replace the current WHOIS system. The EWG was tasked with re-examining and defining the purpose of collecting and maintaining gTLD registration data. It also considered how to safeguard the data, and proposed a next-generation solution to better serve the needs of the global Internet community. The EWG work has concluded with the publication of its [Final Report](#) that is expected to serve as the foundation for a new GNSO policy framework.

Upon publication of the [EWG's Final Report](#) in June, 2014, an informal group of Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Councilors and ICANN Board members collaborated to propose a [Process Framework](#) for structuring a GNSO Policy Development Process (PDP) to successfully address this challenging issue.

On [26 May, 2015](#), the ICANN Board adopted that Process Framework and reaffirmed its 2012 request for a Board-initiated PDP to define the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data, and to consider safeguards for protecting data, using the recommendations in the EWG’s Final Report as an input to, and, if appropriate, as the foundation for a new gTLD policy. This resolution also called for the creation of a new Board working group as follows:

Resolved (2015.04.26.12), the Board commits to forming a group of Board members that will (i) liaise with the GNSO on the policy development process to examine the EWG's recommended model and propose policies to support the creation of the next generation registration directory services, and (ii) oversee the implementation of the remaining projects arising from the [Action Plan \[PDF, 119 KB\]](#) adopted by the Board in response to the WHOIS Review Team's recommendations. The Board directs the Board Governance Committee to begin the process for identifying a recommendation of a slate of Board members to do this work.

Planning is currently underway for the convening of the second WHOIS Review Team (WRT-2) under the Affirmation of Commitments, which is to be scheduled in late 2015. The WHOIS RT-2 will evaluate the implementation status of the recommendations under the [Action Plan](#).

Terms of Reference:

Registration Data Directory Services -Refers to the services offered by registries and registrars to provide access to (potentially a subset of) the domain name registration data.

WHOIS- An Internet protocol that is used to query databases to obtain information about the registration of a domain name (or IP address). ICANN's gTLD agreements require registries and registrars to offer an interactive web page and a port 43 WHOIS service providing free public access to data on registered names.

Reference Documents:

- [WHOIS Review Team Final Report](#)
- [Action Plan](#)
- [EWG Final Report](#)
- [Board/GNSO Collaboration Group Process Framework](#)