

Dotless Domain Names Risk Study & Recommendations

Firm: Carve Systems LLC

Job Title: Contractor

Reporting to: Francisco Arias, gTLD Registry Technical Liaison

Dates of Performance: 20 May, 2013 - 26 July, 2013

Description of Tasks and Requirements:

Conduct a study on the risks related to dotless domain names based on SAC 053 report from the SSAC. The report will identify and describe the risks that dotless names raise with particular focus on those related to security and stability. The report will also provide options for ICANN as to how to mitigate the various risks and will describe the pros and cons of the options. Additionally:

- The report must clearly define the data set that was used for the study, and rationale for why this is a valid data set.
- The report must clearly define the methodology used for the study and rationale for using it.
- The Contractor will be responsible for gathering the data necessary to conduct this study.
- The Contractor will provide periodic (at least once a week) status updates to ICANN staff regarding progress of the project via telecoms and management reporting.
- The Contractor will work collaboratively with the SSAC as time permits.

For purposes of this project, security and stability are defined as in the gTLD Applicant Guidebook as follows:

- Security – an effect on security by a dotless domain name means (1) the unauthorized disclosure, alteration, insertion or destruction of registry data, or (2) the unauthorized access to or disclosure of information or resources on the Internet by systems operating in accordance with all applicable standards.
- Stability – an effect on stability means that a dotless domain name (1) does not comply with applicable relevant standards that are authoritative and published by a well-established, recognized, and authoritative standards body, such as relevant standards-track or best current practice RFCs sponsored by the IETF, or (2) creates a condition that adversely affects the throughput, response time, consistency, or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems, operating in accordance with applicable relevant standards that are authoritative and published by a well-established, recognized and authoritative standards body, such as relevant standards track or best current practice RFCs and relying on registry operator's delegation information or provisioning services.

Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct:

Contractor and its Project Team shall be subject to the Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct Guidelines for Panelists established in Section 2.4.3 of the gTLD Applicant Guidebook version 2012-06-04 (the “Applicant Guidebook”)¹.

Note: “Project Team” in this SOW has the same meaning as “Panelist” or “Evaluation Panelist” in Section 2.4.3 of the Applicant Guidebook.

Contractor will ensure that the Project Team is advised and made aware of their obligation to comply with the Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Code of Conduct Guidelines (as set out in Section 2.4.3 of the Applicant Guidebook).

Each Project Team member assigned is expected to have read and to perform services in compliance with Conflict of Interest Guidelines and Code of Conduct Guidelines.

Contractor will require that it and each Project Team member working under this Statement of Work during the Compliance Period (as defined in the Applicant Guidebook):

- (a) Not engage in any direct or indirect communication with any Applicant regarding the gTLD application process; and
- (b) Obtain ICANN’s prior written approval (which will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed) in relation to the content of any proposed press release or other public communication concerning the services under this SOW, reference to ICANN as a customer of the Contractor or any other subject matter under this SOW prior to any release or publication.

¹ The Applicant Guidebook can be accessed at: <http://newgtlds.icann.org/en/applicants/agb>.