Generic Names Supporting Organisation

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GNSO Purpose

• Responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains (gtlds) that enhance the stability and security of the Internet’s unique identifier systems, while fostering competition where appropriate to give Internet users greater choice at optimal cost.
GNSO Policies under development

• WHOIS
  – notice, access, accuracy
  – Differences between local law requirements with respect to privacy and consumer protection, and ICANN requirements

• Process for use by ICANN staff in approving changes to gtld agreements
GNSO Issues under review

- Process for re-allocation of domain names between registrants
- New gTLDs
GNSO Policies under review

• Transfers
  – Waiting for 3 month report
  – About to start 6 month review
  – SSAC advice
WHOIS

- Growth of services in the market that preserve contactability necessary for security and stability, but protect the registrant’s personal postal address, phone numbers, and email address
- Contact services – forward postal mail, email and phone call after screening for SPAM, and other forms of unsolicited marketing material
Re-allocation of domain names

- Registrants currently may transfer the rights associated with a domain name to other registrants
- Market has evolved – with auctions becoming a dominant model
- Specialist auction providers emerging
- Registrars facilitating registrant transfers after a name has expired with the registrar and before renewal or deletion.
Potential issues

• Registrar agreements with registrants all different, apart from a few common terms
• Are there any security and stability issues emerging in the market?
• Are there any issues associated with choice of registrars?
• Do registrants know their rights, and are they clear that their options are:
  – Renew, delete, transfer to another registrant?
Problems at the registries

• Registrars acting on behalf of their customers, have been slamming the registry via the batch pool to attempt to obtain names
  – Growth of accreditations purely to get extra connection bandwidth
  – Game of chance – no certainty for registrants wishing to obtain a specific domain name
Auction mechanism at registry

- Following discussions in Cape Town, the industry is considering using the auction mechanism to provide fair access to deleted names for all registrants
- Auction the right to register a particular domain name
- Auction would apply between registrars seeking to obtain a name on behalf of registrants – opening bid is $0
GNSO planning

• Major issues
  – WHOIS
  – New gtlds
  – Strategic planning
GNSO planning (2)

- Other important issues
  - New registry services
  - Transfers
  - Deletion processes
  - Compliance options
  - Improvements to the PDP
  - Improvements in GNSO procedures
    - E.g better conferencing options
Long term planning

• GNSO will develop its own operational and strategic plans for its policy development activities

• GNSO will develop processes to provide effective input to ICANN on ICANN’s overall operational and strategic plans
Thanks

• Tony Harris
  – A member of the GNSO Council
  – Played a major role in organising this event here in Mar Del Plata