
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: ADDRESS VALIDATION SOLUTIONS

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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (“ICANN”) is requesting information related to commercial services that support validation of domain name registration contact data. This Request for Information (“RFI”) is intended to inform ICANN of current service offerings for cross-filed address validation providers. The 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (referred to as the 2013 RAA) requires postal address cross-field validation for all registrars who have executed the 2013.

The purpose of this RFI is purely informational – that is, to inform the development of policies and procedures – potential interested parties that respond to this RFI will not be bound by the estimates, prices, or other information provided in their response to this RFI. There is also no obligation on the parties responding to this RFI to submit a future RFP bid or for ICANN to proceed with implementation or vendor selection, with or without issuance of a future RFP. All submitted content, however, may be subject to a third-party assessment and may be included in a future report published on behalf of ICANN.

ICANN OVERVIEW

The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is an internationally organized non-profit corporation responsible for the security and stability of the internet. This includes Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top Level Domain Name System (DNS) management, and root server management. ICANN is dedicated to preserving the operational stability of the Internet; to promote competition; achieve global representation of Internet community members and develop policy appropriate to its mission.

In support of this mission, ICANN develops policy for WHOIS services that provide public access to domain name registration data. The extent of data collected at the time of domain name registration, and the ways such data can be accessed, are specified in agreements established by ICANN for domain names registered in gTLDs. ICANN currently requires its accredited registrars to collect and provide free public access to gTLD domain name registrations. This data includes name servers, creation and expiration dates, Registered Name Holder, Technical and Administrative name and associated contact information.

See www.icann.org for more information.

ADDRESS VALIDATION INFORMATION

Registrars under the 2013 RAA are currently required to perform limited validation of registrant contact data. This requirement generally ensures that customer's registration data conforms to applicable forms and conventions. For example, email addresses must conform to RFC5322, telephone numbers must follow the ITU-TE.164 notation for international telephone numbers, and postal addresses must conform to the Universal Postal Union S42 templates. The 2013 RAA also requires registrars to perform cross-field validation of addresses (e.g., the house number exists on the street, street exists in the city, city exists in the province and the post code is correct); however, this requirement is not currently enforced and will only become effective 6 months after ICANN and a working group of registrar volunteers mutually agree that cross-field validation is technically and commercially feasible. The response(s) to this RFI is intended to inform ICANN and the registrar working group's decision on commercial and technical feasibility. Following this RFI, ICANN will engage an impartial third party to perform an analysis of the results and issue a report of its findings.

ICANN and registrars seek to determine whether address validation services are readily available, in which countries, and the extent to which such services may be feasibly implemented by registrars in a cost-effective manner. ICANN also seeks information to help guide its consideration of whether and to what extent it should be involved in the provisioning of a third-party service offering.

INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

DEFINITIONS

"Respondent" means any person or firm receiving this RFI or submitting a response to this RFI.

"Syntactic validation" refers to the assessment of data with the intent to ensure that they satisfy specified syntactic constraints, conform to specified data standards, and are transformed and formatted properly for their intended use. (For example, if the data element is expected to be a physical street address, is it formatted for a physical street address?) In general, it is expected that syntactic validation checks would be entirely automated and could be executed in line with a registration process, follow up information reviews and wherever registration data is modified.

"Operational validation" refers to assessment of data for their intended use in their routine functions. (Examples of operational validation include 1) confirming that the postal address can accept post mail 2) confirmation that submitted data is self-consistent, i.e., submitted data is logically consistent with other data. It is expected that the majority of operational validation checks are automated and executable during the pre-and/or post registration process.

“Identity validation” refers to the assessment that the data corresponds to the real-world identity of entity. It involves checking that a data item correctly represents the real-world identity for the registrant. In general, identity validation checks are expected to require some manual intervention.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Potential responders may express interest in responding to this RFI by sending an email to: addressvalidation-rfi@icann.org. RFI responses must be submitted via ICANN's Sourcing tool. Access to the tool and the RFI may be requested using the same email address above. RFI responses are due to be submitted via the ICANN Sourcing tool by 27 November 2017 at 23:59 UTC.

QUESTIONNAIRE

The respondent's submission shall address the availability of a number of components such as data accuracy, service and global coverage when assessing all available cross-field address validation services. These components are included in a RFI questionnaire which is accessible within the ICANN Sourcing tool. Once access is requested and provided to the tool, the questionnaire may be accessed.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

The [2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en) is located at: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en>.

The [WHOIS Accuracy Specification](https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en#whois-accuracy) is located at: <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/approved-with-specs-2013-09-17-en#whois-accuracy>.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- I. Submission of a proposal shall constitute Respondent's acknowledgment and acceptance of all the specifications, requirements and terms and conditions in this RFP.
- II. All costs of preparing and submitting its proposal, responding to or providing any other assistance to ICANN in connection with this RFP will be borne by the Respondent.
- III. All submitted proposals including any supporting materials or documentation will become the property of ICANN. If Respondent's proposal contains any proprietary information that should not be disclosed or used by the ICANN organization other than for the purposes of evaluating the proposal, that information should be marked with appropriate confidentiality markings.
- IV. All non-proprietary materials and documentation may be subject to a third-party assessment and incorporated into published report on behalf of ICANN.
- V. Respondent is responsible for examining this RFI and all addenda. Failure to do so will be at the sole risk of Respondent. Should Respondent find discrepancies, omissions, unclear or ambiguous intent or meaning, or should any question arise concerning this RFI,

Respondent must notify the ICANN organization of such findings immediately in writing via e-mail no later than three (3) days prior to the deadline for bid submissions. Should such matters remain unresolved by the ICANN organization, in writing, prior to Respondent's preparation of its proposal, such matters must be addressed in Respondent's proposal.

- VI. The ICANN organization is not responsible for oral statements made by its employees, agents, or representatives concerning this RFI. If Respondent requires additional information, Respondent must request that the issuer of this RFI furnish such information in writing.
- VII. A Respondent's proposal is presumed to represent its best efforts to respond to the RFI. Any significant inconsistency, if unexplained, raises a fundamental issue of the Respondent's understanding of the nature and scope of the work required and of its ability to perform the contract as proposed and may be cause for rejection of the proposal. The burden of proof as to cost credibility rests with the Respondent.
- VIII. If necessary, supplemental information to this RFI will be provided to all prospective Respondents receiving this RFI. All supplemental information issued by the ICANN organization will form part of this RFI. ICANN is not responsible for any failure by prospective Respondents to receive supplemental information.
- IX. The ICANN organization reserves the right, without penalty and at its discretion, to accept or reject any proposal, withdraw this RFI, make no award, to waive or permit the correction of any informality or irregularity and to disregard any non-conforming or conditional proposal.
- X. The ICANN organization may request a Respondent to provide further information or documentation to support Respondent's proposal and its ability to provide the products and/or services contemplated by this RFI.