“New IRTP Issues”
Summary of Issues Report

Olof Nordling
ICANN
21 June 2008

Background

- “New IRTP Issues” is the name of Issue Set A, out of the five IRTP issue sets A-D agreed upon for future PDPs at the Council call 8 May 2008, when an Issues Report for set A was requested
- The issues covered are:
  - Should registrant email address data be made available between registrars?
  - Is there a need for other options for electronic authentication?
  - Should provisions for partial bulk transfers be introduced?
- The Issues Report on Set A was delivered on 23 May. It confirms that a GNSO PDP on these issues would be in scope and recommends a launch of a PDP.

Availability of Registrant E-mail Address Data Between Registrars

- Registrant approval and Admin Contact approval are both recognized as valid grounds for a transfer , but the Registrant can overrule the Admin Contact
- The Registrant Email Address is not a required field in Whois, in contrast to the Admin Contact
- There is currently no way of automating transfer approval by the Registrant and the lack of an automated procedure complicates the process for the Registrant
- Change of Whois requirements is out of scope, so availability of registrant email addresses should be considered through other means of keeping, maintaining and exchanging such information
- Such ”other means” also imply that procedural, administrative and security aspects need attention

Options for Electronic Authentication

- For a transfer, the Gaining Registrar should obtain a FOA from the Registrant or Admin Contact. Is a security token for the FOA needed to prevent spoofing?
- Considerations by the original TransfersTask Force, mentioning ”Electronic signature....for instance in line with US e-Sign Act”
- Current use of digital signatures for transfers is unknown
- SSAC 2005 hijacking report recommends strengthening of identity verification for electronic communications
- EPP widely deployed since then, with ”AuthInfo” code, which may have an impact on security concerns
- Some ccTLDs use electronic authentication for transfers; Nominet (.UK) with PGP and IIS (.SE) with a certificate-based interface

Partial Bulk Transfers

- Currently, there are particular provisions for ”total” bulk transfers of all domain names held by one registrar to another – this is a rather special case in practice
- Partial bulk transfers may have various rationales; registrar to registrar agreements , registrant M&A activity etc
- There are no provisions for partial bulk transfers today. Registrars may accept fax lists of domains to transfer, but the formal requirements remain per individual domain
- Registrant approval aspects also need consideration, for example in case of inter-registrar agreements for partial bulk transfer
- Nominet (.UK) has provisions for ”mass” transfers and PGP-signed ”bulk” transfers at the registrar level

Conclusions

- A PDP on the issues covered is clearly within scope and recommended
- There are areas where additional information could be useful, for example regarding:
  - current use in practice of voluntary solutions
  - approaches used by ccTLDs
- Suggested topics for discussion/decisions:
  - to what extent is additional information deemed essential? If yes...
  - whether to collect such information within a PDP or as a preparatory step?
  - and of course, whether to launch a PDP...