Thick Whois
Policy Development Process

Why is it important?

- ICANN specifies Whois requirements through the registry and registrar agreements

- Registries use different services to satisfy their obligations:
  - 'thin' Whois: A thin registry only stores and manages the information associated with the domain name
  - 'thick' Whois: Thick registries maintain and provide both sets of data (domain name and registrant) via Whois.

- Thick Whois has certain advantages e.g. transfers, but there may be negative consequences that should be explored in order to determine whether 'thick' Whois should be required for all
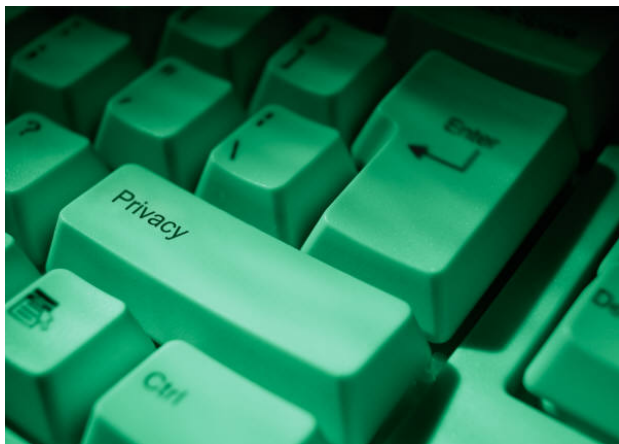
Recent Developments

- WG reviewed all comments received
- Achieved full consensus on report and its recommendations
- Final Report published on 21 October recommends that:

The provision of thick Whois services, with a consistent labelling and display as per the model outlined in specification 3 of the 2013 RAA, should become a requirement for all gTLD registries, both existing and future

Implementation Recommendations

- Subsequent public comment forum and the notification by the ICANN Board to the GAC to request input on any considerations related to the transition from thin to thick Whois

- Undertake a legal review of law applicable to transition of data from a thin to thick model and give due consideration to potential privacy issues that may result from the transition from thin to thick Whois

- Creation of an Implementation Review Team

Next Steps

- GNSO Council to consider the recommendations
- If/when adopted, public comment forum prior to Board consideration

Further Information

- Thick Whois Final Report – http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/whois/thick-final-21oct13-en.pdf
- DT Workspace - https://community.icann.org/display/PDP/Home