

Next Generation gTLD RDS to Replace Whois PDP Working Group (Next Gen RDS) – Termination Summary

This Termination Summary is being provided to the GNSO Council by the Next Gen RDS leadership team on behalf of the Next Gen RDS working group and in accordance with section 15 in the GNSO Operating Procedures – Annex 2 (Policy Development Process Manual).

In March of this year the RDS PDP leadership team canceled working group meetings, effectively putting the group on hold. This decision was made because ICANN org indicated it was considering instituting a temporary policy that would greatly impact the working group. Out of respect for members' time it didn't make sense to continue deliberations.

Since then, the ICANN board did approve a temporary specification (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/gtld-registration-data-specs-en>). Following that, the GNSO council initiated an expedited PDP on that temporary specification (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2018-07-19-en>).

Given all that has changed since 19 November 2015 when the GNSO Council approved the charter (https://gns0.icann.org/sites/default/files/filefield_48165/whois-ng-gtld-rds-charter-07oct15-en.pdf) for the Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service (RDS) to replace WHOIS we are recommending the termination of the working group. The PDP manual provides “Changing Circumstances” as an example of a possible reason for termination of a PDP. The enactment of a temporary specification resulting from GDPR and the subsequent ePDP on that temporary specification more than qualifies as changing circumstances.

Termination is being recommended over suspension because so much has changed since the working group was first chartered. It is unknown if another PDP will be needed following the ePDP however restarting the working group would likely require considerable revisions to the charter and the amount of time that will have passed will negate any benefit of continuity.

While the working group did not reach formal consensus on any items, considerable progress was made and is captured in the preliminary agreements document (<https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/56986791/ListOfWGAgreements-13February.pdf>) covering 44 items.

The working group requests that consideration be made to archiving the work and progress that was made during the two plus years of deliberation. In addition to the preliminary agreements document, the PDP leadership team would like to note the over 1000 possible requirements for registration data and directory services (https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/56986791/RDS_PDP_List_of_Possible_Requirements_D5_-_TriagelnProgress_-_28_October.docx) document and the lessons learned document produced by the RDS PDP leadership team.

The RDS Leadership team would like to recognize the countless volunteer hours contributed by members of the working group and excellent support provided by ICANN staff.