



Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery PDP WG

*ICANN – San Francisco
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Background



- To what extent should registrants be able to reclaim their domain names after they expire?
- Issue brought to the GNSO by ALAC
- PDP initiated in June 2009 (unanimous vote)
- PEDNR WG examines five questions relating to expiration and renewal practices and policies
- WG is expected to make recommendations for best practices and / or consensus policies

Recent Developments



- Initial Report Published in May 2010 - did not include any recommendations
- WG reviewed public comments and continued deliberations
- Published proposed Final Report on 21 Feb containing 14 recommendations
- Public comment forum open until 7 April

Summary of Recommendation

The WG believes that our recommendations:

- will provide additional guarantees to registrants;
- will improve registrant education and comprehension;
- are in line with current registrar practices and will have minimal impact on most registrars and other affected stakeholders.

Recommendations

- #1 - Define “Registered Name Holder at Expiration (RNHaE) to identify the entity or individual eligible to renew the domain name registration prior to expiration
- #2- Provide a minimum of 8 days after expiration when RNHaE can renew, and disable normal operation during that time to attract the attention of the RNHaE
- #3 - Changes to WHOIS after expiration must not alter the RNHaE ability to renew
- #4 & #5 - All unsponsored gTLDs and registrars must offer Redemption Grace Period (RGP)
- #6 - Registrar website should state any fee(s) charged for renewal following expiration

Recommendations

- #7 - Registrars to provide link to ICANN published web content providing educational materials on registrant responsibilities and gTLD domain name life-cycle
- #8 - ICANN to develop educational materials about how to prevent unintended loss
- #9 - The registration agreement and web-site must clearly indicate what methods will be used to deliver notification messages
- #10 & #12 - At least two notices prior to expiration at set times, one after expiration
- #11 - Notifications of expiration must include methods that do not require explicit action other than standard e-mail receipt

Recommendations

- #13 - The page shown following expiration (if registrar changes DNS resolution) must explicitly say that the domain has expired and give instructions on how to redeem the registration
- #14 - If post-expiration notifications are normally sent to a point of contact using the domain in question, post-expiration notifications should be sent to some other contact point associated with the registrant if one exists (best practice)

Note: a number of these recommendations will need further refinement, as noted in some of the bracketed language that can be found in the report

Next Steps



- Public comment forum open until 7 April
- Please participate:
<http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/public-comment-201104-en.htm#pednr-proposed-final-report>
- WG will review comments received and finalize report for submission to GNSO Council

Further Information



- Post-Expiration Domain Name Recovery Proposed Final Report - <http://gnso.icann.org/issues/pednr/pednr-proposed-final-report-21feb11-en.pdf>
- PEDNR Public Comment Forum - <http://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/public-comment-201104-en.htm#pednr-proposed-final-report>



Questions?

Recommendation #1

Define “Registered Name Holder at Expiration (RNHaE) to identify the entity or individual eligible to renew the domain name registration prior to expiration

- RAA did not explicitly state who is allowed to renew after expiration
- Since many registration agreements allow the Registrar to alter WHOIS after expiration, it could not be assumed that the WHOIS entry pointed to the “registrant” who should be allowed to renew

Recommendation #2

Provide a minimum of 8 days after expiration when RNHaE can renew, and disable normal operation during that time to attract the attention of the RNHaE

- Today, most registrars provide more than 8 days and most disable normal operation during some or all of this period. Nothing in this policy requires them to change
- The 8 (or more) days of disabled operation can start immediately after expiration, or at some later point in the 45 day Registry Auto-renew Grace Period

Recommendation #3

Changes to WHOIS after expiration must not alter the RNHaE ability to renew

- This is the operational aspect of the RNHaE definition.
- Recommendation #5 addresses the similar issue for the Redemption Grace Period (RGP)

Recommendations #4 & #5

All unsponsored gTLDs and registrars must offer Redemption Grace Period (RGP)

- When RGP developed, many of the people involved in the original RGP discussions expected that it would be adopted as a Consensus Policy, but steps were never taken to do this.
- Most current unsponsored gTLDs offer the RGP
- The Applicant Guidebook for new gTLDs does not include the requirement for an RGP
- Most Registrar allow RGP redemptions, but there is no requirement that they do so

Recommendation #6

Registrar website should state any fee(s) charged for renewal following expiration

- The 2004 Expired Domain Deletion Policy PDP required that the RGP fee be posted, but not the regular renewal fee

Recommendations #7 & #8

#7 - Registrars to provide link to ICANN published web content providing educational materials on registrant responsibilities and gTLD domain name life-cycle

#8 - ICANN to develop educational materials about how to prevent unintended loss

- WG universally believed that lack of understanding and no easy way to address this was #1 problem.
- Two recommendations started as different concepts but got a bit confused as recommendations evolved. Need to be cleaned up

Recommendation #9

The registration agreement and web-site must clearly indicate what methods will be used to deliver notification messages

- Currently we expect registrants to renew following notifications, but often we do not tell them where notifications will be sent

Recommendations #10 & #12

At least two notices prior to expiration at set times, one after expiration

- Two notices prior to expiration a current requirement, but stated in a very obtuse way in the RAA. This will make it clearer
- Post-expiration notices are already sent by many Registrars
- Timing of pre-expiration notices: 30 ± 4 days, 7 ± 3 days.
 - Exception policy to allow for business models where this timing does not make sense (perhaps non-standard contract periods)

Recommendation #11

Notifications of expiration must include methods that do not require explicit action other than standard e-mail receipt

- Registrant should not need to take unusual actions to receive notification

Recommendation #13

The page shown following expiration (if registrar changes DNS resolution) must explicitly say that the domain has expired and give instructions on how to redeem the registration

- If a splash/parking page of some sort is presented, it should make clear that this is associated with an expired domain that can still be renewed and provide instructions on how to renew (perhaps a link to click on or where to call)
- Many Registrars already do this

Recommendation #14

If post-expiration notifications are normally sent to a point of contact using the domain in question, post-expiration notifications should be sent to some other contact point associated with the registrant if one exists (best practice)

- Many registrants direct all of their contact e-mails addresses to the domain being registered
- Thus, e-mail sent after the domain is disabled will not be delivered
- No registrar we surveyed factored that in when sending post-expiration e-mails
- Although WG thought that this was useful, we acknowledge that it may be difficult to implement