SSAC Report on Domain Name WHOIS Terminology and Structure

1. Clarify the taxonomy associated with WHOIS

2. Make observations in light of the taxonomy

3. Offer a set of recommendations aimed at moving efforts at improving WHOIS

WHOIS Taxonomy

Domain Name Registration Data (DNRD)

The information that registrants provide when registering a domain name and that registrars or registries collect. Some of this information is made available to the public.

WHOIS Taxonomy

Domain Name Registration Data Access Protocol (DNRD-AP)

The elements of a (standard) communications exchange—queries and responses—that make access to registration data possible.

WHOIS Taxonomy

Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service (DNRD-DS)

The service(s) offered by registries and registrars to provide access to (potentially a subset of) the DNRD.

Observations

- The use of ambiguous terminology has for many years inhibited productive discussion of DNRD-related issues and pursuit of consensus on how to improve the DNRD-DS.

Observations

- There is currently no uniform data model that exists for DNRD which unduly complicates data submission, handling, exchange, and access.

Observations

- The DNRD directory services implemented using the WHOIS protocol today do not support character sets other than US-ASCII in a standard manner.

Observations

- Current directory services generally offer public and largely anonymous access to DNRD, making it difficult to satisfy an evolving range of legitimate needs for access to different granularities of data.

Recommendations

The ICANN community should adopt the terminology outlined in this report in documents, discussions, and events.

Recommendations

The ICANN community should evaluate and adopt a replacement domain name registration data access protocol that supports the query and display of Internationalized DNRD as well as addressing the relevant recommendations in SAC 003, SAC 027 and SAC 033.

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Recommendations

The ICANN community should develop a uniform and standard framework for accessing DNRD that would provide mechanisms to define and implement a range of verification methods, credential services, and access control capabilities.

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Questions

Thank You

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