

Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy Part D Policy Development Process

What is this about?

The Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP) Part D PDP Working Group was chartered by the GNSO Council to answer six questions in relation to the IRTP: 1) whether reporting requirements for registries and dispute providers should be developed; 2) whether to amend the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy on how to handle disputes when multiple transfers have occurred; 3) whether dispute options for registrants should be developed; 4) whether registrars should be required to make information on transfer dispute resolution options available to registrants; 5) whether additional penalties for IRTP breaches should be introduced, and; 6) whether the universal adoption and implementation of EPP AuthInfo codes has eliminated the need for FOAs.

Why is this important?

ICANN's Compliance Department received a total of 6333 transfer-related complaints between August 2013 and August 2014 alone, making it one of the most common issues of community complaint. However, at the same time, the Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy (TDRP), explicitly designed to handle disputed inter-registrar transfers, is hardly ever invoked by registrars.

What is the current status of this project?

The GNSO Council unanimously [adopted](#) the Final Report on 15 October 2014. Following a [public comment](#) period, the ICANN Board [approved](#) all 18 recommendations contained in the Report. The implementation phase is now underway and staff has sent out a call for volunteers to join the Implementation Review Team.

Expected next steps

The Implementation process will be overseen by staff from ICANN's Global Domains Division and community members are [invited to join](#) to participate in this effort through the Implementation Review Team. In due course staff will share its work plan and start working through its step-by-step implementation process for all 18 recommendations.

Background

The IRTP is a 2004 consensus policy developed through the GNSO's policy development process (PDP) and is currently under review by the GNSO through a series of PDPs. The IRTP provides a straightforward procedure for domain name holders to transfer domain names between registrars. On the recommendation of the IRTP Part C WG, the GNSO Council agreed to combine all the remaining IRTP issues into this final PDP, IRTP Part D, in addition to one issue that was raised by the IRTP Part C WG in its Final Report. The GNSO Council unanimously adopted the request for an Issue Report on IRTP Part D at its meeting on 17 October 2012. The Working Group started its deliberations on 25 February 2013 and submitted its Final Report to the GNSO Council on 15 September 2014.

As part of the IRTP Part D PDP Final Report, the ICANN Board has [adopted](#) 18 Recommendations including¹:

- 1) Reporting requirements be incorporated into the TDRP policy;
- 2) A domain name be returned to the original Registrar of Record if it is found through a TDRP procedure that a non-IRTP compliant domain name transfer has occurred;
- 3) The statute of limitation to launch a TDRP be extended from current 6 months to 12 months from the initial transfer;
- 4) If a request for enforcement is initiated under the TDRP the relevant domain be 'locked' against further transfers;
- 5) No dispute options for registrants be developed and implemented as part of the current TDRP;
- 6) The TDRP be modified to eliminate the First Level (Registry) layer of the TDRP;
- 7) The Form of Authorization (FOA) should not be abandoned, and;
- 8) Following the implementation of all IRTP recommendation, a future review of the IRTP and the TDRP should be initiated, based on relevant data points that the Registries and Registrars should starting collect as soon as possible.

How can I get involved?

Volunteers to join the Implementation Review Team are welcome, especially if they are familiar with the policy recommendations and/or have relevant expertise to assist the implementation efforts – that is why members from the IRTP Part D PDP Working Group are particularly encouraged to participate.

Where can I find more information?

- Call to join Implementation Review Team: <http://forum.icann.org/lists/gnso-irtpd/msg00554.html>
- Final Report: <http://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/irtp-d>
- ICANN Board Resolution: <https://features.icann.org/gns0-council-policy-recommendations-inter-registrar-transfer-policy-part-d>
- GNSO Council Motion: <http://gns0.icann.org/en/council/resolutions#20141015-1>
- Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy: <http://www.icann.org/en/resources/registrars/transfers/policy-01jun12.htm>

Staff responsible: Lars Hoffmann and Steve Chan

¹ The full set of recommendations can be found in the [Final Report](#)