Expedited Policy Development Process: Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data - Phase 2

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data. The Board took this action to establish temporary requirements for how ICANN and its contracted parties would continue to comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements and community-developed policies related to WHOIS, while also complying with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The Temporary Specification has been adopted under the procedure for Temporary Policies outlined in the Registry Agreement (RA) and Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA).

Following adoption of the Temporary Specification, the Board "shall immediately implement the Consensus Policy development process set forth in ICANN's Bylaws."[1] This Consensus Policy development process on the Temporary Specification had to be carried out within a one-year period. Additionally, the scope included discussion of a standardized access system to nonpublic registration data.

At its meeting on 19 July 2018, the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Council initiated an EPDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data and adopted the EPDP Team charter. The EPDP Team published its Phase 1 Initial Report for **Public Comment** on 21 November 2018. The EPDP Team incorporated public comments into its Phase 1 **Final Report**, and the GNSO Council voted to adopt all 29 recommendations within the EPDP's Phase 1 **Final Report** at its meeting on 4 March 2019.

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[1] See section 3.1(a) of the Registry Agreement: https://www.icann.org/resources/unthemed-pages/org-agmt-html-2013-09-12-en

On 15 May 2019, the ICANN Board **adopted** the EPDP Team's Phase 1 Final Report, with the exception of parts of two recommendations: 1) Purpose 2 in Recommendation 1, and 2) the option to delete data in the Organization field in Recommendation 12. Per the ICANN Bylaws, a consultation will take place between the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board to discuss the parts of the EPDP Phase 1 recommendations that were not adopted by the ICANN Board. At the same time, an Implementation Review Team (IRT), consisting of the ICANN organization and members of the ICANN community, will now implement the approved recommendations of the EPDP Team's Phase 1 Final Report. For further details on the status of implementation, **click here**.

In conjunction with the adoption of the Final Report, the GNSO Council provided the required non-objection for the EPDP Team to commence its work on Phase 2 of the charter.

WHAT IS THE SCOPE OF THE EFFORTS?

The EPDP began Phase 2 of its work in May 2019. The scope focuses on the following:

- Discussion of a SSAD to nonpublic registration data.
- Issues noted in the **Annex to the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data** ("Important Issues for Further Community Action").
- Issues deferred from Phase 1, such as legal vs. natural persons, redaction of city field, etc.

For further details, please see **here**.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The EPDP Team has been tasked with working on issues related to WHOIS registration data that the ICANN community has been discussing and trying to resolve for over 10 years.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The EPDP Team began its Phase 2 work by discussing a series of real-life use cases for entities who request access or disclosure to nonpublic registration data. Following the review of the use cases, the Team distilled common themes from the use cases to develop building blocks and policy principles of the SSAD on a variety of topics. Some of the building blocks, which the EPDP Team will use to form its policy recommendations in its initial report, include purposes for requesting nonpublic registration data, accreditation of requestors, categorization of users, query policy, acceptable use policy, etc.

The EPDP Team has been refining the building blocks and accompanying policy principles leading up to ICANN66. They also **met** in the ICANN's Los Angeles headquarters in September 2019 to further their work. They will continue these discussions at the EPDP sessions at ICANN66.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

Following the EPDP Team's meetings at ICANN66, the EPDP Team will work to finalize its Phase 2 Initial Report, targeting December 2019 to publish the report. Please see further details **here**.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

In addition to the EPDP working sessions at ICANN66 (see above), community members may be interested in attending the plenary session on the status of the EPDP Team's Phase 2 work.

Those interested in the implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 recommendations are welcome to attend the sessions of the IRT as it continues to discuss the draft gTLD Registration Data Policy. The IRT sessions will take place on Wednesday, 6 November from 08:30-10:15 (EDT) and Thursday, 7 November from 08:30-10:15 (EDT).

You can become an observer of the EPDP Team mailing list on a read-only basis. Sign up here: **https://goo.gl/forms/iZg5JWHOnERsoEMI2**. The names of mailing list observers will be published on the **EPDP workspace**.

While participation on EPDP Team conference calls is restricted to appointed members and liaisons only, observers and other non-members are able to listen in real-time via audio cast.

MORE INFORMATION

- EPDP Phase 2 Building Blocks: **https://community.icann.org/x/k5ICBw**
- EPDP Phase 1 Initial Report: **https://go.icann.org/2E6DEbh**
- EPDP Phase 1 Final Report: **https://go.icann.org/2TNA63g**
- EPDP Webpage: **https://go.icann.org/2O8UTP6**
- EPDP Workspace: **https://go.icann.org/2LKujuF**
- EPDP Charter: **https://go.icann.org/2MsBAAx**

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