
Implementation Status: Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN58 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

A half-day working session has been scheduled for Saturday, 11 March (Day 1) at 13:45-18:00. This will be a working meeting of the Implementation Review Team (IRT), but any interested party is invited to attend. Members of the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)'s Public Safety Working Group (PSWG) who are working to develop a proposed law enforcement disclosure framework for accredited Privacy and Proxy Service providers have been invited to attend and discuss this topic with the IRT.

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

A privacy service allows domain name registration in the registrant's name, but all other contact details displayed in the publicly-accessible WHOIS system are those given by the privacy service provider, not by the registrant. A proxy service allows the registered name holder to license the use of the domain to a customer who actually uses the domain; the contact information displayed in the WHOIS system is that of the proxy service provider. The ICANN organization is implementing a new Privacy and Proxy Service Provider Accreditation Program, pursuant to policy recommendations that were developed by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG), adopted by the GNSO Council in January 2016, and adopted by the ICANN Board in August 2016.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) contains a temporary specification that governs registrars' obligations in respect of privacy and proxy services. This specification will expire on 1 January 2018 or when ICANN implements a privacy and proxy accreditation program, whichever first occurs.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

An IRT of more than 40 community members has been formed under the direction of ICANN's Global Domains Division (GDD). The IRT commenced its meetings in October 2016. The IRT is currently discussing questions related to the PDP final recommendations and reviewing draft proposed sections of the Privacy and Proxy Service Provider Accreditation Policy.

In January, the IRT elected to pursue an expedited timeline in light of the recently-announced 1 January 2018 expiration date of the 2013 RAA's interim Specification on Privacy and Proxy Registrations. The IRT will strive to complete its work, to the extent feasible, prior to the expiration of the interim RAA Specification, but the timeline could be impacted by unexpected developments. The project timeline will be revisited and updated quarterly on the ICANN.org [implementation status](#) web page.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The IRT is meeting weekly, and is currently discussing questions surrounding the draft Accreditation Policy and related questions.

The GAC's PSWG is working to develop a proposed law enforcement disclosure framework for Privacy and Proxy Service providers, to be refined within the IRT. The IRT has requested a proposed draft framework to be shared for discussion purposes prior to ICANN58.

If available, the IRT will discuss this proposal with the PSWG members in attendance during the IRT's half-day session at ICANN58. A detailed agenda for this meeting will be posted prior to the session.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

If you are a community member with experience and interest in this topic, and wish to join the IRT, send an email indicating your interest to the GNSO Secretariat at gnso-secs@ICANN.org.

MORE INFORMATION

- PDP Final Report: gnso.icann.org/en/issues/raa/ppsai-final-07dec15
- PDP Webpage: gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/ppsa
- IRT Workspace: community.icann.org/x/VA2sAw

STAFF RESPONSIBLE: Amy Bivins (GDD)