

### **GNSO Council-requested Whois studies**

**Misuse Study** – This study will assess whether public WHOIS significantly increases harmful acts and the impact of anti-harvesting measures.

Cost: \$150,000 (USD)

Awarded to: Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

Status: approved by GNSO Council last Sept, initiated in April 2011

Time estimate: 1 + year

**Registrant Identification Study** -- This study will examine how domain name registrants are identified and classify the various types of entities that register domains, including natural persons, various types of legal persons and Privacy and Proxy service providers. The study has been recast as an “exploratory” data-gathering effort that is not hypothesis-driven.

Cost: approx. \$180,000 (USD) (revised due to change in study terms).

Awarded to: NORC at the University of Chicago

Time estimate: 1 year

Status: Contract just finalized, launch late October

**WHOIS Privacy and Proxy “Abuse” Study** -- This study will compare a broad sample of Privacy & Proxy-registered domains associated with alleged harmful acts to assess how often bad actors try to obscure identity in WHOIS, how this rate of abuse compares to overall use of privacy and proxy services, and how this rate compares to alternatives like falsified WHOIS data, compromised machines and free web hosting.

Cost: \$150,000 (USD)

Time estimate: 1 year

Status: GNSO Council approved on 28 April, contract being finalized

**WHOIS Privacy and Proxy Relay and Reveal Study** -- The original study would analyze communication relay and identity reveal requests sent for Privacy and Proxy-registered domains, to explore and document how they are processed, and to identify factors that may promote or impede timely communication and resolution. Potential bidders were unsure of the feasibility of this study, especially obtaining a sufficient data sample, so the Council opted to conduct a pre-study to survey potential participants to determine if launching a full study is feasible to do.

Cost: \$80,000 (USD) for Pre-study Survey

Awarded to: Interisle Consulting

Time estimate: four months

Status: Launched in September

## **Inventory of WHOIS Service Requirements Report – new Working Group**

Background -- May 2009 -- The GNSO Council asked Policy Staff to compile a comprehensive set of technical requirements for the WHOIS service policy tools that reflect not only the known deficiencies in the current service but also include technical requirements that may be needed to support various policy initiatives that have been suggested in the past. A Final Report was published on 29 July 2010

Goals of Report – To collect and organize a set of technical requirements for community consideration:

- Current features identified as needing improvement
- Features to support various past policy proposals
- Features recommended by ICANN SOs, ACs, community

The GNSO Council decided on 19 May 2011 to convene a Working Group to develop a survey to help estimate the level of agreement with various “requirements” in the Report among the GNSO community. Survey results might help determine whether there is benefit to initiating a working group to develop a plan for considering the technical requirement recommendations in the report.

Target -- draft survey to GNSO Council by March 2012, final report by October 2012. This work is being conducted by a GNSO group.

Costs: To be determined