

---

# Implementation Status: Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Development Process

---

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN57 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The GNSO is not planning a specific policy session on this topic, since the PDP has been completed and the consensus recommendations adopted by the ICANN Board. There will, however, be two other sessions of potential interest on this topic. The first is an open session to introduce the community to the scope and likely framework for implementation (scheduled for Friday 4 November at 11:00) and the second is an open meeting of the newly-formed Implementation Review Team (scheduled for Monday 7 November at 11:00).

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

This Policy Development Process (PDP) was initiated to develop policy recommendations to guide ICANN's implementation of an accreditation program for privacy and proxy service providers.

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.

## WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

The 2013 RAA contains a temporary specification that governs registrars' obligations in respect of privacy and proxy services that will expire on 1 January 2017 or when ICANN implements a privacy and proxy accreditation program, whichever first occurs.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The PDP Working Group (WG) completed and submitted its Final Report to the GNSO Council in December 2015. In January 2016, the GNSO Council adopted the WG's final recommendations, all of which received full consensus within the WG. In August 2016, the ICANN Board **adopted** the GNSO's recommendations. An Implementation Review Team (IRT) of community members has been formed under the direction of ICANN's Global Domains Division.

## WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

The IRT has begun to meet to discuss a draft Implementation Plan. It will initially be considering what an appropriate accreditation model might be and a feasible timeline for implementation, amongst other preliminary topics.

## 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](mailto:gnso-secs@ICANN.org).

## MORE INFORMATION

- The WG's Final Report with background and final policy recommendations: [gnso.ICANN.org/en/issues/raa/ppsai-final-07dec15-en.pdf](https://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/raa/ppsai-final-07dec15-en.pdf)
- WG web page with links to background information: [gnso.ICANN.org/en/group-activities/active/ppsa](https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/ppsa)
- IRT Wiki Space: [community.ICANN.org/x/VA2sAw](https://community.icann.org/x/VA2sAw)

## BACKGROUND

In October 2011, the ICANN Board initiated negotiations with the Registrars Stakeholder Group to update the Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA), and simultaneously requested an Issue Report from the GNSO on issues not covered by the negotiations but suited for a PDP. The Final Issue Report was published in March 2012, and recommended that the GNSO commence its PDP on any issues not covered by the RAA as soon as possible after the negotiations were concluded. In June 2013, the ICANN Board formally approved the new 2013 RAA. In September 2013, ICANN staff published a paper for the GNSO, reporting on the conclusion of the RAA negotiations and highlighting issues relating to privacy and proxy services, including their accreditation and relay/reveal procedures. In October 2013, the GNSO Council formally approved the charter for the PDP WG on Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI).

**STAFF RESPONSIBLE:** Mary Wong (GNSO) and Amy Bivins (GDD)