
Implementation Status: Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Policy Recommendations

WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN68 IN RELATION TO THIS TOPIC?

The ICANN organization, in consultation with the Privacy Proxy Services Accreditation Issues Implementation Review Team (PPSAI IRT), has paused the implementation of the Privacy and Proxy Service Provider Accreditation Program (PP Accreditation Program). The implementation is pending completion of the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) Phase 2 work on a potential standardized access model for nonpublic gTLD registration data. No work will take place during the ICANN68.

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 Registration Data Directory Service (RDDS) 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, while contact information displayed in the RDDS system is that of the proxy service provider.

The ICANN org is implementing a new Privacy Proxy Accreditation Program, pursuant to policy recommendations that were developed by the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO) PPSAI PDP Working Group, 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 with respect to privacy and proxy services. This temporary specification will expire on 31 January 2021 or when ICANN implements a privacy and proxy accreditation program, whichever occurs first. This extension is based on a [23 May 2019 agreement](#) with the Registrar Stakeholder Group.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The IRT is currently paused, pending completion of the EPDP Phase 2 work on a potential standardized access model for nonpublic gTLD registration Data.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?

ICANN org will continue to monitor the EPDP Phase 1 Implementation, including information stemming from the ongoing EPDP Phase 1 Recommendation 27 analysis and Phase 2 policy development work. Following the completion of the implementation of the EPDP Phase 1 policy recommendations, ICANN org will reevaluate if it is prudent to resume some implementation work for the PP Accreditation Program or continue the pause until the completion of EPDP Phase 2.

After completion of relevant EPDP work, ICANN org will reassess draft PP IRT materials in consultation with PP IRT, to determine how to proceed with implementation of the PP Accreditation Program.

The project timeline will be revisited and updated quarterly on the ICANN.org [implementation status webpage](#).

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The PPSAI implementation is currently paused. However, broad community input is encouraged during the Public Comment phase, when available. ICANN Public Comment can be found here: <https://www.icann.org/public-comments>.

MORE INFORMATION

- PPSAI PDP Final Report: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/issues/raa/ppsai-final-07dec15-en.pdf>
- PPSAI PDP webpage: <http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/ppsa>
- IRT workspace: <https://community.icann.org/x/VA2sAw>

BACKGROUND

The IRT began meeting in October 2016 and has reviewed the draft Registrar Accreditation Agreement and other associated program materials in preparation for the Public Comment phase.

In proceeding to finalize the draft accreditation program materials for Public Comment, parallel efforts to monitor the EPDP Team’s work by the ICANN org became increasingly apparent. As noted in discussions since ICANN63, there is currently a significant amount of uncertainty around interpreting the data privacy requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) related to this type of proposed accreditation agreement. In its **02 November 2018 message** to the IRT, ICANN org elaborated further on these areas of uncertainty, as well as areas where the IRT could benefit from the work of the EPDP, and continued discussions with the European Data Protection Board. After indicating ICANN org’s decision to pause the IRT on **04 March 2019**, the GNSO Council deferred to ICANN org in a **30 April 2018 message**. In its response on **05 Sept 2019**, ICANN org confirmed that implementation work will remain paused pending the resolution of EPDP Phase 2. ICANN org continues to track the EPDP Team’s work for potential applications in the privacy and proxy context.

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