Overview of gTLD Transfers

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Purpose of IRTP

• IRTP is critical to supporting a competitive registration marketplace

• Allows registrants to “vote with their feet” if they are unhappy with their Registrar

• Provides standardized process for varied registrar systems & processes.

• Also sometimes used in conjunction with a “change of control”
Definitions / Acronyms

• IRTP: Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy. a.k.a. “Transfer.”

• Transfer Contact: Authorized to approve the transfer, either the Registrant or Admin Contact listed in the WHOIS for the name.

• New Registrar: The “Gaining Registrar” that will receive the Transferred name.

• Current Registrar: The “Losing registrar” that is the current “registrar of record” for the Tranferring name.

• FOA: Form of Authorization - electronic or paper confirmation of the transfer by the Transfer Contact.

• AuthInfo: A unique “code” assigned to the domain name that must be provided to the Registry when requesting the Transfer.
A “Pristine” Transfer

Registrant initiates transfer at the New Registrar. New Registrar provides instructions.
A "Pristine" Transfer

New Registrar performs a WHOIS lookup to get Registrant and/or Admin email

Sending Form of Authorization (FOA) is sent to Transfer Contact
A “Pristine” Transfer

Registrant unlocks domain name and requests AuthInfo Code

AuthInfo is returned by current (“losing”) registrar. This cannot be delayed or reasonably denied.

Registrant sends FOA and AuthInfo to New Registrar

New Registrar requests transfer and sends AuthInfo to Registry.
A “Pristine” Transfer

- If the name is unlocked and AuthInfo is valid, the Registry sends notice that Transfer is Pending.
- The Losing Registrar may (must) send FOA to Registrant. Transfer is not dependent on this step.
- After 5 days with no objections (“NACK”), the transfer is complete.
Exception Cases

- If the Registrant does not accept the FOA or provide the AuthInfo, the New Registrar cannot request the transfer.

- If the Name is Locked or the AuthInfo is invalid, then the Registry will reject the transfer.

- Losing Registrar can reject (“NACK”) the transfer for one of the acceptable “Reasons for Denial.”

- What if the Registrant and Admin Contact disagree? The Registrant FOA overrides.
Reasons for Denial

as of Nov 2011

1. Evidence of Fraud
2. UDRP Action
3. Court Order
4. Reasonable dispute over the identity of the Transfer Contact
5. Non-payment for previous registration period
6. Express written object from the Transfer Contact
7. Domain Name was already “locked” *
8. Transfer was requested within 60 days of creation date
9. Transfer was requested within 60 days or previous transfer
What about disputes?

- Disputes regarding transfers can be resolved by several methods, in escalating time / cost:
  - Discussion between the Registrant and Admin Contact to resolve any conflicting FOAs.
  - Losing and Gaining Registrar working with pre-transfer Registrant to resolve / reverse the transfer.
  - Filing a “Transfer Dispute Resolution Policy” (TDRP) with the appropriate registry.
  - Court action