



Proposal from ICANN Staff

22 November 2011

Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy Part B - Recommendation #8

Standardizing and Clarifying WHOIS status messages

The Request: 'Prior to the consideration of approval of the recommendation regarding the standardizing and clarifying WHOIS status messages regarding Registrar Lock status, the GNSO Council requests ICANN staff to provide a proposal designed to ensure a technically feasible approach can be developed to meet this recommendation. Staff should take into account the IRTP Part B WG deliberations in relation to this issue (see IRTP Part B Final Report). (IRTP Part B Recommendation #8). The goal of these changes is to clarify why the Lock has been applied and how it can be changed. Upon review of the proposed plan, the GNSO Council will consider whether to approve the recommendation.' (See [Resolution 20110622-1](#))

Background: The IRTP Part B WG recommended standardizing and clarifying WHOIS status messages regarding Registrar Lock status. The goal of these changes is to clarify why the Lock has been applied and how it can be changed. Based on discussions with technical experts, the IRTP Part B WG does not expect that such a standardization and clarification of WHOIS status messages would require significant investment or changes at the registry/registrar level.

Proposal: ICANN Staff agrees that the standardization and clarification of WHOIS status messages does not require significant investment or changes at the registry/registrar level. As outlined in the IRTP Part B Final Report, it is possible to associate each EPP status value with a message that explains the meaning of the respective status value. [Registrars would be required to display a link to information on each status code directly next to the status in the output, for example: "Status: ClientLock http://www.internic.net/status/html/clientlock". However, instead of associating each EPP status value with a message, an easier and more straightforward approach in Staff's opinion would be to require registries/registrars to provide a link at the end of the WHOIS output which directs to an ICANN controlled web page where the \[relevant status code information as described in the\]\(#\) 'EPP Status Codes, what do](#)

Field Code Changed



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they mean and why should I know?¹ ~~document is posted~~[is posted](#). ~~This link would be preceded by wording such as 'to obtain further information about the different status codes and what they mean, please go to'~~. ~~ICANN will also post translations of the status information. The web page can make use of localization information from the browser the user is using to display the web page in the related language.~~ The requirement for registries and registrars to provide this link and ensure uniformity in the message displayed could be implemented as a standalone 'WHOIS Status Information Policy' or as an addition to the IRTP. In order to avoid potential blocking or stripping out of URLs from WHOIS output for valid reasons, registrars would be required to not remove Internic.net hyperlinks (or particularly the Internic.net status hyperlink) from their WHOIS output. In addition to the link, registrars would be required to include in the WHOIS output a note that would state "For more information on WHOIS status codes, please visit Internic.net" where the link to the information would be posted.

¹ The IRTP Part B Working Group, with the support of ICANN Staff developed this document, which provides an overview of EPP Status Codes and what they mean (see Annex F of the [IRTP Part B Final Report](#) – EPP Status Codes, what do they mean and why should I know?).