Update on Whois TF

March 25, 2007
Objectives of the Task Force

1) Define the purpose of the Whois service. [complete]
2) Define the purpose of the Registered Name Holder, technical, and administrative contacts.
3) Determine what data should be available to the public. Determine how to access the data that is not available for public access.
4) Determine how to improve the process of notifying registrants of inaccurate Whois data, and the process of investigating and correcting inaccurate Whois data.
5) Determine how to resolve conflicts between contractual Whois obligations and local/national privacy laws. [complete]
Current Status

• Final report of the TF recently published and sent to GNSO council
• OPOC proposal accepted as the majority (7-6) position
• Also included: special circumstances, supported by 3 of 6 constituencies
OPOC Proposal

• Removes registrant street and city address from open unrestricted access
• Admin and tech contacts no longer available for open unrestricted access at the registrar or registry via WHOIS protocol and Web access
• Registries display information as currently for com/net
• a new “operational point of contact” which will be made available for open unrestricted access via registrars via WHOIS protocol and Web access
• Requires registrars to do more verification of new contact information if old information is found to be incorrect
Opposition to OPOC

• Unclear on the scope responsibilities of the operational contact
• No job description for operational contact
• Timeframes on when to respond
• What happens if OPOC fails to meet responsibilities
• Circumstances where admin and tech and full registrant information held by the registrar would be provided, and no standard way to access
• Need more accurate admin and tech and full registrant
Example: jordyn.info

Registrant:
Jordyn A. Buchanan
California, US

Domain name: jordyn.info

Operational Contact
Register.com domain-registrar@register.com
575 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10018
US
+1.9027492701 Fax: +1.2125949876
Special Circumstances Proposal

• Allows registrants to remove their contact information from Whois
  – Only if you have a reasonable belief that publishing the information will threaten your safety
  – General privacy concerns do not qualify
  – Your claim is evaluated by a neutral third party

• Prohibits “proxy services” currently offered by some registrars
Opposition to Special circumstances

- Natural persons not engaging in commercial activity by default should not have their personal data displayed
- Not require third parties to make decision on special circumstances – registrars make that decision
- Want a charging model to cover costs of administration
- Proxy services may be appropriate
Next Steps

• Council to consider policy--can vote, modify or approve further work (e.g. implementation work)

• ICANN staff prepared notes for the GNSO Council on the Task Force Recommendations to:
  – Identify issues for clarification
  – Identify issues for further discussion
  – Identify potential implementation issues
  – Suggest a framework for further development of the proposal