“New IRTP Issues”
Summary of Issues Report

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Background

• “New IRTP Issues” is the name of Issue Set A, out of the five IRTP issue sets A-D agreed upon for future PDPs at the Council call 8 May 2008, when an Issues Report for set A was requested.

• The issues covered are:
  - Should registrant email address data be made available between registrars?
  - Is there a need for other options for electronic authentication?
  - Should provisions for partial bulk transfers be introduced?

• The Issues Report on Set A was delivered on 23 May. It confirms that a GNSO PDP on these issues would be in scope and recommends a launch of a PDP.
Availability of Registrant E-mail Address Data Between Registrars

- Registrant approval and Admin Contact approval are both recognized as valid grounds for a transfer, but the Registrant can overrule the Admin Contact.
- The Registrant Email Address is not a required field in Whois, in contrast to the Admin Contact.
- There is currently no way of automating transfer approval by the Registrant and the lack of an automated procedure complicates the process for the Registrant.
- Change of Whois requirements is out of scope, so availability of registrant email addresses should be considered through other means of keeping, maintaining and exchanging such information.
- Such “other means” also imply that procedural, administrative and security aspects need attention.
Options for Electronic Authentication

• For a transfer, the Gaining Registrar should obtain a FOA from the Registrant or Admin Contact. Is a security token for the FOA needed to prevent spoofing?
• Considerations by the original Transfers Task Force, mentioning ”Electronic signature....for instance in line with US e-Sign Act”
• Current use of digital signatures for transfers is unknown
• SSAC 2005 hijacking report recommends strengthening of identity verification for electronic communications
• EPP widely deployed since then, with ”AuthInfo” code, which may have an impact on security concerns
• Some ccTLDs use electronic authentication for transfers; Nominet (.UK) with PGP and IIS (.SE) with a certificate-based interface
Partial Bulk Transfers

- Currently, there are particular provisions for "total" bulk transfers of all domain names held by one registrar to another – this is a rather special case in practice.
- Partial bulk transfers may have various rationales; registrar to registrar agreements, registrant M&A activity etc.
- There are no provisions for partial bulk transfers today. Registrars may accept fax lists of domains to transfer, but the formal requirements remain per individual domain.
- Registrant approval aspects also need consideration, for example in case of inter-registrar agreements for partial bulk transfer.
- Nominet (.UK) has provisions for "mass" transfers and PGP-signed "bulk" transfers at the registrar level.
Conclusions

• A PDP on the issues covered is clearly within scope and recommended
• There are areas where additional information could be useful, for example regarding:
  - current use in practice of voluntary solutions
  - approaches used by ccTLDs
• Suggested topics for discussion/decisions:
  - to what extent is additional information deemed essential? If yes...
  - whether to collect such information within a PDP or as a preparatory step?
  - and of course, whether to launch a PDP...