

Update on possible studies of WHOIS



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Studies of WHOIS

- On 31 October 2007 the GNSO Council decided that a comprehensive and objective understanding of key facts about WHOIS will benefit future GNSO policy development, and initiated steps to determine what studies should be done.
- Public comments were sought in February, 25 suggestions were received.
- Suggestions were analyzed and categorized by staff.

Studies of WHOIS

Study suggestions fell into 7 categories:

1. WHOIS misuse
2. Compliance with data protection laws and the RAA
3. Availability of privacy services
4. Demand and motivation for use of privacy services
5. Impact of WHOIS data protection on crime and abuse
6. Proxy registrar compliance with law enforcement and dispute resolution requests
7. WHOIS data accuracy



Studies of WHOIS

- On 27 March the Council formed a group to review the suggestions and recommend what studies should be done, if any
 - 16 individuals participated + staff
- On 16 April the GAC published a detailed set of recommendations for further studies of WHOIS.
- The group discussed at length the merits of proceeding with future studies of WHOIS.



Studies of WHOIS



- The group agreed that studies should only be conducted if the resulting information advances public policy goals, but disagreed about whether studies should be conducted at this time.
- The GNSO study group report of 22 May reflects these two positions.
- The GNSO Council will discuss this issue and decide next steps during the Paris meeting.



Studies of WHOIS



- Some individuals and groups oppose studies. In their view further study (and resulting data) will not persuade stakeholders to modify existing positions.
 - Consensus on the majority of issues does not exist
 - There is no consensus that privacy must be protected as a fundamental principle
 - Even well-engineered studies with strong conclusions will not break the existing logjam
 - If the GNSO concludes that further studies are worthwhile, then any studies should be kept narrow, completed within reasonable timeframes and scoped for overall feasibility in advance.



Studies of WHOIS



- Other participants support WHOIS studies. Based on input from the GAC and public comments, they recommend studies in three initial areas:
 1. Availability of privacy services
 2. Demand and motivation for use of privacy services
 3. A study related to misuse of WHOIS and port 43
- This group notes the emphasis the GAC has placed on studies related to “proxy or privacy services” and emphasizes that knowing more facts about the availability, take-up and operation of these services could aid future policy development.





Study Group Participants:

- James Bladel
- Beau Brendler
- Steve Del Bianco
- Lee Eulgen
- Robin Gross
- Tony Harris
- Jordi Iparraguirre
- Norbert Klein
- David Maher
- Steve Metalitz
- Tim Ruiz
- Wendy Seltzer
- Paul Stahura
- Ken Stubbs
- Stéphane Van Gelder
- Danny Younger





Thank You

