

# Expedited Policy Development Process: Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data - Phase 2 (SSAD)

## WHAT CAN I EXPECT AT ICANN80 RELATED TO THIS TOPIC?

During ICANN80, the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS) Standing Committee, which is the committee of volunteers charged with reviewing RDRS metrics and making recommendations to the GNSO Council, will be meeting on Monday, 10 June. The Standing Committee plans to review six months' worth of reports and metrics from the RDRS. Additionally, the Commercial Stakeholder Group (CSG) will hold a membership session on Monday, 10 June, and plans to discuss user experiences with the RDRS. The Registrar Stakeholder Group will hold a session entitled "Registrars & ICANN: Good RDRS Requests" on Tuesday, 11 June. Please check the [ICANN80 meeting schedule](#) for the confirmed times.

## WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

One of the main purposes of the RDRS is to collect data about system usage, which will inform future discussions between the GNSO Council and the ICANN Board on the pending Recommendations 1–18 of the [Final Report](#) of the GNSO [Expedited Policy Development Process on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Phase 2](#).

The RDRS was developed to provide insight into the estimated volume of requests a possible System for Standardized Access/Disclosure (SSAD) may receive. In addition, the RDRS may provide other information that helps determine the costs or benefits of the SSAD recommendations and whether the community may consider updates to the existing policy recommendations.

For more background information on the previous work of the EPDP, please refer to the additional procedural history below.

## WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THIS PROJECT?

The ICANN Board [directed](#) ICANN org in February 2023 to develop and launch the WHOIS Disclosure System (System), now called RDRS, as requested by the GNSO Council. In November 2023, the RDRS launched, and ICANN org began collecting and publishing the metrics associated with the System. In January 2024, ICANN released the [first RDRS metrics report](#). The RDRS Standing Committee is responsible for



reviewing the monthly metrics reports and has also suggested RDRS system improvements, which ICANN org has implemented, where possible.

#### **WHAT ARE THE EXPECTED NEXT STEPS?**

Further engagement and consultation are expected to continue between the Board, ICANN org, the GNSO Council, and the RDRS Standing Committee to collaborate on the review of the System. The GNSO Council has recommended that the RDRS run for a period of up to two (2) years, at which point, if not earlier, sufficient information should be available to make a determination on how to proceed with the SSAD recommendations. The ICANN80 meeting will mark the 6-month milestone meeting of the RDRS Standing Committee, and the Standing Committee plans to review six months of metrics and begin discussing and identifying trends.

#### **WHAT ELSE DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROCEDURAL HISTORY OF THIS PROJECT?**

On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board approved the Temporary Specification (TempSpec) for gTLD Registration Data to allow contracted parties to comply simultaneously with existing ICANN contractual requirements and the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). This Board action triggered the GNSO Council's initiation of a PDP on 19 July 2018. The PDP was conducted in two phases: Phase 1 aimed to confirm, or not, the TempSpec by 25 May 2019; Phase 2 discussed, among other elements, a standardized access model to nonpublic registration data.

The GNSO Council approved the [Phase 2 Final Report](#) during its 24 September 2020 meeting by supermajority vote. The Final Report details the EPDP Team's recommendations for an SSAD to nonpublic gTLD registration data.

As part of its approval of the SSAD recommendations, the GNSO Council agreed to request a consultation with the ICANN Board. The goal is to discuss the financial sustainability of the SSAD, and concerns expressed in various minority statements.

Following the approval of the Phase 2 policy recommendations by the GNSO Council, the ICANN Board asked ICANN org to conduct an Operational Design Phase and produce an Operational Design Assessment (ODA) on the SSAD recommendations.

Following its review of the ODA, the GNSO Council [requested](#) the ICANN Board to direct the ICANN org to design a proof of concept.

ICANN org published a [Whois Disclosure System design paper](#) in September 2022 and presented it to the GNSO Council and small team during ICANN75. The GNSO Council, via a dedicated small team, reviewed the design paper, and ultimately [communicated](#) its support for the request that the ICANN Board proceed with the implementation of the Whois Disclosure System, now referred to as the RDRS. Furthermore, the GNSO Council confirmed to the ICANN Board that the Board's consideration of the Phase 2 SSAD recommendations should remain paused for up to 2 years.

### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

For more information on the SSAD ODP, please visit this [page](#). For more information about the RDRS Standing Committee, please see [here](#).

### MORE INFORMATION

- [EPDP Phase 2 webpage](#)
- [EPDP workspace](#)
- [EPDP Phase 2 small team workspace](#)
- [RDRS Standing Committee workspace](#)
- [SSAD ODP webpage](#)
- [RDRS Usage metrics reports](#)

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