PPSAI Policy Implementation (Privacy Proxy Service Accreditation Issues)

August GNSO Council Meeting

Thursday, 14 August 2025

ICANN

Agenda

- Background
- Introduction of PPSAI IRT Threshold Question Response Paper
- High-level Threshold Question Responses & Requests for Guidance
- Proposed Next Steps for the GNSO Council
- Questions

Background

Background

- Issues related to privacy and proxy services were identified in the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) negotiations.
- The GNSO Council initiated a Policy Development Process (PDP) and chartered a Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) Working Group (WG) in October 2013.
- The PDP WG published its Final Report containing 21 policy recommendations in December 2015.
- The policy recommendations were approved by the GNSO Council and adopted by the Board in 2016.
- ICANN org worked on implementation of these recommendations with an Implementation Review Team (IRT) until 2019 when the work was paused due to overlapping issues around GDPR, data processing, and the Temporary Specification.
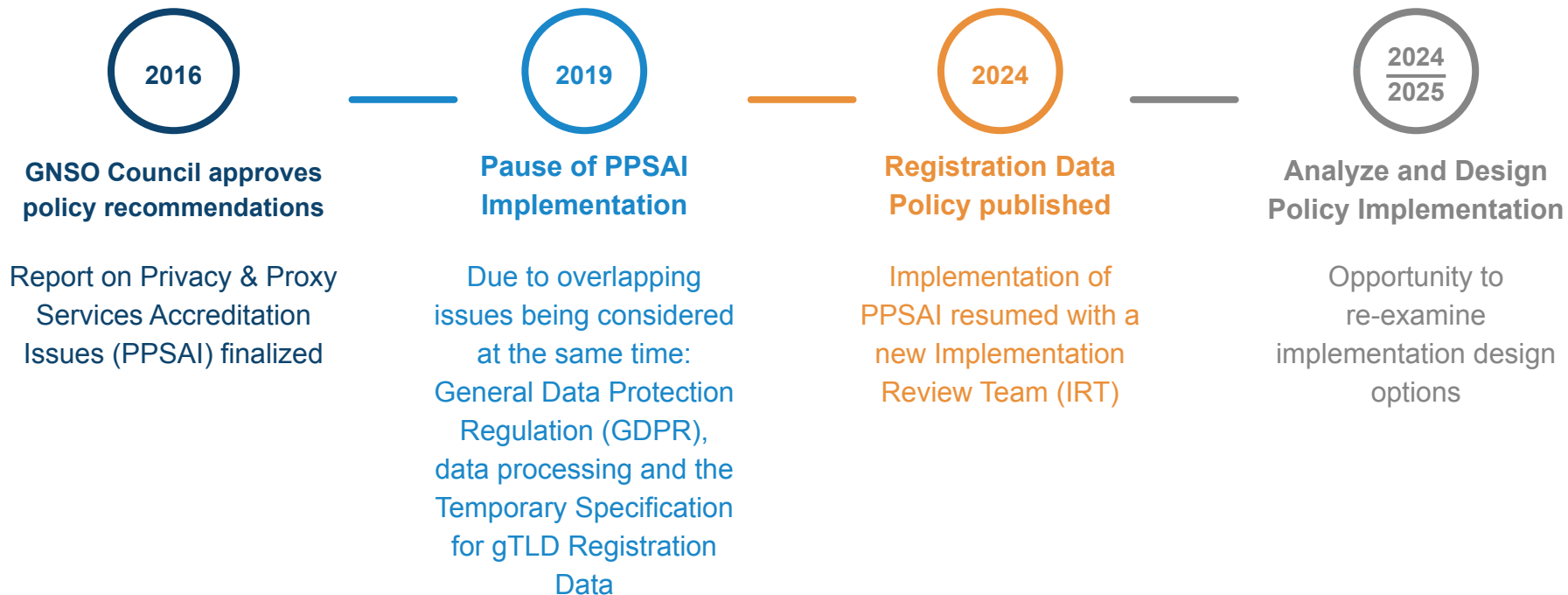
Background (cont.)

- Although gTLD registration data is no longer public by default, proxy and privacy services still exist within the ecosystem.
- The PPSAI IRT reconvened in July 2024 after issues around GDPR, data processing, and the Temporary Specification progressed and the Registration Data Policy (EPDP Phase 1) was published.

Timeline

- [2013 P/P Specification to RAA](#) (stopgap measure)

2016

GNSO Council approves policy recommendations

Report on Privacy & Proxy Services Accreditation Issues (PPSAI) finalized

2019

Pause of PPSAI Implementation

Due to overlapping issues being considered at the same time: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), data processing and the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

2024

Registration Data Policy published

Implementation of PPSAI resumed with a new Implementation Review Team (IRT)

2024/2025

Analyze and Design Policy Implementation

Opportunity to re-examine implementation design options

PPSAI IRT Work

PPSAI IRT Work

1 The PPSAI IRT is tasked with assisting staff in developing the implementation details for the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Program, to ensure the implementation conforms to the intent of the Final Recommendations.

Note: Due to the amount of time, policy, and industry changes that occured since the prior implementation effort, the IRT was tasked with considering three threshold questions before proceeding with implementation design.

2 The IRT reviewed and responded to the provided threshold questions and identified areas it believes require guidance from the GNSO Council to inform implementation.

PPSAI Threshold Questions

Category 1 — **Policy:** Are there any policy questions or items the IRT already wants to bring to the GNSO Council for guidance?

Category 2 — **Implementation Model:** Accreditation Program or Alternative Implementation
   a. Can an implementation model without a new standalone accreditation program remain consistent with the policy recommendations?

Category 3 — **Disclosure Frameworks** (Intellectual Property and Law Enforcement):
   a. Are there specific areas to revisit under new law/policy?
   b. Can these frameworks be aligned with existing work on the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS), Registration Data Policy, and other existing procedures and remain consistent with the policy recommendations?

Introduction of PPSAI IRT Threshold Question Responses for the Attention of the GNSO Council Paper

PPSAI IRT Threshold Question Responses Paper

- [IRT Threshold Questions Responses for the GNSO Council](#)

High-level Threshold Question Responses & Requests for Guidance

Note on Broader IRT PPSAI Discussion

The IRT raised broader questions regarding the implementation of PPSAI recommendations during the course of its work that fell outside of its remit.

These questions include:
- Are the recommendations still useful given the range of changes in law, policy, industry practices, and development of systems for data disclosure requests?
- Would implementation of the recommendations be worth the time and effort it would take to implement?
- Should the recommendations be reexamined at the policy level?
- Are the issues at the heart of the recommendations now a non issue given that most registration data is no longer public?

*These questions provide important context for the threshold question responses and guidance requested and are relevant for the GNSO Council to consider when determining next steps for PPSAI.

PPSAI Threshold Questions

Category 1 Are there any policy questions or items the IRT already wants to bring to the GNSO Council for guidance? TQ.A

IRT answer: Yes, the group identified questions around the definitions of proxy and privacy service in the Final Report as they pertain to the changes in industry landscape.

Guidance requested: The IRT would like GNSO Council guidance on the scope of what can be adjusted in implementation.

PPSAI Threshold Questions

Category 2   Implementation Model: Accreditation Program or Alternative Implementation

a. Can an implementation model without a new standalone accreditation program remain consistent with the policy recommendations? **TQ.B**

IRT answer: Yes.

Guidance requested: The IRT would like GNSO Council guidance on whether the policy recommendations would preclude the implementation of potential accreditation models for this policy.

PPSAI Threshold Questions

Category 3 Disclosure Frameworks (Intellectual Property and Law Enforcement)
a. Are there specific areas to revisit under new law/policy?

TQ.C, TQ.K

IRT answer: No. However, the IRT raised the question of whether the disclosure framework was intended to be purely illustrative.

Guidance requested: The IRT would like GNSO Council guidance on to what extent the Illustrative Disclosure Framework in Annex B of the PPSAI Final Report is a policy requirement, or intended to be simply illustrative.

PPSAI Threshold Questions

Category 3 Disclosure Frameworks (Intellectual Property and Law Enforcement)

    b.   Can these frameworks be aligned with existing work on the Registration Data Request Service (RDRS), Registration Data Policy, and other existing procedures and remain consistent with the policy recommendations?

TQ.C, TQ.K

IRT answer: Yes.

Guidance requested: The IRT would like GNSO Council guidance on aligning PPSAI disclosure frameworks with work such as RDRS, SSAD, and/or successor systems.

Proposed Next Steps for GNSO Council

Proposed Next Steps

1. **August:** PPSAI Threshold Questions presented to GNSO Council. Council determines approach to review/provide guidance to PPSAI threshold questions.

2. **September**: Draft responses to questions are socialized with different groups.

3. **October**: GNSO Council discusses input received and finalizes responses to PPSAI IRT to inform implementation.

Considerations:
- Paul's retirement in October
- Evolving conversations about RDRS and its relevance to PPSAI