



Preliminary Issues Report on ‘Thick Whois’

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**Commercial & Business Users
Constituency Submission**

GNSO//CSG//BC

Submission:

In September 2011, the GNSO Council requested an Issue Report on 'Thick' Whois based upon the recommendation of the IRTP Part B Working Group.

This Issue Report was expected to 'not only consider a possible requirement of 'Thick' Whois for all incumbent gTLDs in the context of IRTP, but should also consider any other positive and/or negative effects that are likely to occur outside of IRTP that would need to be taken into account when deciding whether a requirement of 'thick' WHOIS for all incumbent gTLDs would be desirable or not'.

Specifically, ICANN Staff have clearly described the issues to be considered which include:

- Consistent response
- Enhanced stability
- Enhanced accessibility
- Cost implications
- Database synchronization issues
- Special considerations for gTLD registries that currently provide a subset of 'Thick' Whois
- Coordination with ongoing Whois activities
- Other models for consideration
- Transition
- Uniform vs. patchwork approach
- Impacts on registrants, registrars and users
- Resource availability

After review and evaluation of the issues, ICANN staff concluded that further investigation of 'Thick' Whois for all incumbent gTLDs is within the scope of ICANN policy process and would be beneficial to the community.

The BC supports ICANN Staff's recommendations to proceed with a policy development process surrounding the requirement for 'Thick' Whois for all incumbent gTLDs.

It should be noted that the BC has previously stated in other comments the importance of ensuring timely, unrestricted and public access to complete Whois information. The BC has also previously asked for penalties for registries who fail to provide this type of access. And while this limited policy development process will not focus on these issues specifically, the BC is hopeful that these issues will be addressed by other ongoing work currently in process at ICANN.

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