

CNNIC Introduction

China Internet Network Information Center (abbreviated as CNNIC) is a not-for-profit organization set up on June 3, 1997 upon the approval of the competent authority and undertakes the responsibilities as the national Internet network information center. CNNIC is the registry for the “.CN” and “.中国/.中國” country code top-level domain, as well as for the “.公司” and “.网络” generic top-level domain.

Upon the opportunity that ICANN is collecting public comments on the issue that the provision of thick Whois services should become a requirement for all gTLD registries, both existing and future, CNNIC highly supports this recommendation. CNNIC also expects that a normalized thick Whois model will soon be required across all gTLD registries, since its benefits outweigh its potential costs given the internationalized new gTLD environment.

CNNIC's Comments

From a broader point of view, while a thick Whois model offers gTLD operators higher level of authority, it improves data accessibility and consistency. Firstly, a centralized database operated under a single administrator that sets conventions and standards for submission and display will enhance the authoritativeness of the gTLD administration. Then, a thick Whois model ensures that users of Whois database can enjoy better access to Whois data. Also, the requirements of thick Whois like collecting uniform sets of data and display standards will be beneficial to the consistency across all registries and gTLDs at all levels. In the new gTLD era more than one thousand new gTLDs has been ready to pour in, and the Whois data provided by their operators might be more diversified this time. The provision of thick Whois services by all gTLD operators appears ever-increasingly important.

According to CNNIC's experience, CNNIC has been providing thick Whois since its inception. Because all registrants of .cn are required to provide real Whois information, and CNNIC is responsible for verifying the information, CNNIC boasts a .cn Whois accuracy of more than 97%. As a result of CNNIC's efforts, domain name abuses of .cn, including spam emails sent under .cn URL and phishing websites under .cn, have been significantly reduced or even prevented by the real information verification. From CNNIC's .cn experience, CNNIC goes further to strongly encourage all gTLD registries, both existing and future, to provide thick Whois services. Through such services, registrants can also be ensured of the completeness and security of their data.