



Internet Society of Australia
A Chapter of the Internet Society

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To: ICANN

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ISOC-AU SUBMISSION: to ICANN on DOMAIN TASTING INITIAL

The Internet Society of Australia (ISOC-AU) is a non-profit society founded in 1996 which promotes the Internet development in Australia for the whole community. ISOC-AU is a chapter of the worldwide Internet Society and is a peak body organisation, representing the interests of Internet users in Australia. We have a longstanding and ongoing commitment to the effective representation of these interests in self-regulatory processes in the telecommunications, domain name and Internet-related services industries.

In January 2008, we submitted comments to the GNSO Council policy development process on the issue of domain name tasting. As we said at the time, we believe that the practice of domain tasting should be curtailed, and support any measures that ICANN believes will be effective in stopping the practice.

Since then, the GNSO Council has approved a motion that would prohibit any gTLD operator that uses an at-grace period from offering a refund for any domain name deleted during that period that exceeds ten per cent of its net new registrations during that month, or fifty domain names, whichever is greater.

We understand that this motion has the support of both industry and consumer representatives, as a way to stop the domain tasting practice. Because of that across-the-board support within Council, we are happy to support the proposed policy suggested in the Council motion.

We strongly urge the GNSO Council to closely monitor implementation of the proposed policy and, specifically, whether the practice of domain name tasting has stopped as a consequence. If the policy has not been effective in stopping domain tasting, the Council should consider what other or additional policies should be put in place.

Holly Raiche
Executive Director
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