Draft Proposal from ICANN Staff
IRTP Part B – Recommendation #8

The Request: 'Prior to the consideration of approval of the recommendation regarding the standardizing and clarifying WHOIS status messages regarding Registrar Lock status, the GNSO Council requests ICANN staff to provide a proposal designed to ensure a technically feasible approach can be developed to meet this recommendation. Staff should take into account the IRTP Part B WG deliberations in relation to this issue (see IRTP Part B Final Report). (IRTP Part B Recommendation #8). The goal of these changes is to clarify why the Lock has been applied and how it can be changed. Upon review of the proposed plan, the GNSO Council will consider whether to approve the recommendation.' (See Resolution 20110622-1)

Background: The IRTP Part B WG recommended standardizing and clarifying WHOIS status messages regarding Registrar Lock status. The goal of these changes is to clarify why the Lock has been applied and how it can be changed. Based on discussions with technical experts, the IRTP Part B WG does not expect that such a standardization and clarification of WHOIS status messages would require significant investment or changes at the registry/registrar level.

Draft Proposal: ICANN Staff agrees that the standardization and clarification of WHOIS status messages does not require significant investment or changes at the registry/registrar level. As outlined in the IRTP Part B Final Report, it is possible to associate each EPP status value with a message that explains the meaning of the respective status value. However, instead of associating each EPP status value with a message, an easier and more straightforward approach in Staff's opinion would be to require registries/registrars to provide a link at the end of the WHOIS output which directs to an ICANN controlled web page where the 'EPP Status Codes, what do they mean and why should I know?'[1] document is posted. This link would be preceded by wording such as 'to obtain further information about the different status codes and what they mean, please go to'. The requirement for registries and registrars to provide this link and ensure uniformity in the message displayed could be implemented as a standalone 'WHOIS Status Information Policy' or as an addition to the IRTP.

---

[1] The IRTP Part B Working Group, with the support of ICANN Staff developed this document, which provides an overview of EPP Status Codes and what they mean (see Annex F of the IRTP Part B Final Report – EPP Status Codes, what do they mean and why should I know?).

ICANN Staff would welcome the feedback of the IRTP Part B Working Group on this proposal before finalizing this document for submission to the GNSO Council.