

STABILITY

Question 1 – Please define / describe Issue A

Availability of Whois data in the case of a business or technical failure.

Question 2 – Describe the circumstances of Issue A in a 'thin' Whois environment

With thin Whois model, there are two sources of copies of Whois information in case of a business or technical failure, the registrar and the escrow service used by the registrar. If you presume that the failure in one of these two sources, there is one fallback available.

Question 3 – Describe the circumstances of Issue A in a 'thick' Whois environment

Under today's policies, with a thick Whois model, the two sources identified in Question 1 are available as well as two additional sources, the registry and the escrow service used by the registry, resulting in a total of four locations where the rdata is stored. In the cases of a failure, of one of these, there are three possible fallback sources.

Question 4 – Identify the advantages of 'thick' Whois for issue A (please try to quantify or provide data if possible / available)

Thick provides three fallback sources in the case of a failure, compared to one in the thin model. Three is better than one. Since most catastrophic failures are often the result of multiple failures, having multiple backups is preferential.

Question 5 – Identify the downsides of 'thick' Whois for issue A (please try to quantify or provide data if possible / available)

Some WG participants believe that having personal data at multiple sites makes that data more susceptible to attack or misuse. This issue is being addressed by the Data Protection Sub-team.

Question 6 – Does the data imply we are recommending Thick or not recommending Thick WHOIS? Or is it neutral?

Most parties agree that multiple copies are better than fewer, but some feel that four copies are excessive. Most participants support the benefits of the thick model. The two NCSG Constituencies argue that there are risks associated with the Registry having the data. VeriSign argues that two copies are sufficient. Registrars argue that in a thick model, registrar escrow is no longer needed, resulting in three copies of the data stored.

Question 7 – If your response to question 6 is that 'thick' Whois should be recommended, please provide any additional considerations with regards to implementation in relation to Issue A that should be taken into account.

On balance, most but not all participants believe that the thick model provides additional stability over the thin model. Some feel that this additional stability is not required, and others believe that there is a privacy price to pay for this extra stability.

Data Escrow

NOTE: Standard questions do not apply, since the issue presumes a thick whois model. I have gotten creative with replacements.

Question 1 – Please define / describe Issue A

In a thick model, Whois is currently stored by the registrar, registry and two escrow accounts (possibly stored at the same location).

Question 2 – Describe the circumstances of Issue A in a 'thick' Whois environment with registrar escrow.

Under today's policies, with a thick Whois model, the Whois data is stored in four logical locations. In the case of a failure, the data may be available from up to three other locations.

Question 3 – Describe the circumstances of Issue A in a 'thick' Whois environment without registrar escrow.

With a thick Whois model but without registrar escrow, the data is stored in three logical locations. In the case of a failure, the data may be available from up to two other locations.

Question 4 – Identify the advantages of two escrow accounts over one.

Multiple escrow accounts imply additional failure fallback options. Since most catastrophic failures are often the result of multiple failures, having multiple backups is preferential.

Question 5 – Identify the downsides of two escrow accounts

Additional costs to registrars.

Question 6 – Does the data imply we are recommending double escrows if we recommend a thick Whois model for all?

Most parties agree that multiple copies are better than fewer, but some feel that four copies is excessive. This does not specifically recommend a thick Whois but it adds another check in the reasons why thick Whois should be required,

Question 7 – If your response to question 6 is that 'thick' Whois should be recommended, please provide any additional considerations with regards to implementation in relation to Issue A that should be taken into account.

On balance, all but one group agrees that if a thick Whois model is adopted, there should be no change to the current escrow rules.

At some point, ICANN should explore the implications of two escrows which could conceivably be stored at the same site removing the benefit of the duplication, and the implications of registrar/registry integration which could result in those "two" sites being co-located.