

Update on WHOIS requirement study

Steve Sheng and Dave Piscitello, 11/24/09

On May 07 2009, the GNSO Council requested that Policy Staff, with the assistance of technical staff and GNSO Council members as required, collect and organize a comprehensive set of requirements for the Whois service policy tools. The council wanted these requirements to not only reflect the known deficiencies in the current service but to also include any possible requirements that may be needed to support various policy initiatives that have been suggested in the past. The council also requested that the synthesis of requirements be done in consultation with the SSAC, ALAC, GAC, the ccNSO and the GNSO and that a straw-man proposal be prepared for these consultations.

Based on our interpretation of the council resolution, the goal of the study is first to collect and organize a comprehensive set of technical requirements for the service policy tools. These requirements can come from three areas: the current service features identified as needing improvement; features to support various policy initiatives that have been suggested in the past; and features recommended by the ICANN community, such as various supporting organizations (SOs) and advisory committees (ACs). Second, after the staff forms this set of service requirements (features), we are to consult with various SOs and ACs.

When people refer to Whois, they may mean several different things. They could mean the Whois protocol, the Whois database that registries or registrars support, or the domain name registration data where by requirement they have to disclose. The staff interpret that when the council refer to Whois, it meant all above.

The goal of the study in our opinion is *neither* to gather policy requirements *nor* to recommend policy. Rather, it is to gather a set of technical requirements (including the data and supporting technology) that would enable policies developed via consensus process.

The staff is currently collecting and organizing the set of requirements for community consideration. We intend to produce a draft report by ICANN's Nairobi meeting in March 2010.

Relationship to the IRD working group:

Internationalizing registration data is one of the requirements identified in the inventory and that the output of the IRD is expected to complement the Whois inventory work.

Comments or questions? Please contact

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For more information about other Whois studies, please visit
<http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/>