

Notes for IRD-WG call, 16 August, 2010

Present: Jeremy Hitchcock (chair), Avri Doria, Rafik Dammak, Bob Hutchinson, Jiankang Yao, Steven Metalitz. ICANN Staff: Steve Sheng, Gisella Gruber-White.

Apologies: Julie Hedlund, Andrei Kolesnikov

This meeting was chaired by Jeremy Hitchcock. The WG spent the first half hour continuing the discussion on variants, and the second half hour going through the summary document that staff has prepared.

On variants:

- It is very difficult to have an accurate definition of variant. Different organizations or different countries define it differently. However in general, variants can be categorized as activated variants or reserved variants. Activated variants are variants of a domain name that are put in the DNS zone file, thus resolvable. Reserved variants are reserved for a specific domain name and cannot be registered.
- Some WG members noted that instead of discussing what is a variant is and how different organization or language groups handle variants, the WG can take the categories as given (activated vs reserved) and make recommendations based on that.

The WG have discussed the following alternatives:

- For activated variants. A Whois query of an activated variant should return the WOHIS result of the original domain as well as a note that this is a variant of the original domain.
- For reserved variants, there are two options:
 - A query of reserved variant for XYZ domain would *only* return a message saying that this is a reserved variant of XYZ domain.
 - A query of a reserved variant would return the same information as the query for an activated variant does.

Action items:

1. Staff to provide the WG on examples of these alternatives to help the WG reach conclusion on this matter.

The WG spent 30 minutes discussing the summary document that staff has prepared for consensus.

The WG chair first went through the document up till page 3. The WG did not raise any objections.

One the part of the summary where it reads:

The WG would like to call attention to the following limitations of WHOIS:

- The existing WHOIS protocol has no mechanism for indicating a preferred character set to use either for query input or for the display of the results of a query.

Preliminary Recommendation:

- The WG recommend interested parties to submit a proposal to resolve this to Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) for consideration as a standard track RFC.

Members of the WG expressed the following:

- The IETF working group on WHOIS ceased a long time ago. If the IRD-WG approach IETF and say come up with a solution for IRD in WHOIS. They would likely to refer us to IRIS.
- Alternatively, ICANN can do the work or pay someone to do the work and draft an informal RFC to IETF. However, whether that will become standardized or not is open to question. There are all kinds of variables that it may not work out.
- The working group can set the requirement, and look at whether the current tools meets the requirement, and if not, it may make sense to look at other tools (IRIS, restful WHOIS), although this is not necessarily in this group's mandate.
- In the initial report, we would want to have a solutions section, And we have at least two solutions that are a modification to WHOIS and another one is looking at (Iris) and seeing how that fits. So I think that's something that should get explored is a little bit of background on (Iris) and why it works or why it doesn't work. Why it's partially used by some of the world. Why there's only one implementation that exists for it.