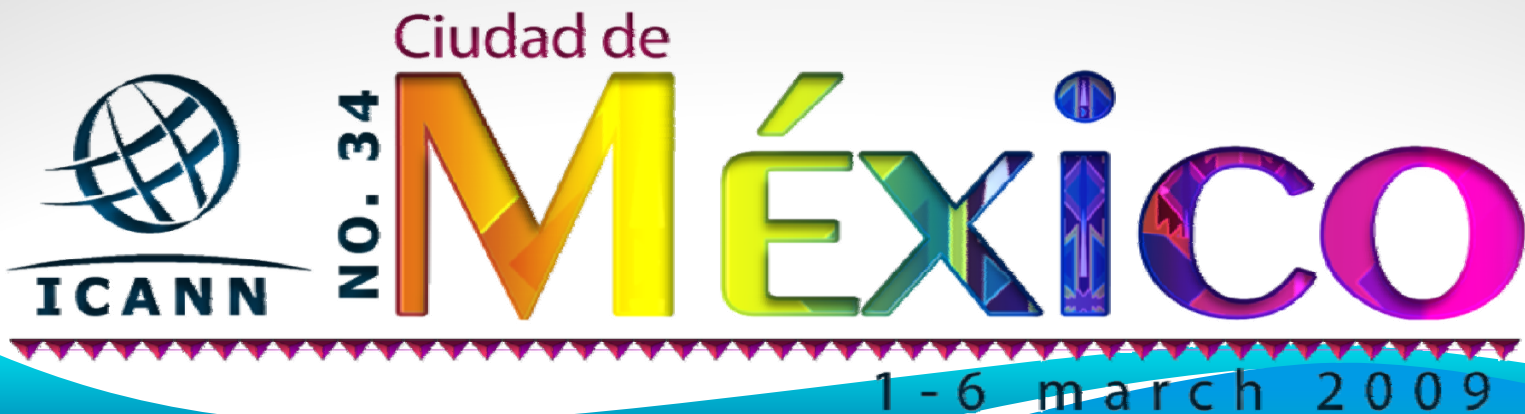


WHOIS Policy Update: 2009

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Discussion Topics:

- 1) WHOIS Studies Update
- 2) WHOIS & Directory Services
- 3) WHOIS Usage & Display: Support for Local Languages & Scripts

WHOIS Studies: Background

- ❖ WHOIS is the data repository containing registered domain names, registrant contacts and other critical information.
- ❖ Questions persist concerning the use and misuse of this important resource.
- ❖ Oct. 2007: GNSO Council decided that a comprehensive, objective understanding of key facts on WHOIS will benefit future policy development and initiated steps to determine what studies should be done.
- ❖ Public input was solicited; roughly 24 proposals were received from the public.
- ❖ In April the GAC submitted roughly 15 additional study proposals

WHOIS Studies: Recent Activities

GNSO Constituencies and Council discussed which studies, if any, should be assessed for cost and feasibility. Draft motion identifies six initial study areas:

- 1) Extent to which WHOIS data is misused to generate spam or other illegal or undesirable activities;
- 2) The growing use of non-ASCII character sets in WHOIS records and whether this will detract from data accuracy and readability;
- 3) Extent to which proxy and privacy services are being used for abusive and/or illegal purposes, and complicate investigation into e-crimes;
- 4) Extent to which proxy and privacy services respond to information requests when presented with reasonable evidence of actionable harm;
- 5) Whether legal persons and/or those registering names for a commercial purpose are providing inaccurate WHOIS data implying they are natural persons or registering for a non-commercial purpose; and
- 6) Whether proxy/privacy services are used by registrants who are legal vs. natural persons and whether most information requests are directed at registrants who are natural persons

WHOIS Studies: Next Steps

The Council will vote today on a set of initial studies to evaluate:

- **Council requests staff to conduct research and cost estimates and report back to the Council**
- **Staff is invited to develop creative ways to develop cost estimates, including reformulations of suggested hypotheses**
- **Staff will provide cost estimates/feasibility assessments**
- **Council and Staff will then consider what studies should be pursued**

WHOIS & Directory Services

- ❖ **SSAC issued two key reports last year:**
 - SAC 027 (7 Feb 2008) SSAC Comment to GNSO regarding WHOIS studies
 - SAC 033 (20 Jun 2008) Registration Information and Directory Services
- ❖ **WHOIS protocol is inadequate in areas of authentication, data accuracy, data confidentiality, and data integrity**
- ❖ **Limitations of WHOIS protocol and variability among WHOIS implementations contribute to the poor quality of registration data**
- ❖ **Recommend a combination of policy development and adoption of a uniform directory service to provide much needed security services.**
- ❖ **SAC033**
 - ❖ **Identifies features common to public/private directory services and discusses how such features could benefit the domain name community**
 - ❖ **Proposes a methodology: study public/private directories and use findings to identify requirements for domain name related data**

WHOIS Usage & Display: Support for Local Languages & Scripts

- ❖ **New SSAC document (SAC 037)**
- ❖ **IDN standards apply to domain name composition**
- ❖ **Many Internet applications support characters from local languages or scripts**
- ❖ **Today there is no standard that addresses how registration contact information is submitted and displayed in WHOIS**
 - **This is left as a local matter for registrars and registries**
 - **Over time, more contact information will be displayed in non US-ASCII character sets**

WHOIS Usage and Display (Cont'd): Support for Local Languages & Scripts

- ❖ Are there principles that registries and registrars could adopt to minimize potential negative impact?
- ❖ Should the ICANN community consider a new protocol that can better accommodate future needs?
- ❖ **SSAC Recommendations:**
 - Sydney Workshop: opportunity to engage affected communities in Asia-Pacific region; examine possible means to support local characters
 - Consider Cross-SO/AC Working Group to study with IETF

WHOIS: Links & References

- ❖ GNSO WHOIS activities:
<http://gns0.icann.org/issues/whois/>
- ❖ GAC WHOIS study recommendations of 16 April:
<http://www.icann.org/correspondence/karlins-to-thrush-16apro8.pdf>
- ❖ Priority ratings of WHOIS studies from constituencies:
https://st.icann.org/gns0-council/index.cgi?whois_discussion
- ❖ Current draft working definitions of terms for WHOIS studies:
https://st.icann.org/gns0-council/index.cgi?whois_references
- ❖ SSAC Document 027 (7 February 2008):
<http://www.icann.org/en/committees/security/saco27.pdf>
- ❖ SSAC Document 033 (20 June 2008):
<http://www.icann.org/en/committees/security/saco33.pdf>
- ❖ Text of current WHOIS motion:
https://st.icann.org/gns0-council/index.cgi?whois_references