

Generic Names Supporting Organisation

Dr Bruce Tonkin
Chair, GNSO Council

GNSO Purpose

- Responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains
- com, net, org, biz, info, aero, coop, museum, pro, name
- <http://www.gnsso.icann.org>

GNSO Policies under development

- WHOIS - notice, access, accuracy
- Process for use by ICANN staff in approving changes to gtld agreements

WHOIS Recommendation

- Registrars must ensure that registrants understand and acknowledge the current WHOIS obligations at the time of registration

WHOIS work items

- Mechanism to resolve conflicts between local law and ICANN contracts
- Examine option of tiered access
- Process for responding to accuracy complaints
- Considering how to act more promptly to WHOIS accuracy issues for narrowly defined set of circumstances

Process for ICANN to approve changes agreements proposed by registry operators

Criteria – will the change make a detrimental and material impact on the security and stability of the Internet's unique identifier systems, while fostering competition where appropriate?

Quick Look work item

- Changes that substantially affect the operation of the third parties will go through a public comment period before final approval
- Process to complete within a few weeks

Detailed review work item

- If ICANN believes that the change may have a detrimental and material impact, a thorough review will be conducted
- ICANN would appoint expert evaluator/s, collect further facts, and seek public comments
- Process to complete within a few months

Contention for deleted names

- Previously registered names often have a market value well above the standard retail price for a domain name
- A list of domain names is published by a registry along with information on the time when a name will become available

Add-storms – game of chance

- The first-come-first-served (FCFS) model means that the first add command that reaches the registry within microseconds of the name becoming available gets the name
- Registrars send as many add commands as possible to the registry to increase the probability that one of their commands will be successful for a high value domain name
- Each registrar gets the same capacity to send add commands
- Some organisations are applying for additional registrar accreditations (hundreds) to increase the number of add commands that can be sent
- Inefficient use of the resources of registrars, registries and ICANN – doesn't scale
- Workshop earlier this week on possible solutions and papers are available on ICANN website

GNSO review

- External reviewer producing a report for ICANN Board
- GNSO Council conducting a self-review
- Review will be subject to public comment

GNSO self review

- Retain 3 representatives per constituency to ensure geographic coverage and sufficient resources
- Allow flexibility in setting timeframes for policy development depending on complexity of the issue

GNSO resolution

- GNSO Council requests that the ICANN Board extend the current arrangement of 3 representatives per constituency until the ICANN meeting in Mar del Plata, Argentina (April 2005). This will allow time for the external review to be completed, and any changes to the bylaws to be drafted and receive public comment.

WIPO discussion

- UDRP process should retain its narrow focus on trademark-based domain name disputes
- There may be other mechanisms for resolving issues associated with:
 - Names and Acronyms of International Intergovernmental Organizations
 - Country names

Strategic plan discussion

- Constituencies still absorbing the content
- Request sufficient time for dialogue between the ICANN staff and members of the GNSO community before the Board approves the Plan
- Recognise the need for a rolling strategic plan, and need to plan how to provide input as part of updating the rolling plan

Thanks

- Amadeu Abril I Abril
- Thomas Roessler (ALAC liaison)
- Jisuk Woo (non-commercial constituency)