Whois Task Force Public Forum

Luxembourg

July 12, 2005

Whois Task Force

- Began work in October, 2003
- Original charters included:
  - Limiting data mining, marketing uses of Whois data
  - Reviewing how notice is provided to, and consent gained from, registrants with regard to the use of their contact data in Whois
  - Reviewing what data is collected and what is displayed
  - Improving the accuracy of Whois data

Recent Developments

- Task force report with recommendations on improving notice to registrants transmitted to the GNSO council
- Task force has developed a draft recommendation that ICANN should develop a policy to resolve conflicts with national laws
  - Currently seeking constituency statements
- New terms of reference developed by the Council

New Terms of Reference

1) Define the purpose of the Whois service.

2) Define the purpose of the Registered Name Holder, technical, and administrative contacts.

3) Determine what data should be available to the public. Determine how to access the data that is not available for public access.

New Terms of Reference (cont.)

4) Determine how to improve the process of notifying registrants of inaccurate Whois data, and the process of investigating and correcting inaccurate Whois data.

5) Determine how to resolve conflicts between contractual Whois obligations and local/national privacy laws.

Task #1 : Define purpose of Whois

- Define the purpose of the WHOIS service in the context of ICANN's mission and relevant core values, international and national laws protecting privacy of natural persons, international and national laws that relate specifically to the WHOIS service, and the changing nature of Registered Name Holders.
    - Task force has solicited constituency statements on definition
    - Also reviewing various uses of Whois

Task #2 : Define purpose of contacts in Whois

- "Define the purpose of the Registered Name Holder, technical, and administrative contacts, in the context of the purpose of WHOIS, and the purpose for which the data was collected."
  - Task Force has solicited constituency statements on definitions
  - Also requested feedback on what types of information are currently used

Existing Definitions (Admin)

Contact, Administrative: The administrative contact is an individual,role or organization authorized to interact with the Registry or Registrar on behalf of the Domain Holder. The administrative contact should be able to answer non-technical questions about the domain name's registration and the Domain Holder. In all cases, the Administrative Contact is viewed as the authoritative point of contact for the domain name, second only to the Domain Holder.

Existing Definitions (Tech)

Contact, Technical: The technical contact is the individual, role or organization that is responsible for the technical operations of the delegated zone. This contact likely maintains the domain name server(s)for the domain. The technical contact should be able to answer technical questions about the domain name, the delegated zone and work with technically oriented people in other zones to solve technical problems that affect the domain name and/or zone.

Existing Definitions (Domain Holder)

Domain Holder: The individual or organization that registers a specific domain name. This individual or organization holds the right to use that specific domain name for a specified period of time, provided certain conditions are met and the registration fees are paid. This person or organization is the "legal entity" bound by the terms of the relevant service agreement with the Registry operator for the TLD in question."

Example : ibm.com

Registrant:

IBM Corporation
  Old Orchard Rd.
  Armonk, NY 10504
  US

  Domain Name: IBM.COM

  Administrative Contact, Technical Contact:
    Trio, Nicholas R   nrt@WATSON.IBM.COM
    PO BOX 218
    YORKTOWN HTS, NY 10598-0218
    US
    (914) 945-1850

Example : mcade.net

Registrant:
Marilyn Cade
96 Mowat
Toronto, ON M6K3M1
CA

Domain name: MCADE.NET

Administrative Contact:
Direct, Domain admin-contact@domaindirect.net
96 Mowat Avenue
Toronto, ON M6K 3M1
CA
+1.4165312084   Fax: +1.4165315584

Technical Contact:
Direct, Domain dnstech@domaindirect.com
96 Mowat Avenue
Toronto, ON M6K 3M1
CA
+1.4165312084   Fax: +1.4165315584

Input Requested

Send comments and feedback to:

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