

June 11, 2010

James Bladel, GoDaddy.com, Inc.
jbladel@godaddy.com
GNSO – Registrar Stakeholder Group
North America – USA

Re: AoC WHOIS Policies Review Team

Review Team Selectors and Esteemed Colleagues:

Please accept this letter, and associated materials, in response to the call for volunteers for the WHOIS Policies Review Team, as described in section 9.3.1 of the Affirmation of Commitments.

The coordination of WHOIS policies and protocols is, in my opinion, one of the most critical of ICANN's many responsibilities. WHOIS is more than just a database. Although it was not initially intended as such, it has evolved in to an important tool for Internet users, law enforcement, the intellectual property community, and others. When the work of ICANN turns to WHOIS, it is in fact an examination of the balance between the need of the Internet community for online accuracy and accountability, and the rights of individuals to control access to their personal information. These are fundamental issues of our time. As the Internet continues to transform modern society, we must strive to keep this critical balance in equilibrium.

But in addition to this aspect of WHOIS, there are also practical concerns. In my experience as a participant in ICANN working groups, I recognize that WHOIS is an essential component for many operational functions of the domain name industry. Registries, registrars, and other organizations rely on WHOIS for commerce, transfers, SSL validation, and combating online crime. WHOIS policy and operation should develop in tandem, with full consideration given to their impact on one another.

As the world's largest registrar, whose offering includes the "thin" gTLDs such as COM and NET, GoDaddy.com effectively operates the largest WHOIS system on the Internet. It is my familiarity with this aspect of our business, and the people who depend on it, that provides the requisite experience and perspective to contribute in the review of WHOIS policy. Additionally, my work within the ICANN community demonstrates that I am an independent, objective and fact-based thinker, and accustomed to functioning within a multi-disciplined team.

Kindest Regards,

James M. Bladel
GoDaddy.com, Inc.
jbladel@godaddy.com