ICANN Thick Whois Implementation

Transition Verification Document

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1. Executive Summary

This document describes the verification tasks to be performed by ICANN as part of implementing the Consensus Policy on Thick Whois [refer to https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-02-07-en#2.c]. Verification tasks will conducted during the process of transitioning as well as after the transition has concluded.

Registries and registrars can use this document as a guide in developing their implementation plans, to prepare for the verification tasks that are required.

2. Purpose

All registries and registrars will have to make changes to their Whois systems as a result of the Consensus Policy on Thick Whois. As indicated in the *Thick Whois Implementation Plan and Schedule,* a *Transition Verification* document is to be produced, defining the verification tasks to be carried out by ICANN. The goal of this document is to provide appropriate guidance to ensure a smooth and timely implementation of the policy.

To ensure that the policy implementation is carried out efficiently and compliant to the specifications, verification tasks will be implemented to achieve the following two objectives, namely:

i)   To manage the transition to thick Whois and monitor the timely implementation by the registries and registrars; and

ii)   To verify compliance with specification 3 of the 2013 RAA regarding Whois labeling and display;

3. Overview of Phases and Tasks

The following table provides a conceptual overview of the phases that a registry will experience while transitioning to thick Whois. For each phase, the anticipated tasks to be performed by the registry, its registrars and ICANN are listed highlighting verifications steps that will be out.

Task\Phase	Development of Implementation Plan	Review of Implementation Plan	Testing of thickWhoIs	Transition in Production	Problem Resolution
Registry	Develop plan	-	Schedule and execute. **Reports to ICANN.**	Schedule and execute. **Reports to ICANN.**	Provide resolution support
Registrar	-	Review plan	Schedule and execute	Schedule and execute	Provide resolution support
ICANN	-	Publish plan	**Assess registry WhoIs output**	**Verify registry WhoIs output**	Verify compliance

4. Verifications

Verifications by ICANN

a. ICANN to check that the Whois output of the registry is in agreement with the registrar's output and in accordance to Specification 3 of the 2013 RAA.

There are two areas that ICANN is verifying the Whois output of the registries.
  i. Data elements
     ICANN will check that all the required key elements according to the specification are present, in the proper order, and labeled correctly.

  ii. Data format
      ICANN will check that format of the values comply. For example, the dates should be of the format "yyyy-mm-ddThh:mm:ssZ".

It is anticipated that there will be a window of time where registries will initially test and then deploy the thick Whois compliant services in advance of the due date. A registry operator may elect to offer the new output on a set of testable servers and then redeploy onto the production servers at some point.

To accommodate this, ICANN will, during this period, test the production service for compliance with existing Whois or the thick Whois for compliance testing. In addition, a registry may elect to have ICANN run validation of the test system, with assessments being sent to the registry automatically. This affords ICANN an opportunity to test the validation too ahead of the deadline.

ICANN will run a verification tool at specific and regular intervals before and during the Implementation Period to verify that the registry's output is in agreement with the 2013 RAA Specification 3. During the Implementation Period, the Registry may allow both thin and thick Whois to coexist but switch

to the thick Whois output immediately after this period. An assessment will be sent to the registry's Primary Contact as indicated below.

Time	Verification	Outcome/Deliverables
30 days before Implementation Period	The tool will check against the staging Whois URL every 24 hours.	The tool will assess the compliance of the Whois output to that of the Consensus Policy on the staging server of the registry system. The registry Primary Contact receives an assessment report of the run with the following note: The requirements for the new thick Whois output is coming on <Implementation Date>, in Z[1] days. This is the result of testing the WhoIs server at this URL: whois-staging.nic.TLD. The following is an assessment run at <date-time-of-run>, using the same testing procedure that will be put into compliance production 60 days after <Implementation Date>. Z[1] - an uptodate count of days: <Implementation Date> "minus" the current date.
Implementation Period (~60days)	The tool will check against the staging Whois URL every 24 hours.	The verification tool will continue to check against the staging Whois service and the assessment sent to the registry Primary Contact. This is to allow the registry to make use of the verification tool for any testing purposes prior to cut-over.
After Implementation Period	The tool will be used by Contractual Compliance	As per current Contractual Compliance

	in their Whois output check against "whois.nic.TLD".				procedure.		

Reporting by gTLD Registries

One of the objectives was to ensure a timely implementation by the registries and registrars. To monitor and track the progress of the registries and registrars that have completed implementation, there are 2 monthly reports to be provided by the registries:

a. Registry to provide monthly report to ICANN on registrars that have begun testing

b. Registry to provide monthly report to ICANN on registrars that have completed transition in production

The registry will submit the monthly report in a CSV file with the following headers:

#	Name of Registrars	IANA ID	OT&E Test Date	OT&E Result	OT&E Re-test Date	OT&E Re-test Result	Completed Transition	Remarks
1	Test Registrar	9999	2016-10-30	Fail	2016-11-20	Passed	2016-12-12	
2	Good Registrar	8888	2016-10-30	Pass	-	-	2016-11-11	

Format of the respective fields:
a) All dates are to be provided in YYYY-MM-DD format. Please refer to the examples in the table above.
b) The result is either "Passed" or "Failed".
c) All other fields are in free text format.