**ICANN Thick Whois Policy Implementation**

**Transition From thin to thick – Analysis of Existing Data** (26 Jan 2016)

**Background**

The Thick Whois Policy Recommendation adopted by the ICANN Board[[1]](#footnote-1) states that “*The provision of thick Whois services, with a consistent labeling and display as per the model outlined in specification 3 of the 2013 RAA, should become a requirement for all gTLD registries, both existing and future”.*

According to current assumptions of the ongoing Thick Whois Policy Implementation, starting in August 2016 all Registrars may be required to start transitioning their registration data from thin to thick for .COM, .NET and .JOBS.

The current approach considered by the Thick Whois Implementation Review Team (IRT) for this transition is to follow two parallel tracks. Each track will be associated with unique timelines for implementation. 1) a new registrations track for all future registrations 2) existing registrations track, for the transition of all existing domain registrations.

In order for ICANN Staff and the IRT to define realistic requirements and timelines in relation to the transition of existing registrations, the IRT agreed in its meeting on 13 January 2016 to solicit input from Registrars on the scope of a potential study for the analysis of existing registration data in .COM, .NET and .JOBS.

**Objective**

The aim of this data analysis is to identify and quantify the challenges contracted parties will face when transitioning the existing .COM, .NET and .JOBS registrations from thin to thick, considering relevant data requirements of the registries (to be provided for the purpose of this study).

Ultimately, the findings of this analysis will provide data that will aid in defining implementation requirements applicable to Registrars, in particular the required timing for contacted parties to complete the transition and any measures needed to support the transition.

**Scope of analysis**

The data analysis is to be conducted:

* by a representative sample of Registrars, ideally 10-20 registrars managing varying amounts of .COM, .NET and .JOBS domain registrations (from small to very large)
* on a representative sample of existing registrations, ideally covering a wide range domain creation dates

Considering the data requirements of the registries (see below), this analysis should determine the type and prevalence of potential challenges with the transitioning of these registrations, among which:

* Missing data
* Incompatible data format
* Incomplete data
* Inability to contact Registrant based current data on record

**Thick Whois Data Requirements for .COM, .NET and .JOBS**

* Registries data requirements (to be provided)

**Next Steps and Expected Timeline**

* Draft Terms of Reference by Thick Whois IRT: **19 February 2016**
* Face to face discussion of Terms of Reference: **5-10 March 2016** (RrSG meeting, ICANN 55)
* Final Terms of Reference: **18 March 2016**
* Deadline for recruitment of volunteer Registrars: **1 April 2016**
* Sharing of Initial findings among volunteers: **20 April 2016**
* Discussion of findings and conclusions: **12 May 2016**
* Final Data Analysis Report: **2 June 2016**

**Reference**

* Board Resolution on Thick Whois Policy Recommendations: <https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-02-07-en#2.c>
* Thick Whois Implementation workspace: <https://community.icann.org/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=48348855>
1. https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-02-07-en#2.c [↑](#footnote-ref-1)