**ICANN Thick Whois Policy Implementation**

**Transition From thin to thick –** Contact Validation Rules for Existing Registrations

**Background**

The Thick Whois Policy Recommendation adopted by the ICANN Board[[1]](#footnote-1) states that “*The provision of thick Whois services [...] should become a requirement for all gTLD registries, both existing and future”.* Accordingly, ICANN Staff and the Thick Whois Implementation Review Team (IRT) have been discussing implementation of the transition from thin to thick Whois for the 3 remaining thin registration gTLDs, .COM, .NET and .JOBS[[2]](#footnote-2).

The IRT is currently considering an approach for this transition that follows two parallel tracks. Each track will be associated with specific timelines and requirements for implementation:

1) New registrations track (For all future registrations); and,

2) Existing registrations track (For the transition of all existing domain registrations).

With respect to the data transition of existing registrations, after considering feedback received from the Registrar Stakeholder Group in Marrakech, as well as the larger community from a recent public comment period[[3]](#footnote-3), the Thick Whois IRT is proposing an approach that would minimize challenges of data validation during the migration (missing or incomplete data, incompatible data format, etc.) so that the transition can be completed more expeditiously.

**Objective**

In order for ICANN Staff and the IRT to define realistic requirements, the IRT agreed in its meeting on 31 May 2016 to solicit input from both the Registrar and Registry Stakeholder Groups. This input will inform the drafting of the transition's implementation plan, which is currently targeted for release for public comments in Q3 2016.

**Request for Input**

The Thick Whois IRT are seeking input from the contracted parties **by Monday 20 June 2016** on the enclosed "Contact Validation Rules" that would be applied by the Registry systems during the transition of existing registrations from thin to thick data in .COM, .NET and .JOBS.

It is expected that once transitioned, such data would become subject to stricter validation rules by registry systems, consistent with applicable technical standards, while being continuously subject to relevant contractual requirements.

1. https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2014-02-07-en#2.c [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. For more information please refer to the IRT wiki at https://community.icann.org/display/TWCPI/IRT+Meetings, or the mailing list archive http://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/thick-whois [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://www.icann.org/public-comments/rdds-output-201 5-12-03-en [↑](#footnote-ref-3)