**Summary of SAC 055 ‘Blind Man and an Elephant’**

* This is a Comment to the ICANN Board from the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) concerning the final report of the WHOIS Policy Review Team submitted to the ICANN Board on 11 May 2012.
* The SSAC believes that the foundational problem facing all “WHOIS” discussions is understanding the purpose of domain name registration data. The SSAC believes that there is a critical need for a policy should address the operational concerns of the parties who collect, maintain or use this data as it relates to ICANN’s remit.
* The SSAC reviews the needs of 4 distinct communities to access details about a domain name registration: 1) the public Internet, 2) law enforcement, 3) intellectual property owners, 4)security practitioners. In all 4 cases the SSAC argues that there is a legitimate purpose to access registration data.
* The SSAC recommends establishing a Domain Name Policy Committee which would 1) support the development of a uniform policy for registration data, access protocol, and directory services, 2) develop clear targets for compliance with respect to registration data accuracy, 3) define “accurate registration data” and provide guidance as to how to achieve it.

Conclusion:

As noted by Holly, this is an interesting background document which summarises well the 2012 final report of the WHOIS Policy Review and makes relevant recommendations but there is no specific emphasis on data elements.

**Summary - SAC 058 - Report on Domain Name Registration Data Validation**

This is a report on the issue of domain name registration data quality. The report examines whether it is feasible and suitable to improve registration data accuracy through validation. The report explores the suitability and efficacy of various techniques of validating registration data elements in light of the taxonomy.

The report first summarises: 1) the reasons why accurate registration data is important (technical and legal rationale); 2) the reasons for registration data inaccuracy (anti-abuse considerations, privacy considerations, intentional deception, no corroboration of submitted data i.e. minimalist approach to validation, user error, user expectation mismatch).

The report then proposes a validation taxonomy with 3 types of validation for elements of the registration data (syntactic validation, operational validation, Identify validation).

The report considers the feasibility of validation of four types of contact information elements: name, postal address, email address, and telephone and fax number.

Amongst the recommendations made by SSAC there is one relevant to the sub-group on data: The SSAC recommends a discussion on what data elements need to be added or validated to comply with requirements or expectations of different stakeholders.

Conclusion:

Again, as noted by Holly in a previous email, SAC 058 report is about just validation of domain name registration data and does not go into details about data elements.