**Singapore GAC Communiqué, 27 March 2014**

***Possible Requirements***

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# Description of the document:

The Singapore GAC Communiqué is a document issued by the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) with regard to the committee’s meeting in Singapore, United Kingdom, during the week of the March 22, 2014.

# List of possible requirements from the document:

## Data Accuracy: What steps should be taken to improve data accuracy?

* GAC requests clarification from the New gTLD Program Committee (NGPC) on a number of implementation issues. These relate to the implications of changes in WHOIS verification and checks for the accuracy of WHOIS generally and for law enforcement and end users; security checks to detect risks of harm (eg phishing, malware, botnets etc); compliant mechanisms; verification and validation of Category 1[[1]](#footnote-1) registrants' credentials and the lack of binding nature of the public interest commitments; operation of the Public Interest Commitment Dispute Resolution Procedure; and restricted registration policies (Category 2[[2]](#footnote-2)). (Page 3-4)
* Safeguard 1: Should ICANN perform "periodic sampling" of WHOIS data across registries in an effort to identify potentially inaccurate records? (Page 9)
* Safeguard 3: Should Registry Operators undertake periodic security checks to analyze whether domains in its gTLD are being used for threats to security, such as pharming, phishing, malware and botnets? (Page 10)
* Safeguard 5: What Compliant Mechanisms should be developed to ensure that Registry Operators provide a means by which compliants can be submitted related to: WHOIS data inaccuracy, trademark or copyright infringement, counterfeiting, fraudulent or deceptive practices, the use of malware, botnets, phishing, piracy, or other unlawful activities. (Page 10)

## Risks: What risks do stakeholders face and how will they be reconciled?

* The GAC reiterates the Beijing advice that allowing singular and plural versions of the same strings could lead to consumer harm. Permitting this practice risks confusing internet users and could making users more vulnerable to deceptive practices that exploit this confusion. (Page 5)

1. Category 1: consumer protection, sensitive strings and regulated markets. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Category 2: restricted registration policies [↑](#footnote-ref-2)