The Next Generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) PDP Working Group has been tasked with “analyzing the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data and considering safeguards for protecting that data, determining if and why a next-generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) is needed to replace WHOIS, and creating policies and coexistence and implementation guidance to meet those needs.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The core problem that will need to be solved will be resolving the tension among the varied and competing views of stakeholders on key issues while accounting for rules, regulations, and laws that vary widely from region to region.

Consumers, the domain name industry, governments and law enforcement bodies, intellectual property owners, security practitioners, registrants, end-users, and other stakeholders all have vested interests in an RDS system that contains accurate and complete registration data, and which is secure, resilient, accessible, auditable, and performs well. These stakeholders have varying requirements regarding the particular data that should be collected and the conditions under which it should be viewed. For example, there are some registrants who desire anonymity and their requirements regarding data collection and data access may be at odds with those of other stakeholders. Members of the global population of end-users, whether they are individuals, organizations, companies, or other groups, may fall into either camp depending on circumstances.

In order to support various stakeholders within the RDS fairly and pragmatically, with their varied priorities, requires the Working Group to review the purpose of the RDS that supports it. This understanding will enable the Working Group to satisfy its charter.

Note that this problem statement is meant as a tool to aid in discussion, consistent with but not a constraint on the Working Group and its Charter.

1. Charter: <https://gnso.icann.org/en/drafts/whois-ng-gtld-rds-charter-07oct15-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)