**Merger & Acquisition Target Domain Name Portfolio Due Diligence**

**Goal/Scenario**

A company is acquiring a new entity and needs to perform a due diligence audit on the new company’s domain name assets. The acquiring company accesses the RDS to confirm which domains are owned by the new company and its affiliates, and to assess the registration information and status of each domain.

**Brief Format Use Case**

**Use Case:** Identify domains owned by new entity and confirm ownership/registration details.

**Main Use Case:** A company is looking to acquire a new entity. The new entity provides the list domain names it owns for evaluation by the acquiring company. The acquiring company accesses the RDS to verify whether the list of domains is accurate and complete, to identify inconsistencies in the RDS information, and to identify domains that are owned by the new entity but are not included on the list. The company performs reverse WHOIS searches on each element of the contact information included in the RDS, as well as searches on names of the principals and certain employees of the company and a wildcard search for company trademarks included in domains in order to find related company domains that either were inadvertently omitted from the list or unknown to the company (for example, an employee registered a company domain but forgot to tell management, or the company does not have a system for tracking its domains). In addition, the company reviews the name servers listed in the RDS to determine hosting. The acquiring company also reviews the RDS history and compares creation or transfer dates to trademark first use dates.

**Casual Format Use Case**

**Title:** Check RDS for to confirm domain name portfolio owned by new entity.

**Primary Actor:** Company interested in acquiring a new company.

**Other stakeholders:** Registries, Registrars, third party WHOIS service providers and Agents (such as law firms).

**Scope:** Interacting with RDS

**Level:** User Task

**Data Elements:** Name of Registrant/Organization, email address, admin/tech contacts, name servers, postal address, phone number, creation date, renewal status, date servers were last updated.

**Story:** Lists of domain names provided by companies to be acquired are often incomplete or inaccurate. Many companies do not have domain management systems, domain registration policies or strong domain controls. Therefore, domains are often registered directly by company principals or employees (and former employees) and either forgotten or believed to be lapsed or transferred. Access to the RDS allows the acquiring company to identify all of the domains related to the new entity and to evaluate the accuracy and status of each domain.