#### 3.2.7 SAC055: WHOIS Blind Men and an Elephant Report (2012)

The impact of WHOIS on DNS security and integrity has long been considered by ICANN’s Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC); for example, see  [SAC054, Report on Domain Name Registration Data Model](https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-054-en.pdf).[[1]](#footnote-2),[[2]](#footnote-3) In 2012, at the request of the ICANN Board, the SSAC reviewed the 2012 WHOIS Policy Review Team recommendations. In [SAC055, WHOIS: Blind Men and an Elephant](https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-055-en.pdf), [[3]](#footnote-4) the SSAC found that further work should be undertaken prior to implementation of the WHOIS Policy Review Team’s recommendations, concluding:

1. It is critical that ICANN should develop a policy defining the purpose of domain name registration data;
2. ICANN should create a committee to develop a registration data policy that defines the purpose of domain name registration data; and
3. ICANN should defer other activity directed at finding a “solution” to “the WHOIS problem” until the registration data policy identified in (1) and (2) has been developed and accepted.

The questions posed in SAC055 regarding the purpose of registration data and needs of various constituencies were subsequently addressed by the EWG (see Section 3.6).

**Next Steps for the EWG Final Report on Next Generation Registration Directory Services**

<https://www.icann.org/resources/board-material/resolutions-2015-04-26-en#1.f>

Whereas, in 2012, the Board [adopted](https://features.icann.org/2012-11-08-whois-policy-review-team-report) a two-pronged approach to address the recommendations of the WHOIS Review Team, calling for ICANN to (i) continue to fully enforce existing consensus policy and contractual conditions relating to WHOIS, and (ii) create an expert working group to determine the fundamental purpose and objectives of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data, to serve as a foundation for a Board-initiated GNSO policy development process (PDP).

Whereas, in 2014, **the Expert Working Group on Next Generation Registration Directory Services (EWG)** delivered its [Final Report](https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/final-report-06jun14-en.pdf) [PDF, 5.12 MB] to the Board with its recommended model and principles to serve as the foundation for the GNSO PDP.

Whereas, **an informal group of Board members and GNSO Councilors** collaborated and developed a proposed [Framework](https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/49359634/EWG-Process%20Group%20Final%20Framework%202-4-15.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1428939851000&api=v2) [PDF, 612 KB] to provide guidance to the GNSO PDP for the examination of the EWG's recommended models and principles for the next generation registration directory services to replace WHOIS.

**Resolved (2015.04.26.09)**, the Board thanks the EWG for the significant effort and work exerted that produced the proposed model for a next generation registration directory services as reflected in its [Final Report](https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/final-report-06jun14-en.pdf) [PDF, 5.12 MB].

**Resolved (2015.04.26.10)**, the Board reaffirms its request for a Board-initiated GNSO policy development process to define the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data, and consider safeguards for protecting data, using the recommendations in the [Final Report](https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/final-report-06jun14-en.pdf) [PDF, 5.12 MB] as an input to, and, if appropriate, as the foundation for a new gTLD policy;

**Resolved (2015.04.26.11),** the Board directs that a new Preliminary Issue Report that follows this [framework](https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/49359634/EWG-Process%20Group%20Final%20Framework%202-4-15.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1428939851000&api=v2) [PDF, 612 KB] be prepared and delivered to the GNSO;

**Resolved (2015.04.26.12),** the Board commits to forming a group of Board members that will (i) liaise with the GNSO on the policy development process to examine the EWG's recommended model and propose policies to support the creation of the next generation registration directory services, and (ii) oversee the implementation of the remaining projects arising from the [Action Plan](https://www.icann.org/en/about/aoc-review/whois/implementation-action-08nov12-en.pdf) [PDF, 119 KB] adopted by the Board in response to the WHOIS Review Team's recommendations. The Board directs the Board Governance Committee to begin the process for identifying a recommendation of a slate of Board members to do this work.

1. <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-054-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. See <https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac/documents-by-category> for all WHOIS-related SSAC reports [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-055-en.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)