**Draft Registration Data and Directory Service Statement of Purpose**

Version 6, 27 September 2016

This statement is intended to define the purpose(s) of a Registration Directory Service (RDS) for generic top-level domain (gTLD) names. The statement is grouped into two categories: 1) Overall Goals for this Statement of Purpose; 2) Specific Purposes. To ensure that the purposes are understood in the appropriate context, a list of prerequisite conditions of purposes is also provided.

Note that it is important to make a distinction between the purpose(s) of individual registration data elements[[1]](#footnote-1) versus the purpose(s) of a RDS, i.e., the system that may collect, maintain, and provide or deny access to some or all of those data elements [and services related to them, if any.] This purpose statement is intended to focus on the purpose(s) of the RDS as a whole, although some overlap may be unavoidable.

Overall Goals for this Statement of Purpose

1. To set unambiguous boundaries for RDS policy requirements and RDS consensus policies
2. To establish minimum criteria for RDS policy requirements and RDS consensus policies
3. To describe why, specifically and explicitly, an RDS is needed (see Specific Purposes, below).
4. To communicate purpose(s) of the RDS to registrants (and others)
5. To establish sufficient relationship between the purpose(s) and the use(s) of the RDS
6. To provide a framework that enables contracted parties to comply with applicable laws

Goals for each RDS Purpose

1. Consistency with ICANN’s mission
2. Consistency with other consensus policies that pertain to generic top-level domain (gTLD) names
3. Consistency with applicable laws
4. Helps to clearly articulate a rationale for an RDS

Specific Purposes for Registration Data and Registration Directory Services

1. A purpose of gTLD registration data is to provide information about the lifecycle of a domain name (as specified by ICANN’s [Diagram of gTLD Lifecycle](https://community.icann.org/download/attachments/61611153/gTLD-Lifecycle.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1473789116546&api=v2)) to enable management of a domain name registration.
2. A purpose of a system to collect, maintain, and provide access to gTLD registration data (hereafter referred to as “the RDS”) is to provide information that is needed by authorized parties to operate a generic top-level domain name in the DNS.
3. Further specific purposes of the RDS include:
   1. To enable contact with registrants, registrars, (registries?), and proxy/privacy service providers associated with generic top-level domain names, for specific policy-defined purposes
   2. To enable release of accurate gTLD registration data that may not otherwise be publicly available, under specific and explicit policy-defined conditions

1. Here, “registration data elements” refers to data about generic top-level domain names collected in the relationship between registrars to registries and in the relationship between registrars/registries and ICANN. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)