



Draft Roadmap to Implement SAC 051

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Business Constituency Submission

GNSO//CSG//BC

Background:

Beginning in 2002, ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) published various advisories describing deficiencies related to the Whois protocol, service and data schema, most recently SAC 051: SSAC Report on Domain Name Whois Terminology and Structure. SAC 051 summarizes the previous advisories, and among other things, recommends that the ICANN community evaluate and adopt a replacement protocol.

Recognizing its concerns with the Whois protocol deficiencies, on 28 October 2011, the ICANN Board approved a resolution directing staff to produce, in consultation with the community, a roadmap for the coordination of the technical and policy discussions necessary to implement the recommendations outlined in SAC 051.

BC recommendations:

The BC acknowledges that implementation of SAC 051 must move on parallel tracks:

- 1) external to ICANN: standardization of the new protocol in a technical standards body like the IETF;
- 2) internal to ICANN: adoption of the new protocol by gTLD registries, registrars, and ccTLD registries, where that adoption requires one or all of these methods:

new consensus policies arising from Policy Development Process (PDP);

contract negotiations with gTLD registries and registrars ; and/or

voluntary adoption by registries and registrars.

Regarding the external development of new technical standards, the BC recommends that ICANN:

Encourage gTLD and ccTLD registry and registrar participation with IETF or other groups developing Whois successor protocols. ICANN staff should also participate.

Encourage participation in an open source effort to develop an implementation of the Whois successor protocol. ICANN could also provide funding for this effort.

Establish an advisory committee to follow development (protocol, open source, contract) and report to the ICANN Board periodically.

With respect to the adoption of the new standard by registries and registrars, the BC recommends that ICANN pursue all 3 methods in parallel, as described in SAC 051 Preliminary Recommendation 3.2

However, the BC recommends that if GNSO Council decides to conduct a PDP, it should charter a very narrow PDP for a consensus policy that simply requires use of the successor Whois protocol. In other words, the GNSO PDP should not attempt to modify protocol standards or apply them selectively to contract parties.

Finally, the BC encourages ICANN to adopt simpler terminology for key elements of the new protocol, as compared to what is recommended in SAC 051 Recommendation 1. As in:

DNR	Domain Name Registration
DNR Data	Data provided by Registrant
DNR Protocol	IETF-specified Whois (port 43) replacement
DNR Service	An implementation of the Protocol
DNR Model	Data Model for DNR Data (specification to be developed)

The above terminology is less precise than the SAC proposed terminology, but has the advantage of being easier to recall and to speak.

These comments were drafted by Bill Smith and edited by Steve DelBianco. They were approved by BC membership in accordance with our charter on 8-Apr-2012.