

Registration Directory Service (RDS)

Roadmap of RDS Related Activities



April 2019

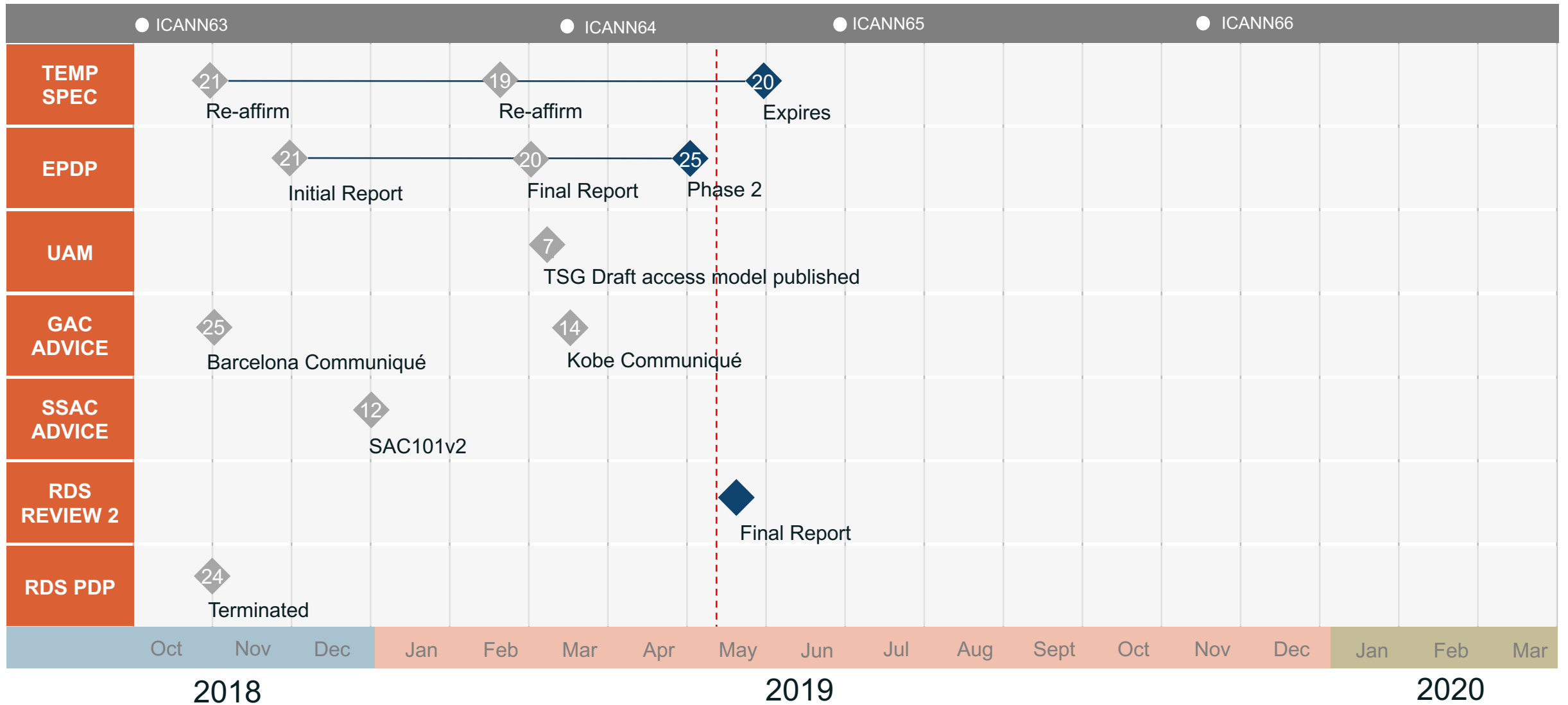
About This Document

This document provides a roadmap for various RDS-related activities. ICANN org will provide an update twice a year and published on whois.icann.org.

The roadmap and updates are provided to inform discussions and to provide visibility into RDS-related work by the community and ICANN org.

The roadmap and updates are provided as per the Board-approved [Action Plan](#) for the WHOIS Policy Review Team Final Report.

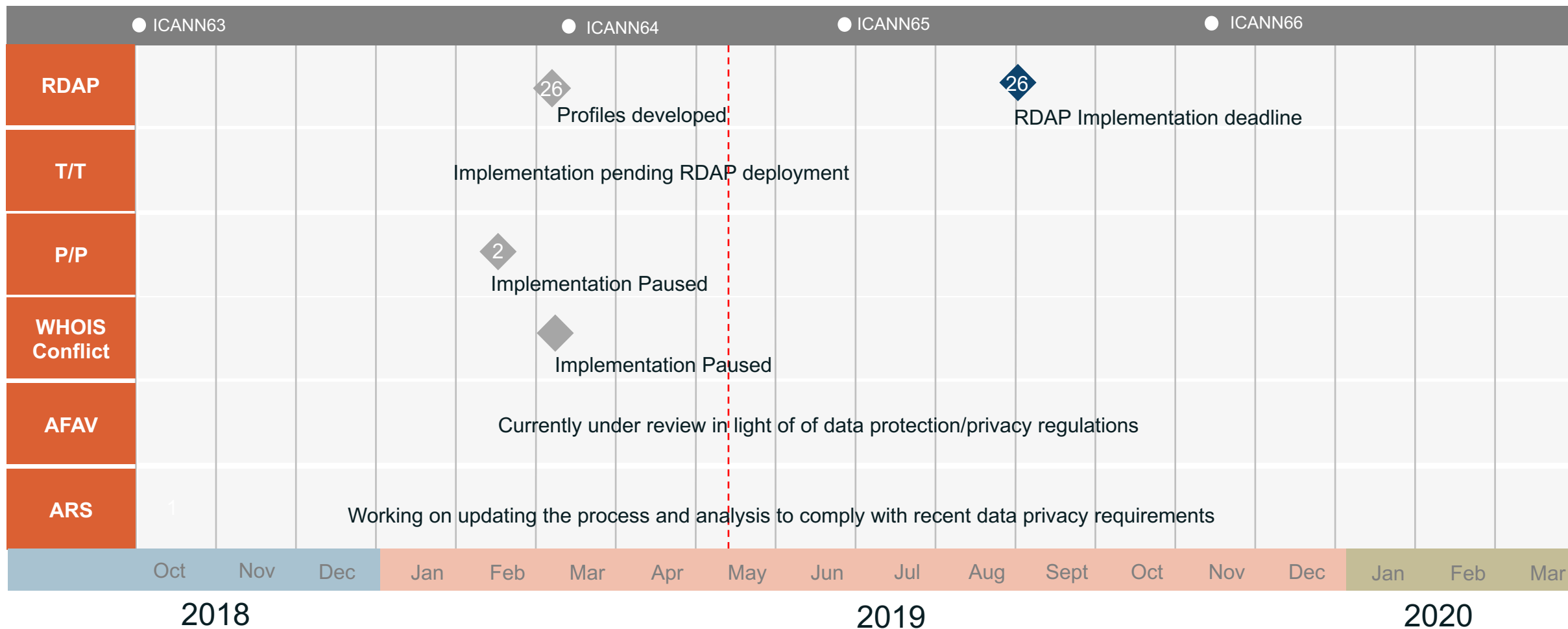
Activities In Advance of or In Board Consideration



Temp Spec: Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data
EPDP: Temp Spec Expedited Policy Development Process
UAM: Unified Access Model
GAC Advice: Governmental Advisory Committee Advice

SSAC Advice: Security Stability Advisory Committee Advice
RDS Review 2: Registration Directory Services Review 2
RDS PDP: gTLD Registration Directory Services Policy Development Process
TSG: Technical Study Group on Access to Non Public Registration Data

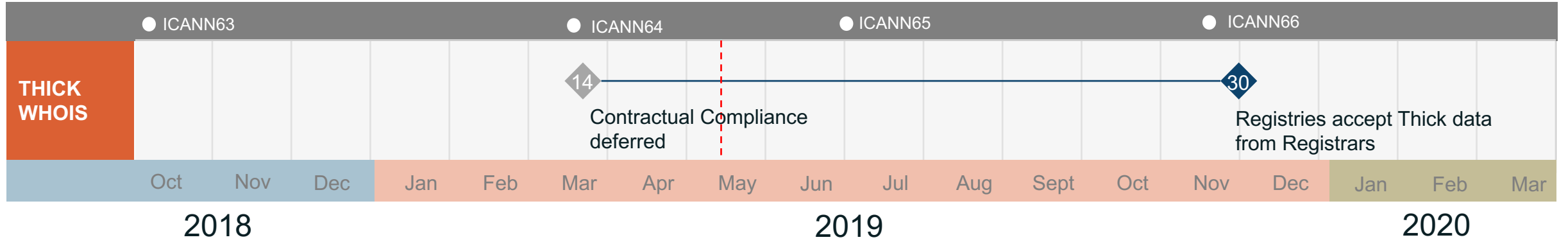
Community and Org Implementation Following Board Action



RDAP: Registration Data Access Protocol
T/T: Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information
P/P: Privacy/Proxy Service Provider Accreditation

WHOIS Conflict: ICANN Procedures for Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Laws
AFAV: Across-Field Address Validation
ARS: gTLD Registration Data Accuracy Reporting System

Contracted Parties Implementation



Thick WHOIS: Transition from Thin to Thick WHOIS Policy for .COM, .NET, .JOBS

Appendix

Background Overview

Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

- The Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data (Temp Spec) establishes temporary requirements to allow ICANN and gTLD registry operators and registrars to continue to comply with existing ICANN contractual requirements and community-developed policies in light of the GDPR.
- The Temp Spec was adopted by the ICANN Board on 17 May 2018 and became effective on 25 May 2018.
- Pursuant to the requirements for the establishment of Temporary Policies and Temporary Specification or Policies as defined in the Registry and Registrar Accreditation Agreements, the ICANN Board shall reaffirm the temporary adoption of the Temp Spec every 90 days for a total period not to exceed one year in order to maintain the Temp Spec in effect until such time as it becomes a Consensus Policy.

Relevant Dates

- 17 May 2018 – [Adopted](#) by the ICANN Board
- 25 May 2018 – Became effective
- 21 August 2018 – [Reaffirmed](#) by the ICANN Board
- 19 February 2019 – [Reaffirmed](#) by the ICANN Board
- 20 May 2019 – The Temp Spec expires

Information on the Temp Spec is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/gtld-registration-data-specs-en>.

Expedited PDP on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data

- Pursuant to the requirements for the establishment of Temporary Policies and Temporary Specification or Policies as defined in the Registry and Registrar Accreditation Agreements, the ICANN Board implemented the consensus policy development process when the Temp Spec was adopted.
- On 19 July 2018, the GNSO approved the initiation of an expedited PDP on the Temporary Specification.
 - The scope of the EPDP Team's efforts includes confirming, or not, the Temporary Specification. Additionally, the scope includes discussion of a standardized access model to nonpublic registration data; however, the discussion of a standardized access model will occur only after the EPDP Team has comprehensively answered a series of "gating questions", which have been specified in the EPDP Team's Charter.
- On 20 February 2019, the EPDP Team submitted to the GNSO Council its [Final Report](#).
- On 4 March 2019, the GNSO Council adopted all 29 policy recommendations in the EPDP Final Report.
 - The GNSO Council also approved for the EPDP Team to begin its work on Phase 2 of the charter which will include a system for standardized access to non-public registration data, deferred items from the EPDP Team's Phase 1 deliberations, and issues in the Annex to the Temporary Specification ("Important Issues for Further Community Action").
- The public comment period on the Final Report closed on 17 April 2019, and it is in Board consideration.

Relevant Dates

- 19 July 2018 – EPDP [Initiation](#) and [Charter](#) Adoption by GNSO
- 21 November 2018 – Initial Report Published
- 20 February 2019 – Final Report Published
- 4 March 2019 - Final Report Adopted by GNSO
- 17 April 2019 - Final Report Public Comment Closes

Information on the expedited PDP is available at <https://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/gtld-registration-data-epdp>.

Framework for a Possible Unified Access Model

- Through engagement efforts with the DPAs and European Data Protection Board (EDPB), ICANN received guidance from the DPAs (endorsed by the EDPB) that “WP29 expects ICANN to develop and implement a WHOIS model which will enable legitimate uses by relevant stakeholders, such as law enforcement, of personal data concerning registrants in compliance with the GDPR, without leading to an unlimited publication of those data.”
- On 18 June 2018, ICANN org published [Framework Elements of a Unified Access Model for Access to gTLD Registration Data](#). The framework lays out a series of central questions to help frame discussions about how such a model may work.
- On 20 August 2018, ICANN org published a [Draft Framework for a Possible Unified Access Model for Continued Access to Full WHOIS Data – For Discussion](#) for community input and to continue dialogue with the EDPB to seek legal clarity for such access mechanism. Lowering the legal risk for data controllers/contracted parties is necessary to develop a workable unified access model.
- On 14 December 2018 [the Technical Study Group](#) on Access to Non-Public Registration Data began its work on developing technical solutions for providing access to non-public data.
- On 20 February 2019, the EPDP Team on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data finalized and submitted to the GNSO Council its Final Report. The EPDP Team is expected to start work on Phase 2 of the charter, which will include a System for Standardized Access to Non-Public Registration Data in April 2019.
- On 7 March 2019, the Technical Study Group on Access to Non Public Registration data published their draft model for [Access to Non-Public Registration Data](#).

Information ICANN’s work relating to a framework for a possible unified access model is available at <https://www.icann.org/dataprotectionprivacy>.

GAC San Juan Communique

San Juan

- On 15 March 2018, the GAC provided advice to the ICANN Board in its [San Juan Communique](#) concerning the Proposed Interim Compliance Model.
- On 30 May 2018, the ICANN Board adopted the scorecard titled “[GAC Advice – San Juan Communique: Actions and Updates \(30 May 2018\)](#)” in response to items of GAC advice in the San Juan Communique.

Barcelona

- On 25 October 2018, the GAC provided advice to the ICANN Board in its [Barcelona Communique](#) concerning the development of a Unified Access Model, the recommendations of the reconvened GNSO PDP dealing with Red Cross Red Crescent protections and progress in the GNSO Expedited Policy Development.
- On 27 January 2019, the ICANN Board adopted the scorecard titled “[GAC Advice – Barcelona Communique: Actions and Updates \(27 January 2019\)](#)” in response to items of GAC advice in the Barcelona Communique

Kobe

- On 14 March 2019, the GAC provided advice to the ICANN Board in its [Kobe Communique](#) concerning the Data Protection Regulations and Potential Future New gTLD Rounds.

SAC101

- On 14 June 2018, the SSAC issued [SAC101](#): Advisory Regarding Access to Domain Name Registration Data. The advice is being considered by the ICANN Board.
- On 12 December 2018, SSAC published [SAC101v2](#) to replace SAC101 to reflect evolving circumstances in relation to the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data and the ongoing Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP). Version 1 of SAC101 has been retired and version 2 is authoritative.
- On 6 February 2019 ICANN org shared their statements of understandings for the recommendations provided in the SAC101v2 with SSAC, concluding Phase 2.

Information on SAC101v2 is available at: <https://www.icann.org/groups/ssac/documents>

Registration Directory Service (RDS)/WHOIS 2 Review

- Per the ICANN Bylaws, the Board shall cause a periodic review (no less frequently than every five years) to assess the effectiveness of the then current gTLD RDS and whether its implementation meets the legitimate needs of law enforcement, promoting consumer trust and safeguarding registrant data.
- The first RDS Review delivered its [Final Report](#) and Recommendations to the ICANN Board in May 2012.
- The second RDS Review Team began its work in June 2017 and published its [Initial Report](#) on 4 September 2018.
- The RDS Review Team plans to deliver its Final Report in May 2019

Information on the RDS/WHOIS 2 review is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/reviews/specific-reviews/whois>.

GNSO PDP on a Next-Generation Registration Directory Service (RDS)

- The RDS PDP WG began its work in early 2016.
- In April of 2018, the RDS PDP WG leadership team put WG meetings on hold to seek guidance from the GNSO Council regarding the future of the PDP in light of the ICANN Board's adoption of the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data and the expedited PDP.
- On 24 October 2018 the GNSO Council terminated the Next-Generation gTLD Registration Directory Service (RDS).

Information on the RDS PDP is available at <https://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/rds>.

Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP)

- RDAP was developed by the technical community in the [Internet Engineering Task Force](#) (IETF). RDAP is a protocol that delivers registration data like WHOIS, but its implementation will change and standardize data access and query response formats.
- On 17 May 2018, the ICANN Board passed a [resolution](#) adopting a [Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data](#). As part of that Temporary Specification, gTLD registries and registrars are required to implement a Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) service within 135 days of ICANN org requesting implementation. The Temporary Specification also called for a gTLD RDAP Profile, SLA, and registry Reporting requirements to be developed prior to RDAP deployment.
- On 26 February 2019, the Registries and Registrars Stakeholder Groups [endorsed](#) the RDAP profile developed by the RDAP Profile Working Group.
- On 27 February 2019, ICANN sent the registries and registrars a [notice](#) requesting implementation of RDAP according to the gTLD-RDAP profile(s). Registries and registrars are required to implement an RDAP service by 26 August 2019.

Information on RDAP is available at <https://www.icann.org/rdap>.

Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information

- On 13 June 2013, the GNSO initiated a PDP on the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information. The PDP Working Group delivered its [final report](#) on 12 June 2015.
- The Board [adopted](#) the PDP Working Group Recommendations on 28 September 2015.
- Formed in July 2016, the Implementation Review Team (IRT) is currently reviewing a policy document.
- Due to complexities emerging from the Implementation Review Team's (IRT's) discussions and work in other areas related to registration data directory services (RDDS)—such as implementation of the [Registration Data Access Protocol](#) ("RDAP"), which is necessary to implement the Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information Working Group's policy recommendations—the implementation's projected announcement and effective dates are to be determined (TBD).
- ICANN org has prepared a [draft policy document](#) that has been reviewed by the IRT, which is based on input received from the IRT during the course of the implementation.

Information on Translation and Transliteration of Contact Information is available at <https://gns0.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/transliteration-contact>.

Privacy/Proxy Service Provider Accreditation

- The 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) contemplates the development and implementation of a privacy and proxy service accreditation by ICANN.
- The Board [adopted](#) the GNSO initiated PDP on Privacy & Proxy's recommendations on 9 August 2016.
- On 18 October 2016, an Implementation Review Team (IRT) was convened to pursue an expedited timeline in light of the upcoming expiration of the 2013 RAA's interim specification on privacy and proxy registrations (in June 2019).
- In light of uncertainty about interpreting the data privacy requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) related to this type of proposed accreditation agreement and the ongoing work of the EPDP, ICANN org paused the IRT's work. The expected solution for third-party standardized access to non-public registration data also may impact implementation of the PP accreditation program. The draft Accreditation Agreement and related materials is presumed to be published for Public Comment once the EPDP Team's implementation work has been completed

Information about Privacy/Proxy Service Provider Accreditation is available at <https://gnso.icann.org/en/group-activities/active/ppsa>.

ICANN Procedures For Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Laws

- In November 2005, the GNSO [concluded a policy development process](#) (PDP) establishing a procedure to allow gTLD registry operators and ICANN-accredited registrars to demonstrate when they are prevented by local laws from fully complying with the provisions of their respective ICANN contracts regarding personal data in WHOIS.
- The ICANN Board [adopted](#) the recommendations in May 2006 and directed ICANN org to develop such a procedure. A contracted party that credibly demonstrates that it is legally prevented from complying with its WHOIS obligations can invoke the procedure
- ICANN launched a review of the procedure in May 2014. In May 2016, the Implementation Advisory Group submitted its [final report](#) to the GNSO Council and recommended that the WHOIS Procedure be revised to incorporate an "Alternative Trigger," in addition to the existing trigger to invoke the procedure. In February 2017, the GNSO Council passed a [resolution](#) adopting IAG's recommendation and confirmed that the modification to the WHOIS Procedure does not change the intent of the original GNSO policy recommendations.
- The revised procedures, including the alternative trigger went into effect on 18 April 2017.
- On 22 February 2018, the GNSO Council adopted a Charter for an Implementation Advisory Group, which is tasked with providing the GNSO Council with recommendations on how to address the comments and input that have been received in response to the public comment forum on the Revised ICANN Procedure for Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Law
- 24 January 2019 - Per the Council's recent discussions, noting the current workload and activities that may impact the IAG's work, staff is refraining from circulating the call for volunteers to the GNSO Stakeholder Groups until the EPDP Team completes certain milestones (e.g., delivery of its Initial Report).
- 13 March 2019 – During its meeting on 13 March 2019, the GNSO Council voted to defer the call for volunteers for 12 months, pending the outcome of EPDP Phase 1 implementation and Phase 2 work.

The ICANN Procedures for Handling WHOIS Conflicts with Privacy Laws is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/whois-privacy-conflicts-procedure-2008-01-17-en>.

Across-Field Address Validation

- The 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (“RAA”) requires ICANN org to review requirements under the WHOIS Accuracy Program Specification in consultation with the Registrar WHOIS Validation Working Group to identify a set of tools that will enable accredited registrars to complete validation actions required in the Agreement.
- In 2017, the WHOIS Validation Working Group created a Request for Information (RFI) to determine if a third party could have or could produce any solutions deemed to be ‘technically and commercially feasible’ based on the current RAA language.
- In February 2018, ICANN completed the Request for Information (RFI) and nine (9) responses were received. These responses contained updated information regarding current services available to complete across field address validation and verification. A summary of these nine responses are located on the [Across Field Address Validation WIKI page](#) and have been provided to the Registrar Working Group.
- In December 2018, concerns of the potential impact of GDPR have been raised regarding the implementation of AFAV. ICANN org is currently reviewing this project in light of these concerns and will work with the AFAV working group accordingly once the analysis has been completed.

Information on Across-Field Address Validation is available at <https://community.icann.org/display/AFAV>.

WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System

- To implement the first WHOIS Review Team's recommendations and address GAC's concerns on WHOIS accuracy, ICANN org initiated the development of the WHOIS Accuracy Reporting System (ARS)—a framework for conducting repeatable assessments of WHOIS accuracy, publicly report the findings, and provide data to the ICANN Contractual Compliance team to follow up on potentially inaccurate records with registrars.
- The ARS team is currently working on updating the process and analysis to comply with recent data privacy requirements

Information on the WHOIS ARS is available at <https://whois.icann.org/en/whoisars>.

Thick WHOIS

- On 14 March 2012, the GNSO [initiated](#) a PDP on the transition to thick WHOIS for all gTLDs.
- On 21 October 2013, the PDP Working Group published the [final report](#).
- On 7 February 2014, the ICANN Board [adopted](#) the policy recommendations.
- On 13 May 2018, ICANN Board passed a [Resolution](#) to defer [THICK WHOIS](#) contractual compliance enforcement for six months.
- On 14 March 2019, ICANN Board passed a [Resolution](#) to defer contractual compliance enforcement. ICANN Contractual Compliance will defer enforcing the following milestones until the dates listed below:
 - By 30 November 2019: The registry operator must begin accepting Thick WHOIS data from registrars for existing registrations in .COM, .NET and .JOBS.
 - By 31 May 2020: All registrars must send Thick WHOIS data to the registry operator for all new registrations in .COM, .NET and .JOBS.
 - By 30 November 2020: All registrars are required to complete the transition to Thick WHOIS data for all registrations in .COM, .NET and .JOBS.

Information on Thick WHOIS is available at <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/thick-whois-2016-06-27-en>.