

Generic Names Supporting Organisation

Bruce Tonkin
Chair, GNSO Council

GNSO Purpose

- **Responsible for developing and recommending to the ICANN Board substantive policies relating to generic top-level domains (gtlds) that enhance the stability and security of the Internet's unique identifier systems, while fostering competition where appropriate to give Internet users greater choice at optimal cost.**

GNSO Policies under development

- **WHOIS**
 - **notice, access, accuracy**
 - **Differences between local law requirements with respect to privacy and consumer protection, and ICANN requirements**
- **Process for use by ICANN staff in approving changes to gtld agreements**

GNSO Issues under review

- **Process for re-allocation of domain names between registrants**
- **New gtlds**

GNSO Policies under review

- **Transfers**
 - **Waiting for 3 month report**
 - **About to start 6 month review**
 - **SSAC advice**

WHOIS

- **Growth of services in the market that preserve contactability necessary for security and stability, but protect the registrant's personal postal address, phone numbers, and email address**
- **Contact services – forward postal mail, email and phone call after screening for SPAM, and other forms of unsolicited marketing material**

Re-allocation of domain names

- **Registrants currently may transfer the rights associated with a domain name to other registrants**
- **Market has evolved – with auctions becoming a dominant model**
- **Specialist auction providers emerging**
- **Registrars facilitating registrant transfers after a name has expired with the registrar and before renewal or deletion.**

Potential issues

- **Registrar agreements with registrants all different, apart from a few common terms**
- **Are there any security and stability issues emerging in the market?**
- **Are there any issues associated with choice of registrars?**
- **Do registrants know their rights, and are they clear that their options are:**
 - **Renew, delete, transfer to another registrant?**

Problems at the registries

- **Registrars acting on behalf of their customers, have been slamming the registry via the batch pool to attempt to obtain names**
 - **Growth of accreditations purely to get extra connection bandwidth**
 - **Game of chance – no certainty for registrants wishing to obtain a specific domain name**

Auction mechanism at registry

- **Following discussions in Cape Town, the industry is considering using the auction mechanism to provide fair access to deleted names for all registrants**
- **Auction the right to register a particular domain name**
- **Auction would apply between registrars seeking to obtain a name on behalf of registrants – opening bid is \$0**

GNSO planning

- **Major issues**
 - **WHOIS**
 - **New gtlds**
 - **Strategic planning**

GNSO planning (2)

- **Other important issues**
 - **New registry services**
 - **Transfers**
 - **Deletion processes**
 - **Compliance options**
 - **Improvements to the PDP**
 - **Improvements in GNSO procedures**
 - **E.g better conferencing options**

Long term planning

- **GNSO will develop its own operational and strategic plans for its policy development activities**
- **GNSO will develop processes to provide effective input to ICANN on ICANN's overall operational and strategic plans**

Thanks

- **Tony Harris**
 - **A member of the GNSO Council**
 - **Played a major role in organising this event here in Mar Del Plata**