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Draft Outcomes Report of the Whois Working Group

STATUS OF THIS DOCUMENT

This is Version 1.6 of the Outcomes Report of the Whois Working Group.

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59 INTRODUCTION

60 Status of statements in this report and description of consensus-building 61 conventions used

62 Unless otherwise stated, every statement in this report is an agreed description
63 or assertion of the WHOIS Working Group. Some statements are preceded by
64 the term '*AGREED*'. These statements are an agreed policy recommendation of
65 this group. Some statements are qualified by a characterisation of '*SUPPORT*' or
66 '*ALTERNATIVE VIEW*'.

67

68 The Working Group used the following conventions to express or move towards
69 consensus:

- 70 - **Agreed** – there is broad agreement within the Working Group though not
71 necessarily unanimity;
- 72 - **Support** – there is a gathering of positive opinion, but a range of
73 alternative views exist and broad agreement has not been reached;
- 74 - **Alternative views** – differing opinions that have been expressed, without
75 garnering enough following within the WG to merit the notion of either
76 Support or Agreed.

77 Implementation options are shown in box. These are intended to be addressed
78 by ICANN staff or third parties after completion of the tasks of this working group.

79

80 The ultimate authority to determine the level of agreement was that of the
81 Working Group Chair, Philip Sheppard, assisted by the Vice Chair, Jon Bing. It
82 should be noted that in the context of this large group (60 plus) most of whom
83 only ever spoke in an individual capacity this determination was challenging.

84 **SECTION 1 OBJECTIVE**

85 **The public interest: balancing privacy and harm**

86 In discussing the OPOC proposal the working group was broadly seeking an
87 outcome that would improve certain data privacy aspects of WHOIS services,
88 while simultaneously improving the ability to address issues relating inter alia to
89 other public interest goals of consumer fraud and acts of bad faith by certain
90 Registrants.

91

92 The essence of the underlying debate was to mirror existing legal exceptions
93 when it is necessary to enable activities in pursuit of the prevention of harm that
94 may be prevented by criminal, civil or administrative procedures. In this pursuit it
95 is understood that there are exceptions to data privacy laws when the public
96 interest is also served in such a way as to over-ride any private interest of the
97 Registrant or any duty on Registrars to keep personal data secure. The group
98 was keen to be consistent with the typical exceptions provided by data privacy
99 laws across the globe.

100

101 This objective would seem to be consistent with the WHOIS principles of
102 ICANN's Government Advisory Committee (GAC). The group has taken note
103 of those principles, which were advanced with the intention of providing guidance
104 to the policy process.

105

106 (In the group's debate there were occasional alternative views expressed by
107 individuals who would prefer the exceptions in national laws did not exist. The
108 consensus of the group was to recognise both the existence and the need for
109 such exceptions.)

110

111

112

113

114 Balance or harmony?

115 For many users there was little conflict between the two goals (protection of
116 privacy and protection from crime). These users expressed a concern about
117 misuse of personal data primarily when that data would fall into the hands of
118 criminals. In other words data privacy for these users was a strategy with the
119 same objective (protection from crime).

120

121

122 Proportionality of the cost of change

123 The OPOC proposal requires a change in the way certain data would be
124 collected, displayed and accessed. It was understood that such changes have
125 cost implications in their implementation. The cost implications need to be
126 proportionate to the benefits of any proposed change and to the ability of those
127 who bear the costs. There was discussion as to where these costs should fall.
128 Outcomes of those discussions appear in the relevant section and are also one
129 of the subjects of section 8 (calls for further study).

130 **SECTION 2 – WHAT IS THE OPERATIONAL POINT OF CONTACT**
131 **(OPOC)?**

132 **2.1 Who may be an OPOC?**

133 There may be up to two OPOCs.

134 AGREED:

135 An OPOC must be one of the following:

- 136 ▪ the Registrant
- 137 ▪ the Registrar
- 138 ▪ any third party appointed by the Registrant.

139

140 **2.2 How does the OPOC relate to the Registrant?**

141 AGREED:

- 142 ▪ The OPOC should have a consensual relationship to the Registrant with
143 defined responsibilities.
- 144 ▪ There will need to be a change to both the Registrar Accreditation
145 Agreement (RAA) and subsequently Registrar-Registrant's agreements to
146 reflect this relationship.

147

148 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

149 There was one view that the OPOC need merely be a designee with no indication
150 of consent.

151

152 Implementation:

153 It is not intended that the implementation of this need bind any party to any
154 formal legal obligations that may exist in national law.

155

156

157 **2.3 Is there a need for some form of verification of the OPOC?**

158 The objective of the OPOC is to provide a certain point of contact in the absence
159 of the Registrant. This certainty implies a need for some form of verification and
160 is consistent with the existing obligation for data Accuracy within WHOIS
161 services.

162

163

164 **SUPPORT:**

- 165 ▪ Verification of an active e-mail address at the time of registration must be
166 obtained by the Registrar. It would be up to each Registrar to implement
167 this in any way they choose.
- 168 ▪ Name registration may be completed before verification of the OPOC active
169 e-mail address.
- 170 ▪ In order to enhance certainty and accuracy, verification of an OPOC's active
171 e-mail address at the time of registration must be obtained before enabling
172 a web site to resolve based on the registered name.
- 173 ▪ Failure to obtain that verification in a given time period must result in a
174 failure of the registration.
- 175 ▪ Once verification is obtained, web-site resolution must be rapid.

176

177 **ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:**

178 Two registrar members opposed the need for verification believing the
179 implementation to be overly burdensome.

180 One registrar member believed implementation would be consistent with existing
181 practise.

182 One registrar member commented that anyway the existing registration process
183 with certain registries takes weeks.

184 One user view was to not even enable registration until verification was complete.

185 One user view was that verification was unnecessary because that user opposed
186 the concept of the OPOC having defined responsibilities.

187 One Registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

188

189 Implementation options:

- 190 ▪ Verification could be done by requiring a reply to an auto-generated e-mail.
- 191 ▪ Verification may be obtained at the same time as consent (see below)
- 192 ▪ The name may be put on hold status by the Registrar pending verification
193 and then put on active status.
- 194 ▪ Registrars may engage with Registries with respect to hold status.

195

196 **2.4 Consent to be an OPOC**

197 Is it necessary to have the OPOC to give consent to be the OPOC ?

198 AGREED:

199 Ultimately, it is the Registrant who is responsible for having a functional OPOC in
200 the way described below.

201

202 SUPPORT:

- 203 ▪ Given the OPOC should have a consensual relationship to the Registrant
204 with defined responsibilities, the OPOC must consent to being an OPOC.
205 ▪ Name registration may be completed before consent is obtained.
206 ▪ In order to prevent fraud, consent must be obtained before enabling a web
207 site to resolve based on the registered name.
208 ▪ Failure to obtain that consent in a given time period must result in a failure
209 of the registration.
210 ▪ Once consent is obtained, web-site resolution must be rapid.

211

212 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

213 Two registrars members opposed the need for consent believing the
214 implementation to be overly burdensome.

215 One registrar member believed implementation would be consistent with existing
216 practise.

217 One registrar member commented that anyway the existing registration process
218 with certain registries takes weeks.

219 One user view was that verification was unnecessary because that user opposed
220 the concept of the OPOC having defined responsibilities.

221 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

222

223

224

225

226 Who should obtain consent?

227 SUPPORT:

228 The Registrar must obtain consent.

229

230 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

231 One registrar member said that it may be possible for the Registrant to obtain
232 consent and during registration confirm to the Registrar that consent had been
233 obtained.

234 One user commented that this alternative view would be burdensome on
235 Registrants and posed challenges in tracing responsibility.

236

237

238 Implementation options:

- 239 ▪ Consent may be done by requiring a consenting reply to an auto-generated
240 e-mail (via e-mail or a web-based agree system) and obtained at the same
241 time as verification of the OPOC e-mail address.
- 242 ▪ The name may be put on hold status by the Registrar pending OPOC
243 acknowledgement and then put on active status.
- 244 ▪ Registrars may engage with Registries with respect to hold status.
- 245 ▪ Registrars may need to consider changes to billing functions.
- 246 ▪ If more practical, the responsibility for “the process of consent” could lie with
247 the Registrant and be regulated within the Registrar-Registrant agreement.

248

249 **2.5 Proxy Services**

250 Certain registrars offer a "proxy" service, to provide privacy protection for the
251 Registrant. In this case the proxy is a proxy for the Registrant. From the ICANN
252 point of view, the "proxy" is the Registered Name Holder. The proxy holds all the
253 legal responsibilities of the Registered Name Holder in the agreement between
254 the Registrar and the Registered Name Holder, as well as those described in the
255 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA). Registrars also further define terms
256 and conditions of this service. The RAA provision relevant to proxy services is
257 clause 3.7.7.3:

258 *"Any Registered Name Holder that intends to license use of a domain*
259 *name to a third party is nonetheless the Registered Name Holder of record*
260 *and is responsible for providing its own full contact information and for*
261 *providing and updating accurate technical and administrative contact*
262 *information adequate to facilitate timely resolution of any problems that*
263 *arise in connection with the Registered Name."*

264 The proxy service is thus essentially irrelevant to the existence of an OPOC.

265

266

267 **AGREED:**

268 In order to avoid a third layer between the underlying Registrant and the OPOC,
269 where a proxy service exists, the proxy and the first designated OPOC must be
270 one and the same.

271

272 **ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:**

273 One registrar member saw no need for any restriction.

274 One user believed that a third layer was good for data privacy.

275

276 **2.6 OPOC and the tech/admin contacts**

277 AGREED

278 Simplification must be an objective should the OPOC proposal move forward.

279

280 While one Registrar and one large user claimed that the admin and/or tech
281 contacts will continue to be useful even after an the addition of one or more
282 OPOCs, other Registrars and most users prefer a merging of roles. (The support
283 from users for merging is conditional upon a presumption that no useful means of
284 contact would be lost).

285

286 a) The technical contact.

287 There is an intuitive functional distinction between the technical contact and the
288 OPOC although regrettably there is no formal definition of the role of the
289 technical contact.

290 AGREED:

- 291 ▪ The technical contact should continue to be displayed when the Registrant
292 contact details are displayed.
- 293 ▪ When the Registrant contact details are not displayed, then the technical
294 contact details will also not be displayed.

295

296 b) The administration contact.

297 AGREED

- 298 ▪ The role of the admin contact is currently poorly understood.
- 299 ▪ There seems to be no over-riding reason for the future display of both
300 admin and OPOC.

301 Implementation options:

- 302 ▪ Consideration should be given to the merging of the admin and OPOC.

303 **SECTION 3 – THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE OPOC**

304 Three distinct roles for the OPOC were discussed:

- 305 ▪ RELAY
- 306 ▪ REVEAL
- 307 ▪ REMEDY

308

309 **3.1 RELAY**

310 The first role of an OPOC is to RELAY information from a Requester to the
311 Registrant. It was recognised that the introduction of the OPOC system would
312 introduce delays for Requesters, compared to the status quo, in communicating
313 with and/or identifying the Registrant. Therefore there is a need to specify timely
314 deadlines for actions by the OPOC.

315 **AGREED:**

- 316 ▪ The OPOC must have current contact information of the Registrant.
- 317 ▪ The OPOC must RELAY an information request to the Registrant in a timely
318 manner.
- 319 ▪ The OPOC must meet certain implementation requirements for relaying
320 messages from the Requester to the Registrant.

321

322 Implementation options:

323 These implementation requirements may include the following:

- 324 ▪ 24x7 responsiveness
- 325 ▪ automatic real-time forwarding of e-mail requests from Requester to
326 Registrant
- 327 ▪ automatic real-time forwarding of responses from Registrant to Requester
- 328 ▪ capability to forward requests and responses in other formats (e.g. fax or
329 post)

330

331 Implementation options on timing:

- 332 ▪ Immediate in all cases for first leg of RELAY (OPOC to Registrant). This
- 333 may be automated in the case of e-mail requests.
- 334 ▪ E-mail responses from Registrant to OPOC may also be forwarded to
- 335 Requester immediately.

336

337 The group discussed what would be the typical nature of such requests. It was
338 recognised there may be good faith reasons and reasons relating to bad faith. In
339 the case of bad faith the group considered the likely rationale for a request:

340 “any communication that is made for the purpose of alleging a wrongful
341 registration or use of the domain name, or wrongful activity by the registrant.
342 Examples of such wrongful registration, use or activities include phishing,
343 pharming, cyber-squatting, copyright and trademark infringement, and other
344 illegal or fraudulent activities” . Such a notice would be accompanied by
345 reasonable evidence of the wrongful act.

346

347 It is possible that Registrants might declare themselves as natural persons to
348 avoid having a full data set published in the WHOIS database.

349

350 It was recognised that a clear definition was required for implementation. The
351 intent here is to be compatible with the RAA and its reference to: “reasonable
352 evidence of actionable harm” (cf. the current RAA, section 3.7.7.3). Hence, the
353 following phrasing is used in the report to capture this idea:

354

355 “reasonable evidence of actionable harm” such as suspected fraudulent
356 activity, intellectual property infringement, suspected false declaration as
357 to being a natural person, or where other criminal, civil or administrative
358 laws may be infringed”.

359

360

361

362

Implementation options:

363

▪ In making a request, the Requester may complete a checklist to inform the OPOC the nature of the request. Such a checklist might have the following form: Reason for Request is a reasonable suspicion of (check one)

364

365

366

367

▪ fraudulent activity

368

▪ intellectual property infringement

369

▪ false declaration as a natural person

370

▪ inaccurate WHOIS data

371

▪ other legal infringement (specify)

372

▪ other eg good faith (specify)

373

374 **3.2 REVEAL**

375 The second role of an OPOC is to REVEAL the unpublished contact information
376 of the Registrant to the Requester in certain circumstances. There was
377 discussion as to whether REVEAL duplicates the Access function described later.
378 The Access function does NOT involve the OPOC but uniquely the Accessor and
379 the Registrar.

380

381 **AGREED**

382 In defence of retaining both functions the following was agreed:

- 383 ▪ Requesters may need to know the contact information of the Registrant in
384 order to serve legal notice.
- 385 ▪ If a Registrant had originally provided inaccurate data, then direct Access to
386 the Registrar would be useless. It may be only the OPOC would have
387 accurate contact information for the Registrant.
- 388 ▪ Registrars inform that there is a significant cost issue if all requests go via
389 the Registrar.
- 390 ▪ Registrars inform that there is a scalability issue if all requests go via the
391 Registrar.
- 392 ▪ There is a concern that if the Access function were to be subject to an
393 authentication mechanism, then REVEAL may be needed in particular for
394 the pursuit of criminal activity.

395

396 **ALTERNATE VIEWS:**

397 There was one user view that REVEAL is duplication of the Access function.

398 There was one user view that REVEAL might contravene a national law.

399 There was one view in favour of authentication of the Requester.

400 There was one view in favour of a due legal process before an unwilling

401 REVEAL.

402

403

404 AGREED:

405 REVEAL must take place when there is ONE OF the following conditions:

- 406 ▪ “reasonable evidence of actionable harm” suspected fraudulent activity,
407 suspected intellectual property infringement, suspected false declaration as
408 to being a natural person, or where other criminal, civil or administrative
409 laws may be infringed.
- 410 ▪ OR reasonable evidence of inaccurate WHOIS data
- 411 ▪ OR when RELAY had failed after a specified time period.

412

413 The REVEAL must be timely.

414

415 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

416 One view was that inaccurate WHOIS data should not be a condition.

417 One view was that failure of RELAY should not be a condition.

418 One view was that the RELAY test should be cumulative (an “AND” option).

419 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

420

421

422

423 Implementation options:

- 424 ▪ If no Registrant response is promptly received (12 hours in the case of an e-
425 mail request that has been forwarded by e-mail), the OPOC may retry using
426 all available means of contacting the Registrant (e.g. telephone).
- 427 ▪ If no Registrant response is received within 3 days (72 hours), the OPOC
428 may be obligated to REVEAL the Registrant contact data immediately to the
429 Requester.
- 430 ▪ Reasonable evidence needs to be defined.

431

432 3.3 REMEDY

433 The third role for the OPOC discussed was that of REMEDY. It was recognised
434 that this is a narrow role under certain specific conditions.

435

436 AGREED:

- 437 ▪ Because the OPOC would be either the Registrant or in a consensual
438 relationship with the Registrant, it would be inappropriate for the OPOC to
439 be the actor for a REMEDY that may not be in the interests of the
440 Registrant or for which the Registrant does not consent.
- 441 ▪ The OPOC should be the actor for REMEDY when the Registrant consents.
442 Such a case may be when a web site is a large host site and the Request
443 made is to remove specific pages from the site placed there by a third party.
444 In these circumstances the OPOC would be acting in the interests of the
445 Registrant.
- 446 ▪ In these circumstances REMEDY must be timely.

447

448 Note: The group recognised that this exceptional REMEDY function was
449 technically outside of the scope of the group's task as it relates to an OPOC
450 interaction with the hosting Internet Service Provider (ISP). Nevertheless, it is
451 worth recording here as it is a role of the OPOC.

452

453 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

454 One registrar member disagreed with the recommendation.

455 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

456

457 Implementation options

- 458 ▪ Implementation is required outside of the scope of WHOIS services.
- 459 ▪ Timely should be interpreted as a time line that is proportionate to the harm.

460

461 **SECTION 4 – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT**

462 This section outlines the foreseen compliance and enforcement aspects of the
463 OPOC proposal and addresses issues when the OPOC does not fulfil the
464 designated role and responsibilities. Thus a Registrar obligation occurs uniquely
465 when there is a failure of the OPOC to RELAY, REVEAL or REMEDY as
466 described above.

467

468 **AGREED:**

469 When there has been a failure of action or time-limit by the OPOC to fulfill a
470 RELAY or REVEAL request, the Requestor may contact the Registrar and
471 request one or more of the following (depending on the nature of the failure):

- 472 ▪ REVEAL of the Registrant's full WHOIS data.
- 473 ▪ Immediate suspension of the name records for the subject domain and /or
474 suspension of website DNS.
- 475 ▪ Immediate locking of the registered domain so that it cannot be transferred
476 for a set period.

477

478 **AGREED**

479 In contrast to the Access function (described later) it was generally felt that this
480 service should be free of cost to the Requester as it relates to a failure of the
481 OPOC to perform. Thus any additional costs for this service would be factored
482 into the fees charged by Registrars to all Registrants.

483

484 **ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:**

485 One registrar felt that actions related to web-site suspension were out of scope.

486 One view was that actions related to web-site suspension should be the only
487 ones in scope.

488 One registrar member felt that all services should be chargeable.

489 One registrar member disagreed with the recommendation.

490 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

491 One LEA member wanted a means to regulate or sanction OPOCs who
492 consistently failed to perform.

493

494 Implementation options:

- 495 ■ Registrars may require certain proof of the OPOC's failure from the
496 Requester.
- 497 ■ The name may be available for resale after 90 days.
- 498 ■ Registrars may establish appeals or dispute resolution mechanisms
499 whereby the Registrant may object in a timely manner to any of the above
500 actions.

501

502 **SECTION 5 – TYPE OF REGISTRANT AND DISPLAY**
503 **IMPLICATIONS**

504 **5.1 Universality of OPOC**

505 AGREED:

- 506 ▪ From an implementation perspective, it would make sense for all
507 Registrants (both legal and natural persons) to appoint an OPOC.

508 **5.2 Distinction between natural and legal persons**

509 Working definition:

- 510 ▪ a natural person is a real living individual.
511 ▪ a legal person is a company, business, partnerships, non-profit entity,
512 association etc.

513

514 This distinction is operational in the sense that it speaks to an historical fact
515 about the Registrant before the act of registration. It will not vary much between
516 jurisdictions, though forms of legal persons may display such variation.

517

518

519 AGREED:

- 520 ▪ A distinction between legal and natural persons must be made.
521 ▪ This distinction must be made by the Registrant at the moment of
522 registration.
523 ▪ There is no need for validation or a challenge mechanism to this self-
524 declaration at the moment of registration so long as a post registration
525 mechanism exists.

526

527

528

529

530 AGREED:

531 The implication of this declaration is that the public display of WHOIS records
532 must be different in the following way:

533 **Legal person** Full display of all WHOIS records

534 **Natural person** Limited display of WHOIS records

535

536 See annex 1 for examples.

537

538 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

539 One registrar member disagreed with the recommendation.

540 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

541

542 Implementation options:

543 For clarity, because in some countries a natural person may also be a sole trader
544 (and thus a legal person), a checkbox (to select natural or legal) as part of the
545 registration process may be required.

546

547 **SECTION 6 – ACCESS TO UNDISPLAYED DATA RECORDS**

548 Today full WHOIS data records are typically available to any Requester either via
549 web-access or bulk access of the entire database. In a post OPOC world it is
550 proposed that the full data records of certain Registrants (natural persons) will
551 not be available by these means. This section first discusses types of access to
552 these un-displayed records and then discusses to whom such access may be
553 made available.

554 There are broadly four types of access:

- 555 ▪ 6.1 Access to the displayed WHOIS records
- 556 ▪ 6.2 One-time access to one specified full data record that is un-displayed
- 557 ▪ 6.3 Regular access to numerous data records that are un-displayed
- 558 ▪ 6.4 Bulk access to the entire database of data records that are both
559 displayed and un-displayed in a form that all are displayed.

560

561 This situation is a consequence of the OPOC proposal. Such access does NOT
562 involve the OPOC in any way but only concerns the relationship between the
563 party wanting access and the Registrar. (For this reason while the language
564 Requester is used in other sections for a Request initially made of the OPOC, the
565 term Accessor is used here for clarity).

566

567 The objective of Access is to enable activities in legitimate pursuit of the
568 prevention of harm that may be prevented by criminal, civil or administrative
569 procedures. In this pursuit the group recognised the exceptions to data privacy
570 laws which, in certain circumstances, override the duty on Registrars to secure
571 personal data.

572

573

574

575 **6.1 Access to the displayed WHOIS records**

576 AGREED:

577 This access should continue in its present form and would result in access to the
578 full data records for legal persons and the limited data records for natural
579 persons.

580

581

582 The group discussed three additional types of access. The sub-sections that
583 follow (6.2, 6.3, 6.4). are descriptions not policy recommendations.

584 **6.2 One-time access to one specified full data record that is un-displayed**

585 This type of access would be limited to the record of a Registrant at a specific
586 time, wherein a specific request is made to the Registrar for each incident.

587

- 588 ▪ This access would take place when there is “reasonable evidence of
589 actionable harm” such as suspected fraudulent activity, suspected
590 intellectual property infringement, suspected false declaration as to being a
591 natural person, or where other criminal, civil or administrative laws may be
592 infringed.
- 593 ▪ Such access would need to be timely to be effective. (Timeliness would be
594 defined as proportionate to the suspected harm and related to the means of
595 access).

596

597 **6.3 Regular access to numerous data records that are un-displayed**

598 This type of access would be query-based to any domain. Access would take
599 place when there is “reasonable evidence of actionable harm.”

600

601 Implementation options:

- 602 ▪ A pre-registration system by Registrars for Accessors may be needed.

- 603
- 604
- 605
- 606
- A restriction of the number of queries available in a certain time period may be imposed on Accessors.
 - There may be a need for record keeping of queries by the Registrar
 - There may be means to sanction Accessors for abuse of restrictions.

607

608 **6.4 Bulk access to displayed and un-displayed records**

609 This type of access would be access to the entire database of data records that
610 are both displayed and un-displayed in a form that all are displayed. A means of
611 displaying the un-displayed records would be needed.

612

613 Implementation options:

- 614
- 615
- 616
- Data records may be encrypted and a key supplied
 - Data records may be in a password-protected database and a password supplied.

617

618 **6.5 Is there any need for Access?**

619 The group identified two broad categories of Accessors who might have a need
620 for such access as described above.

- 621 ▪ Public law enforcement agencies (LEAs): governmental agencies legally
622 mandated to investigate and/or prosecute illegal activity.
- 623 ▪ Private actors: organisations or individuals that are not part of an LEA.

624

625 **AGREED**

- 626 ▪ There were circumstances where LEAs must have access described above
627 (one or more of 6.2, 6.3, 6.4) and that private actors must have access
628 described above (one or more of 6.2 and 6.3). These circumstances broadly
629 include suspected terrorist, fraudulent or other illegal activity, suspected
630 consumer harm and suspected intellectual property infringement.

631

632 **SUPPORT:**

- 633 ▪ There were circumstances where private actors may need access
634 described above (under 6.4).

635

636

637 **ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:**

638 There were some views that private actors should be denied access described
639 under 6.4.

640 One registrar member disagreed with the recommendation.

641 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

642

643 Implementation options:

644 The "circumstances" for allowable Access need to be consistently defined.

645

646 **6.6 Do those needing access require authentication?**

647 There was discussion about the need for Registrars to authenticate in some way
648 those parties requesting such access. It was recognised that authentication
649 would both potentially introduce delays in Access and impose cost upon
650 Registrars and Accessors. Among the private actors it was recognised the
651 banking sector had especially urgent needs to address consumer fraud from acts
652 such as phishing (identity theft).

653

654 **AGREED:**

655 It was agreed that broadly there are two mechanisms for means of access:

- 656 ▪ Self-declaration by the Accessor (probably backed-up by a challenge
657 procedure by the Registrar).
- 658 ▪ Authentication of the Accessor by a third party.

659

660 The following options were discussed and rejected as either impractical or not
661 legally permissible on a sufficiently wide global scale:

- 662 ▪ use of Interpol to authenticate LEAs.
- 663 ▪ use of LEAs to authenticate the private sector.

664

665 There was no known method about how authentication of an Accessor by a third
666 party may take place in a way that was scaleable globally and proportionate to
667 cost. Additionally, some LEAs reported fundamental challenges to the concept of
668 private sector authentication of public sector entities: this would seem to reverse
669 the usual role of government. A US consultant's report considering the
670 practicalities of an authentication mechanism for LEAs in the United States
671 discussed possible means but in summary concluded: "I am not confident that
672 there is an organization that can properly accredit law enforcement agencies in
673 the United States, let alone internationally".

674

675 AGREED:

- 676 ▪ The feasibility, practicality and cost-effectiveness of authentication
677 mechanisms for LEAs and private actors should be an area for further study
678 (see section 8).

679

680

681 AGREED:

- 682 ▪ In the absence of a known method of authentication today the group
683 recommends access be granted to LEAs and private agencies based on
684 self-declaration by the Accessor.
- 685 ▪ A system of safeguards to prevent abuse of this Access is needed such as
686 a challenge mechanism by Registrars.

687

688 ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:

689 Certain user members believed self-declaration was insufficient and that
690 authentication was essential: thus OPOC implementation should wait until
691 authentication systems existed.

692 One registrar member disagreed with the recommendation.

693 One registry member disagreed with the recommendation.

694

695 Implementation options

- 696 ▪ A concise description of the grounds for requiring Access is needed.
- 697 ▪ Private actors may enter into prior agreements with a Registrar to enable or
698 speed Access.
- 699 ▪ For self-declaration to be subject to an effective challenge procedure by the
700 Registrar, work is needed to determine “effective”.

701

702 **6.7 Should any Access services be chargeable?**

703 There was discussion as to whether any of the Access options described above
704 in 6.2, 6.3 and 6.4 should be chargeable by Registrars to those requiring Access.

705 Reasons in favour were:

- 706 ▪ to recover costs
- 707 ▪ to impose costs on those requiring the service
- 708 ▪ to deter abuse that may arise in a free system
- 709 ▪ to assist with monitoring.

710

711 Reasons against were:

- 712 ▪ a concern that fees may be excessive to Accessors
- 713 ▪ a concern that fees may go beyond nominal or cost recovery and become
714 profit-generating
- 715 ▪ a concern that there was additional (wasted) cost in merely setting up a new
716 fee collection system.

717

718 **AGREED**

719 There should be no assumption that Access services would be entirely free of
720 cost to Accessors.

721

722 **ALTERNATIVE VIEWS:**

723 One user view was that all costs should be factored into the basic user fees
724 charged by Registrars thus avoiding the need and cost of additional mechanisms.

725

726 Implementation options:

727 Registrars may consider charging a nominal fee for Access services.

728

729 **SECTION 7 – RECORD OF DISCUSSIONS OF OTHER OPTIONS**

730 This section records issues, not mentioned elsewhere in the report, where there
731 was substantial discussion and lists those options that did not achieve general
732 support.

733

734 **7.1 OPOC accreditation by ICANN**

735 (See section 2). The group discussed two means of accreditation of the OPOC. A
736 formal system of accreditation by ICANN and a system of verification and
737 consent. The more formal option of a system of centralised accreditation by
738 ICANN (a system parallel to Registrar accreditation) was generally thought to be
739 neither scaleable nor practical. It assumed a small set of OPOCs and is thus not
740 consistent with the concept of a set of widespread consensual relationships.

741

742 **7.2 Distinction between Commercial and Non-Commercial Registrants**

743 (See section 5). This distinction is problematic as it relates to the future intent of
744 the Registrant and is not coincident with the moment of Registration.

745

746 If this distinction were to be made, it could be made as a self-declaration at the
747 point of registration. If this distinction were to be made, *natural persons* could be
748 considered engaging in commercial activities if one of the following indicative
749 criteria is satisfied:

- 750 ▪ The offer or sale of goods or services
- 751 ▪ The solicitation or collection of money or payments-in-kind
- 752 ▪ Marketing activities, advertising, paid hypertext links
- 753 ▪ Activities carried out on behalf of legal persons
- 754 ▪ Certain types of data processing.

755

756 Overall the group felt that the distinction between commercial and non-
757 commercial activities is not by itself sufficiently timely at the point of registration
758 nor easily operational.

759

760

761

762 **SECTION 8 – FEASIBILITY STUDIES**

763 Throughout the group's time there have been a number of issues that were
764 unresolved as a result of technical or legal uncertainty. Such issues lend
765 themselves to short focused studies to assess feasibility and certainty.

766

767 These issues include:

- 768 ▪ an assessment and comparison of the incremental costs of OPOC
769 implementation versus the benefits anticipated. Within this are subsets of
770 cost-related studies:
 - 771 ○ the costs to implement the verification and consent proposals
772 described in sections 2.4 and 2.5;
 - 773 ○ the costs to implement the Request/compliance issues of
774 section 4;
 - 775 ○ the costs to implement the Access options described in section
776 6;
 - 777 ○ the marginal cost of a system to implement a new fee-based
778 system for Accessors compared with recovering additional costs
779 from user fees using existing systems;
- 780 ▪ data privacy issues arising from the self-declaration of Accessors proposal
781 described in section 6;
- 782 ▪ mechanisms for a practical, cost-effective, globally scaleable means of
783 authenticating Accessors as described in section 6.

784

785 **ANNEX 1 – WHOIS DATA DISPLAY OPTIONS**

786

Record	WHOIS today	Limited (OPOC)	Full (OPOC)
Domain ID:	X	X	X
Domain Name:	X	X	X
Created On:	X	X	X
Last Updated	X	X	X
Expiration Date:	X	X	X
Sponsoring Registrar:	X	X	X
Status*:	X	X	X
Registrant ID:	X	X	X
Registrant Name:	X	X	X
Registrant Organization:	X	X	X
Registrant Street1:	X		X
Registrant Street2:	X		X
Registrant Street3:	X		X
Registrant City:	X		X
Registrant State/Province:	X	X	X
Registrant Postal Code:	X		X
Registrant Country:	X	X	X
Registrant Phone:	X		X
Registrant Phone Ext.:	X		X
Registrant FAX:	X		X
Registrant FAX Ext.:	X		X
Registrant Email:	X		X
Natural person#		X	X
Legal person#		X	X
Proxy service operating#		X	X

Record	WHOIS today	Limited (OPOC)	Full (OPOC)
OPOC*# ID:		X	X
OPOC Name:		X	X
OPOC Organization:		X	X
OPOC Street1:		X	X
OPOC Street2:		X	X
OPOC Street3:		X	X
OPOC City:		X	X
OPOC State/Province:		X	X
OPOC Postal Code:		X	X
OPOC Country:		X	X
OPOC Phone:		X	X
OPOC Phone Ext.:		X	X
OPOC FAX:		X	X
OPOC FAX Ext.:		X	X
OPOC Email:		X	X
Admin ID:	X	?	?
Admin Name:	X	?	?
Admin Organization:	X	?	?
Admin Street1:	X	?	?
Admin Street2:	X	?	?
Admin Street3:	X	?	?
Admin City:	X	?	?
Admin State/Province:	X	?	?
Admin Postal Code:	X	?	?
Admin Country:	X	?	?
Admin Phone:	X	?	?
Admin Phone Ext.:	X	?	?
Admin FAX:	X	?	?

Record	WHOIS today	Limited (OPOC)	Full (OPOC)
Admin FAX Ext.:	x	?	?
Admin Email:	x	?	?
Tech ID:	x		x
Tech Name:	x		x
Tech Organization:	x		x
Tech Street1:	x		x
Tech Street2:	x		x
Tech Street3:	x		x
Tech City:	x		x
Tech State/Province:	x		x
Tech Postal Code:	x		x
Tech Country:	x		x
Tech Phone:	x		x
Tech Phone Ext.:	x		x
Tech FAX:	x		x
Tech FAX Ext.:	x		x
Tech Email:	x		x
Name Server*:	x	x	x

787 Key:

* multiple entries possible

x data collected and displayed

data collected but not displayed

data not collected

merged data with OPOC

new data element conditional on new policy

788

789 ANNEX 2 – GLOSSARY

790 Accuracy:

791 Existing provisions in the Registrar Accreditation Agreement on Whois 792 Data Accuracy.

793 ICANN's contracts with accredited registrars require registrars to obtain contact
794 information from registrants, to provide it publicly by a Whois service, and to
795 investigate and correct any reported inaccuracies in contact information for
796 names they sponsor.

797

798 The following provision of the ICANN Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA)
799 <<http://www.icann.org/registrars/ra-agreement-17may01.htm>> is relevant to the
800 accuracy of registrar Whois data:

801

802 *[3.7.7](#) Registrar shall require all Registered Name Holders to enter into an electronic or
803 paper registration agreement with Registrar including at least the following provisions:*

804 *3.7.7.1 The Registered Name Holder shall provide to Registrar accurate and reliable
805 contact details and promptly correct and update them during the term of the Registered
806 Name registration, including: the full name, postal address, e-mail address, voice
807 telephone number, and fax number if available of the Registered Name Holder; name of
808 authorized person for contact purposes in the case of an Registered Name Holder that is
809 an organization, association, or corporation; and the data elements listed in Subsections
810 3.3.1.2, 3.3.1.7 and 3.3.1.8.*

811 *3.7.7.2 A Registered Name Holder's willful provision of inaccurate or unreliable
812 information, its willful failure promptly to update information provided to Registrar, or its
813 failure to respond for over fifteen calendar days to inquiries by Registrar concerning the
814 accuracy of contact details associated with the Registered Name Holder's registration
815 shall constitute a material breach of the Registered Name Holder-registrar contract and
816 be a basis for cancellation of the Registered Name registration.*