GNSO Council-requested WHOIS studies – September 2010 Update

Study Area/Topic	X-ref to study proposals	Specific studies defined (work in progress)	Current status	Other Information
1. WHOIS Misuse Studies Extent to which publicly displayed WHOIS data is misused	Study # 1, #14, #21 GAC data set 2	1. Experimental: register test domains and measure harmful messages resulting from misuse 2. Descriptive: study misuse incidents reported by registrants, researchers/ law enforcement	Council decided 8 Sept. to proceed with this study. Cost: 150,000 Time estimate: 1 year	▪ Study can count and categorize harmful acts attributed to misuse and show data was probably not obtained from other sources ▪ Some acts might be difficult to count ▪ Difficult to tie WHOIS queries to harmful acts, which makes it difficult to prove that reductions in misuse were caused by specific anti-harvesting measures ▪ Difficult to assess whether misuse is "significant"
2. WHOIS Registrant Identification Study	GAC 5, GAC 6 #13a, #18 GAC 9, GAC 10	1. Gather info about how business/commercial domain registrants are identified. 2. Correlate such identification with use of proxy/privacy services.	RFP approach. 5 responses received. Staff analysis complete to the GNSO Council on 23 March 2010. Cost: 150,000 Time estimate: 1 year	▪ Will classify ownership and purpose of what appear to be commercial domains without clear registrant information, and measure how many of those domains were registered using a Proxy/Privacy service ▪ Might provide insight on why some registrants are not clearly identified ▪ Use of P/P services by businesses
3. WHOIS Proxy and Privacy "Abuse" Study	#17, #19 GAC 1, GAC 11	Compare broad sample of P/P-registered domains associated with abuse with the overall frequency of P/P registrations	Staff analysis underway, target to Council by the end of Sept. 2010.	http://www.icann.org/en/announcements/announcement-2-18may10-en.htm
4. WHOIS Proxy and Privacy "Relay and Reveal" study	#3, #13b, #13c, #20	Study will analyze relay and reveal requests sent for Proxy and Privacy-registered domains and document how they are processed	Staff posted RFP TOR on 29 September, deadline for responses is 30 November 2010.	
5. non-ASCII registration information	Previously Study #11	Technical analysis of how non-ASCII registration information is displayed.	On hold pending work of Internationalized Registration Data WG.	IRD WG Workshop was conducted in Brussels.
6. WHOIS service requirements	Separate request-7 May 2009	Compile a list of WHOIS service requirements based on current + previous policy discussions	Final report complete.	http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois/whois-service-requirements-final-report-29jul10-en.pdf

Note: Study areas 1-5 reflect all the studies initially requested by the GNSO Council 4 March, 2009. Study area 6 was requested by the Council 7 May, 2009.