WHOIS Studies Update

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WHOIS Topics

WHOIS Studies – 4 studies:

- "Misuse" of public data
- Registrant Identification
- Proxy/Privacy "Abuse"
- Proxy/Privacy Relay and Reveal

WHOIS Service Requirements

Other WHOIS activities

Goals of gTLD WHOIS studies

- WHOIS policy debated for years
- In 2007, GNSO Council decided that objective, factual basis was needed
- Identified several WHOIS study areas that reflect key policy concerns
- RFPs were used to determine study costs and feasibility
- Independent research organizations now conducting 4 approved studies

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WHOIS Misuse Study

Assessing whether public WHOIS significantly increases harmful acts and the impact of anti-harvesting measures. Two approaches:

1. Experimental: register gTLD test domains and measure WHOIS misuse incidents
2. Descriptive: survey gTLD domain name registrants, registrars, and experts about WHOIS misuse incidents they experienced

Cost: $150,000 (USD)
Status: Launched in mid-2011
Schedule: Draft report March 2013

Registrant Identification Study

Examining how gTLD domain registrants identify themselves in WHOIS, classifying entities that register and use those domains, including natural persons, legal persons, and Privacy and Proxy registration service users

- Exploratory data-gathering effort
- Addresses related 2008 GAC proposals

Cost: $180,000 (USD)
Status: Launched in October 2011
Schedule: Draft report September 2012

Privacy and Proxy "Abuse" Study

Comparing a broad sample of Privacy & Proxy-registered gTLD domain names associated with alleged harmful acts to assess:

1. How often bad actors use P/P services to try to obscure identity in WHOIS
2. How rate compares to overall P/P use
3. How rate compares to alternatives such as falsified WHOIS data, compromised machines, and free web hosting

Cost: $180,000 (USD)

Status: Launched in April 2012

Schedule: Draft report March 2013

P/P Reveal & Relay Full Study

RFP proposed gathering actual relay and reveal requests for P/P-registered gTLD domains to explore and document how they are processed

Lack of bids suggested extensive study as defined by RFP might not be feasible due to

- availability of data
- willingness of participants
- validity and verifiability of results

Council opted to survey potential participants to determine whether a full study was feasible

P/P Reveal & Relay Feasibility Survey

Launched mid-2012 to help community assess feasibility of conducting a Full Study:

- Willingness and ability of Relay/Reveal request originators, P/P providers, and Registrars to participate in a Full Study
- Data availability, conditions for sharing it
- Regional limitations on participation
- Inform design of Full Study (if undertaken)
- Offer possible participants an opportunity to identify themselves

Cost: $80,000 (USD)

Status: Draft report May 31st, 2012

Schedule: Comment opened 4 June 2012

Feasibility Survey Methodology

Design Survey

Identify Participants

Conduct Survey

Conduct Interviews

Analyze Results

Write Report

Web-based survey open to all

- 14 September - 31 October 2011
- Despite proactive outreach, recruiting and geographic distribution proved challenging
- Survey completed by 168 respondents
- Supplemented by 16 individual interviews

Analysis and findings documented in report

- http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois/whois-pp-survey-draft-report-31may12-en.pdf
- http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois/whois-pp-survey-draft-report-appendices-31may12-en.pdf

WHOIS Service Requirements Report – upcoming survey by WSWG

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Survey Background

- May 2009 -- The GNSO Council asked Policy Staff to compile a comprehensive set of potential **_technical_** "requirements" for WHOIS service that reflect not only known deficiencies in the current service but also technical requirements that may be needed to support various **_policy_** initiatives that have been suggested in the past.

- Final Report released 29 July 2010

- In 2011 the GNSO Council convened a Working Group to develop a survey to try to estimate the level of agreement with various "requirements" among the GNSO community.

Examples--survey will include:

- Mechanism to find authoritative WHOIS servers
- Standardized query structure
- Well-defined schema for replies
- Standardized error messages
- History of domain registration data
- Internationalized registration data

Why is the survey important?

- Will help estimate the level of agreement with various "requirements" among the GNSO community
- Offers the community a voice as to technical features of a future WHOIS system
- Analysis & Report may be useful for IETF protocol efforts
- The survey is a technical inventory and does not define or suggest the policies or operational rules that should apply

Recent Developments

- A draft survey was posted 30 May 2012 for public comment

- Webinars held on 1 June to solicit input from experts knowledgeable about technical aspects of WHOIS who can help assess if the survey asks the right questions and in the right style to elicit technical feedback.

Next steps for Working Group

- Incorporate comments received and create proposed final draft for GNSO Council review
- Release final survey (30 days)
- Analyze results and publish Final Report

More information About WHOIS Studies:

- General Information: http://gnso.icann.org/issues/whois/studies
- Draft WHOIS Privacy & Proxy Relay & Reveal Report Public Comment page: http://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/whois-pp-survey-04jun12-en.htm
- Draft Technical Requirements survey: http://www.icann.org/en/news/announcements/announcement-30may12-en.htm

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Thank You

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One Internet

Questions

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